

MONTANA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
MONTANA FIELD OFFICE
 10 West 15th Street, Suite 3100, Helena, MT 59626
 Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 August 3, 2020

Contact: Eric Sommer
 (800) 835-2612

CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING AUGUST 2, 2020

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Warm temperatures and dry conditions were observed across Montana during the past week, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Reporters in Powder River, Stillwater and Sweet Grass counties reported the grasshopper infestation continues to damage forage and grain crops. Reporters also noted that cattle are receiving supplemental feed due to the lack of forage growth caused by dry conditions. Topsoil moisture conditions for the state were 54 percent adequate to surplus, compared to 70 percent in the previous week and 65 percent the previous year. Subsoil moisture conditions were rated 62 percent adequate to surplus compared to 64 percent the previous year. Barley turning color was estimated at 80 percent complete, ahead of the previous year at 78 percent. Barley harvest has begun, with an estimated 1 percent of the crop harvested, even with the previous year but behind the 5-year average of 13 percent. Dry edible peas and lentil harvest continues to progress slower than the 5-year average for both crops. An estimated 21 percent of the dry pea crop has been harvested, with a 5-year average of 42 percent. Lentil harvest is estimated at 16 percent complete, behind the 5-year average of 25 percent. Durum wheat coloring is estimated at 50 percent complete, equal to the previous year. The oilseed crop continues to progress well, with an estimated 40 percent of the flaxseed crop turning color, and mustard seed turning color is estimated at 65 percent complete. Oats turning color is estimated at 55 percent complete, ahead of the previous year at 46 percent. Spring wheat turning color is estimated at 69 percent complete, ahead of the previous year at 55 percent, but behind the 5-year average of 73 percent. Oat and spring wheat harvest has begun, with an estimated 1 percent of both crops harvested. The first cutting for alfalfa and other hay is almost complete, with alfalfa harvested estimated at 95 percent complete, ahead of the previous year at 92 percent. First cutting of other hay is estimated at 88 percent complete, ahead of the previous year at 86 percent. Second cutting for alfalfa and other hay has begun, with 19 percent of alfalfa and 12 percent of other hay harvested. Winter wheat was reported with 95 percent of the crop turning color, ahead of the previous year at 94 percent. Harvest continues slowly for winter wheat, with an estimated 20 percent of the crop harvested, behind the 5-year average of 52 percent. Winter wheat conditions were rated as 86 percent good to excellent, compared to 72 percent this time last year.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
1 st cutting harvested	95	87	92	NA
2 nd cutting harvested	19	4	NA	NA
Barley				
Turning color	80	58	78	87
Harvested	1	--	1	13
Canola				
Turning color	71	48	56	70
Harvested	9	--	NA	NA
Dry edible beans (includes Chickpeas)				
Blooming	95	90	NA	NA
Dry edible peas				
Harvested	21	4	4	42
Durum wheat				
Headed	98	87	94	NA
Turning color	50	27	50	65
Flaxseed				
Blooming	95	91	90	NA
Turning color	40	10	46	55
Lentils				
Harvested	16	2	1	25
Mustard seed				
Turning color	65	38	53	72
Oats				
Headed	95	85	94	NA
Turning color	55	28	46	72
Harvested	1	--	NA	NA
Other hay				
1 st cutting harvested	88	80	86	NA
2 nd cutting harvested	12	3	NA	NA
Safflower				
Blooming	64	50	57	63
Turning color	20	10	5	NA
Spring wheat				
Headed	96	92	96	97
Turning color	69	47	55	73
Harvested	1	--	1	7
Winter wheat				
Turning color	95	93	94	NA
Harvested	20	10	19	52

NA – not available

(--) – zero

DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
Days suitable for field work.....	6.7	6.3	6.9	6.5
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	8	2	--	24
Short.....	38	28	35	32
Adequate.....	52	66	63	41
Surplus.....	2	4	2	3
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	8	1	--	16
Short.....	30	22	36	38
Adequate.....	60	72	64	43
Surplus.....	2	5	--	3

NA – not available

(--)- zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION¹

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Barley				
Very poor.....	1	1	--	2
Poor.....	2	2	8	8
Fair.....	12	12	21	33
Good.....	53	46	57	43
Excellent.....	32	39	14	14
Corn				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	1
Poor.....	--	--	2	8
Fair.....	8	8	17	32
Good.....	74	76	77	50
Excellent.....	18	16	4	9
Dry peas				
Very poor.....	1	1	--	NA
Poor.....	2	2	3	NA
Fair.....	25	23	26	NA
Good.....	64	64	62	NA
Excellent.....	8	10	9	NA
Durum wheat				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	10
Poor.....	1	1	3	18
Fair.....	35	46	20	29
Good.....	55	42	63	37
Excellent.....	9	11	14	6
Lentils				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	NA
Poor.....	1	1	3	NA
Fair.....	22	20	33	NA
Good.....	71	73	55	NA
Excellent.....	6	6	9	NA
Oats				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	7
Poor.....	3	3	5	8
Fair.....	43	40	35	26
Good.....	51	50	57	52
Excellent.....	3	7	3	7
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	4	--	2	14
Poor.....	9	5	6	17
Fair.....	30	22	23	31
Good.....	51	60	61	34
Excellent.....	6	13	8	4
Spring wheat				
Very poor.....	1	2	--	8
Poor.....	2	3	11	12
Fair.....	17	15	20	28
Good.....	65	65	62	43
Excellent.....	15	15	7	9
Sugarbeets				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	1
Poor.....	--	--	--	4
Fair.....	17	14	12	25
Good.....	72	69	75	56
Excellent.....	11	17	13	14
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	--	2	--	NA
Poor.....	--	2	12	NA
Fair.....	14	13	16	NA
Good.....	50	40	36	NA
Excellent.....	36	43	36	NA

¹Current conditions for Canola, Dry edible beans, Flaxseed, Mustard seed, and Safflower are available using the QuickStats on-line database at:

https://www.nass.usda.gov/Quick_Stats/

NA – not available

(--)- zero