

MONTANA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
MONTANA FIELD OFFICE
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 Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING AUGUST 8, 2021

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Scattered rain showers across Montana during the past week provided minimal relief to drought conditions, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 100 percent of the state is under drought conditions, with 99 percent in severe to exceptional drought, up from 80 percent last week. Reporters across the state noted scattered rain showers bettered irrigated crops but did little to improve the outlook for dryland crops. Topsoil moisture conditions for the state were 1 percent adequate to surplus, compared to 2 percent in the previous week and 41 percent the previous year. Subsoil moisture conditions were rated 6 percent adequate to surplus compared to 51 percent the previous year. Barley harvest progressed quickly, with an estimated 28 percent of the crop harvested, ahead of the previous year and 5-year average of 9 percent and 21 percent, respectively. Dry edible peas and lentil harvest continues to progress quickly with optimal harvest conditions. An estimated 72 percent of the dry edible pea crop has been harvested, significantly ahead of the 5-year average of 50 percent. Lentil harvest is estimated at 48 percent complete, ahead of the 5-year average at 37 percent. Durum wheat harvest slowed slightly last week, with an estimated 12 percent of the crop harvested, on par with the 5-year average. The oilseed crop continues to turn color, with an estimated 63 percent of the flaxseed crop turning color, and mustard seed turning color is estimated at 85 percent complete. Oilseed harvest made progress last week, with an estimated 16 percent of canola, 11 percent of flaxseed, and 15 percent of mustard seed harvested, all ahead of the 5-year average. Oats turning color is estimated at 75 percent complete, ahead of the previous year at 71 percent. Spring wheat turning color is estimated at 85 percent complete, equal to the previous year, and slightly behind the 5-year average of 86 percent. Oat and spring wheat harvest has progressed quicker than normal, with an estimated 25 percent of oats and 35 percent of spring wheat harvested. Second cutting for alfalfa and other hay progressed, despite reported reduced yields due to drought, with 48 percent of alfalfa and 25 percent of other hay harvested. Harvest continues to move quickly for winter wheat, with an estimated 70 percent of the crop harvested, ahead of the 5-year average of 62 percent. According to reporters in Powder River and Valley counties, deteriorating rangeland conditions are prompting producers to wean early and disperse livestock due to a lack of grass and the high cost of supplemental feed. Reporters noted that producers are starting to move cattle from summer pastures ahead of normal due to a lack of grass from drought conditions. An estimated 2 percent of cattle and calves and sheep and lambs have been moved from summer pasture.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
2 nd cutting harvested	48	29	32	47
Barley				
Turning color	90	77	93	NA
Harvested	28	13	9	21
Canola				
Turning color	79	66	81	81
Harvested	16	9	18	11
Dry edible beans (includes Chickpeas)				
Harvested	10	NA	NA	NA
Dry edible peas				
Harvested	72	61	42	50
Durum wheat				
Turning color	75	52	65	76
Harvested	12	5	7	12
Flaxseed				
Turning color	63	48	49	64
Harvested	11	1	4	NA
Lentils				
Harvested	48	30	29	37
Mustard seed				
Turning color	85	65	85	NA
Harvested	15	5	--	9
Oats				
Turning color	75	64	71	NA
Harvested	25	15	13	23
Other hay				
2 nd cutting harvested	25	15	22	33
Safflower				
Blooming	90	75	78	74
Turning color	45	35	33	34
Spring wheat				
Turning color	85	71	85	86
Harvested	35	19	13	18
Winter wheat				
Harvested	70	52	41	62
Cattle and calves				
Moved from pasture	2	NA	NA	NA
Sheep & Lambs				
Moved from pasture	2	NA	NA	NA

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.....	6.6	7.0	6.8	6.4
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	65	79	13	27
Short.....	34	19	46	30
Adequate.....	1	2	40	41
Surplus.....	--	--	1	2
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	70	67	9	20
Short.....	24	30	40	33
Adequate.....	6	3	50	45
Surplus.....	--	--	1	2

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.....	27	33	1	4
Poor.....	30	46	3	7
Fair.....	29	13	14	27
Good.....	14	7	53	45
Excellent.....	--	1	29	17
Canola				
Very poor.....	22	12	--	6
Poor.....	30	41	2	9
Fair.....	25	41	24	25
Good.....	15	5	46	43
Excellent.....	8	1	28	17
Corn				
Very poor.....	18	15	--	1
Poor.....	25	33	--	6
Fair.....	41	37	8	27
Good.....	15	14	70	54
Excellent.....	1	1	22	12
Dry edible beans (includes Chickpeas)				
Very poor.....	19	20	--	NA
Poor.....	28	15	1	NA
Fair.....	53	65	54	NA
Good.....	--	--	42	NA
Excellent.....	--	--	3	NA
Durum wheat				
Very poor.....	53	55	--	12
Poor.....	30	39	--	7
Fair.....	13	4	50	36
Good.....	4	2	45	38
Excellent.....	--	--	5	7
Lentils				
Very poor.....	50	40	--	NA
Poor.....	21	34	1	NA
Fair.....	26	26	35	NA
Good.....	3	--	57	NA
Excellent.....	--	--	7	NA
Oats				
Very poor.....	41	38	--	8
Poor.....	39	40	4	8
Fair.....	17	20	52	30
Good.....	2	1	40	47
Excellent.....	1	1	4	7
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	54	63	6	14
Poor.....	33	33	12	15
Fair.....	13	3	27	29
Good.....	--	1	46	36
Excellent.....	--	--	9	6
Spring wheat				
Very poor.....	37	42	1	10
Poor.....	33	43	2	9
Fair.....	25	12	18	25
Good.....	5	3	59	45
Excellent.....	--	--	20	11
Sugarbeets				
Very poor.....	12	12	--	1
Poor.....	13	13	--	3
Fair.....	41	41	15	23
Good.....	34	34	75	58
Excellent.....	--	--	10	15

¹Current conditions for 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