

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 15, 2021

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Hot temperatures and scattered rain showers across Montana during the past week provided no 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, unchanged from last week. Reporters across the state noted hot temperatures, minimal moisture and grasshoppers continue to deteriorate crop conditions as harvest season advances. Reporters also noted that fires continue to burn in western Montana, polluting the air with smoke and destroying grazing land. Topsoil moisture conditions for the state were 2 percent adequate to surplus, compared to 1 percent in the previous week and 34 percent the previous year. Subsoil moisture conditions were rated 4 percent adequate to surplus compared to 41 percent the previous year. Barley harvest continues to progress quickly, with an estimated 45 percent of the crop harvested, ahead of the previous year and 5-year average of 25 percent and 40 percent, respectively. An estimated 82 percent of the dry edible pea crop has been harvested, significantly ahead of the 5-year average of 69 percent. Lentil harvest is estimated at 66 percent complete, ahead of the 5-year average at 56 percent. Durum wheat harvest picked up last week, with an estimated 31 percent of the crop harvested, ahead of the 5-year average of 28 percent. Oilseed harvest is progressing ahead of normal, with an estimated 32 percent of canola, 26 percent of flaxseed, and 25 percent of mustard seed harvested, all ahead of the 5-year averages. Safflower harvest began last week, with an estimated 1 percent of the crop harvested. Oats and spring wheat turning color is almost complete with an estimated at 95 percent of both crops colored. Oat and spring wheat harvest continues to advance more rapidly than normal, with an estimated 41 percent of oats and 54 percent of spring wheat harvested. Second cutting for alfalfa and other hay continues, with reporters noting producers on irrigated hay ground could get a third or fourth cutting. Sixty-six percent of alfalfa and 40 percent of other hay has been harvested. Harvest continues to move quickly for winter wheat, with an estimated 85 percent of the crop harvested, ahead of the 5-year average of 76 percent. According to reporters in Broadwater and Teton counties, producers are considering weaning calves early, as well as moving livestock from summer pastures ahead of schedule due to poor pasture conditions and difficulty finding supplemental feed. An estimated 10 percent of cattle and calves and 6 percent of 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	66	48	47	63
Barley				
Turning color	98	90	NA	NA
Harvested	45	28	25	40
Canola				
Turning color	90	79	89	NA
Harvested	32	16	28	21
Dry edible beans (includes Chickpeas)				
Harvested	25	10	22	30
Dry edible peas				
Harvested	82	72	63	69
Durum wheat				
Turning color	95	75	83	87
Harvested	31	12	18	28
Flaxseed				
Turning color	85	63	60	76
Harvested	26	11	17	16
Lentils				
Harvested	66	48	56	56
Mustard seed				
Turning color	98	85	94	NA
Harvested	25	15	4	18
Oats				
Turning color	95	75	86	NA
Harvested	41	25	24	37
Other hay				
2 nd cutting harvested	40	25	39	50
Safflower				
Blooming	98	90	93	NA
Turning color	53	45	48	47
Harvested	1	NA	NA	NA
Spring wheat				
Turning color	95	85	94	NA
Harvested	54	35	32	34
Winter wheat				
Harvested	85	70	58	76
Cattle and calves				
Moved from pasture	10	2	3	NA
Sheep & Lambs				
Moved from pasture	6	2	2	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.....	6.0	6.6	6.9	6.3
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	67	65	17	27
Short.....	31	34	49	32
Adequate.....	2	1	33	39
Surplus.....	--	--	1	2
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	75	70	12	21
Short.....	21	24	47	33
Adequate.....	4	6	40	44
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.....	39	27	--	NA
Poor.....	28	30	3	NA
Fair.....	22	29	19	NA
Good.....	11	14	52	NA
Excellent.....	--	--	26	NA
Canola				
Very poor.....	27	22	--	7
Poor.....	20	30	2	8
Fair.....	24	25	14	25
Good.....	21	15	55	45
Excellent.....	8	8	29	15
Corn				
Very poor.....	31	18	--	3
Poor.....	20	25	--	6
Fair.....	33	41	5	26
Good.....	15	15	76	54
Excellent.....	1	1	19	11
Dry edible beans (includes Chickpeas)				
Very poor.....	21	19	--	NA
Poor.....	35	28	1	NA
Fair.....	44	53	47	NA
Good.....	--	--	52	NA
Excellent.....	--	--	--	NA
Durum wheat				
Very poor.....	44	53	--	NA
Poor.....	38	30	--	NA
Fair.....	15	13	40	NA
Good.....	3	4	50	NA
Excellent.....	--	--	10	NA
Lentils				
Very poor.....	35	50	--	NA
Poor.....	22	21	1	NA
Fair.....	35	26	25	NA
Good.....	8	3	60	NA
Excellent.....	--	--	14	NA
Oats				
Very poor.....	29	41	1	NA
Poor.....	41	39	4	NA
Fair.....	26	17	49	NA
Good.....	3	2	42	NA
Excellent.....	1	1	4	NA
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	64	54	7	14
Poor.....	34	33	18	16
Fair.....	2	13	37	30
Good.....	--	--	32	33
Excellent.....	--	--	6	7
Spring wheat				
Very poor.....	36	37	1	10
Poor.....	42	33	3	10
Fair.....	18	25	19	26
Good.....	4	5	55	43
Excellent.....	--	--	22	11
Sugarbeets				
Very poor.....	11	12	--	1
Poor.....	12	13	--	4
Fair.....	30	41	15	23
Good.....	47	34	74	58
Excellent.....	--	--	11	14

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