

# MONTANA CROP PROGRESS



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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Contact: Eric Sommer  
 (800) 835-2612

## CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING APRIL 10, 2022

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** Montana received trace amounts of moisture this week, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Precipitation totals were 0.25 inches or less for most of the State. Temperatures this week ranged from normal to 2 degrees warmer than average. Counties along the western border were the exception, with average daily temperatures ranging from normal to 4 degrees cooler than average for this time of year. According to the National Resources Conservation Service out of Montana, the current snowpack in most areas is below average, with only 70 to 89 percent of average snowpack present. The northwest corner of the State, however, has normal to 107 percent of the average snowpack present. According to the United States Drought Monitor for April 7, 2022, 90.6 percent of the State is now experiencing drought conditions, an increase from 87.4 percent last week. The amount of land rated as abnormally dry increased 3.2 percentage points – from 2.1 percent last week to 5.3 percent this week. Moderate drought and severe drought conditions remained unchanged at 2.8 percent and 30.1 percent, respectively. Extreme drought was present across 52.4 percent of the State, also unchanged from last week.

Reporters continue to report dire conditions throughout the State. Producers in Chouteau County are reporting very poor soil conditions, with low re-crop potential across the county. Phillips County received no moisture and only very strong winds this week. Producers are expected to begin planting grain next week if the winds lessen. There is concern among livestock producers that the windstorms could cause cattle dust pneumonia. Many livestock producers are predicting they will be out of hay by the end of the month – without significant moisture herds could be sold off. There are also reports from Mineral, Missoula, and Ravalli Counties of livestock producers running out of hay. Prairie and Toole Counties reported high winds that are worsening the already poor conditions. Valley County did receive measurable moisture last week, however it brought little relief due to very high winds. Snow is forecasted for the upcoming week, but there is concern that colder temperatures could harm new-born livestock. Roosevelt County remained incredibly dry, with no moisture reported. Despite grazing pastures being open in the county, the pastures that are open are bare. Conditions in Broadwater, Mineral, Missoula, and Ravalli Counties continue to be dry, but producers are hopeful the forecasted storm brings some snowfall to the area.

Dry edible pea planting began this week, with planting reported at 2 percent complete. Topsoil moisture levels were reported as 60 percent very short, 28 percent short, and 12 percent adequate, compared with 55 percent very short, 41 percent short, and 4 percent adequate last week. Subsoil moisture levels were reported as 57 percent very short, 34 percent short, and 9 percent adequate, compared with 48 percent very short, 41 percent short, and 11 percent adequate last week.

### CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Barley				
Planted .....	8	2	7	3
Dry edible peas				
Planted .....	2	NA	NA	NA
Oats				
Planted .....	3	1	3	1
Spring wheat				
Planted .....	7	3	5	2
Winter wheat				
Breaking dormancy .....	55	34	50	46
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved .....	54	50	58	59
Receiving supplemental feed .....	88	91	83	87
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambled .....	50	45	43	49
Receiving supplemental feed .....	99	99	93	92

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 .....	5.8	6.9	6.1	3.3
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short .....	60	55	25	6
Short .....	28	41	48	15
Adequate .....	12	4	26	64
Surplus .....	--	--	1	15
Subsoil moisture				
Very short .....	57	48	20	7
Short .....	34	41	51	20
Adequate .....	9	11	29	62
Surplus .....	--	--	--	11

NA – not available  
 (--) – zero

**CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION**

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Grazing accessibility				
Open .....	72	65	84	61
Difficult .....	15	16	8	19
Closed .....	13	19	8	20
Pasture and range				
Very poor .....	73	64	37	12
Poor .....	21	27	26	19
Fair .....	5	7	29	33
Good .....	1	2	6	28
Excellent .....	--	--	2	8
Winter wheat				
Very poor .....	8	15	4	2
Poor .....	15	22	11	7
Fair .....	62	53	27	26
Good .....	13	10	50	52
Excellent .....	2	--	8	13

NA – not available  
 (--) – zero