

# 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 JULY 3, 2022

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** Montana experienced dry conditions during the week and a weekend of heavy rain and storms, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Precipitation totals were over half an inch for much of the State - with many areas receiving significant rainfall. Golden Valley and Musselshell Counties reported 2 inches of rain over the weekend. Ravalli, Missoula, and Mineral Counties reported heavy rain with hail and high winds. Wibaux County reported 1.5 to 3.5 inches of rainfall and some hail damage to crops. Helena experienced flash flooding due to excessive rain received in a short period of time. The rainfall over the weekend improved drought conditions for most of the State. According to the United States Drought Monitor for June 30, 2022, 55.3 percent of the State is experiencing drought conditions – compared to 75.4 percent last week. The amount of land rated as abnormally dry decreased to cover 15.1 percent of the State, compared to 31.5 percent last week. Moderate drought was present across 20.6 percent of the State and severe drought was present across 12.2 percent of the State. Extreme drought conditions remained unchanged at 3.0 percent of the State.

Judith Basin County reported scattered showers with varying rainfall totals throughout the county. Despite crop conditions being good, hay yields in the county are expected to be below average for fields that are not irrigated. In Valley County, storms have brought decent rainfall and reports indicate that crop and livestock conditions are improving. Producers were busy cutting and harvesting hay in Ravalli, Missoula, and Mineral Counties this week due to warm temperatures. Pastures in the counties are looking plentiful, with the potential of increased hay yields from previous years. Glacier County received much need rainfall this week, however, water availability for livestock remains scarce. Blaine County reported the moisture this week improved crop conditions, however, grasshoppers continue to be an issue for producers. Richland county producers continue to battle grasshoppers as well, with some producers reporting significant damage to croplands. In Powder River County, most of the winter wheat has been cut for hay. Canola and mustard seed began turning color this week, with coloring reported at 7 percent and 1 percent, respectively. Harvesting of lentils began this week, with harvest reported at 1 percent complete. The first cutting of alfalfa hay is 43 percent complete, compared to 46 percent this time last year. The first cutting of other hay is 43 percent complete, compared to 43 percent this time last year. Winter wheat is 80 percent headed, compared to 84 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 <sup>st</sup> cutting harvested .....	43	22	46	NA
Barley				
Booted .....	70	50	71	72
Headed .....	40	15	46	38
Canola				
Blooming .....	48	20	52	45
Turning color .....	7	NA	NA	NA
Corn				
Emerged .....	98	90	95	NA
Dry edible beans (includes Chickpeas)				
Blooming .....	40	14	42	NA
Dry edible peas				
Blooming .....	60	40	58	63
Durum wheat				
Booted .....	51	30	49	53
Headed .....	22	5	25	27
Flaxseed				
Emerged .....	95	60	NA	NA
Blooming .....	30	4	44	42
Lentils				
Blooming .....	65	50	57	56
Harvested .....	1	--	NA	NA
Mustard seed				
Blooming .....	55	40	48	45
Turning color .....	1	NA	8	3
Oats				
Booted .....	72	50	62	55
Headed .....	23	7	24	20
Other hay				
1 <sup>st</sup> cutting harvested .....	43	15	43	NA
Safflower				
Emerged .....	80	65	77	70
Blooming .....	5	--	14	NA
Spring wheat				
Booted .....	89	73	70	69
Headed .....	21	2	47	39
Winter wheat				
Headed .....	80	55	84	87

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 .....	5.9	5.8	7.0	6.2
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short .....	21	24	55	24
Short .....	36	35	37	22
Adequate .....	41	41	8	49
Surplus .....	2	--	--	5
Subsoil moisture				
Very short .....	34	42	45	18
Short .....	32	30	38	27
Adequate .....	33	28	17	52
Surplus .....	1	--	--	3

NA – not available  
 (--) – zero

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

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Barley				
Very poor .....	9	15	14	5
Poor .....	24	25	32	13
Fair .....	32	32	34	25
Good .....	30	27	13	40
Excellent .....	5	1	7	17
Canola				
Very poor .....	2	10	14	11
Poor .....	4	4	12	6
Fair .....	50	48	28	24
Good .....	44	38	27	46
Excellent .....	--	--	19	13
Corn				
Very poor .....	2	1	5	3
Poor .....	5	12	37	12
Fair .....	55	61	39	31
Good .....	34	25	18	47
Excellent .....	4	1	1	7
Dry edible peas				
Very poor .....	10	12	15	7
Poor .....	16	14	35	15
Fair .....	44	41	35	29
Good .....	30	33	15	42
Excellent .....	--	--	--	7
Durum wheat				
Very poor .....	1	1	15	10
Poor .....	5	4	30	14
Fair .....	28	21	15	39
Good .....	65	74	38	34
Excellent .....	1	--	2	3
Lentils				
Very poor .....	8	9	11	8
Poor .....	11	10	23	11
Fair .....	49	45	35	35
Good .....	31	36	30	42
Excellent .....	1	--	1	4
Pasture and range				
Very poor .....	15	21	42	15
Poor .....	15	17	35	17
Fair .....	22	23	18	22
Good .....	44	38	5	32
Excellent .....	4	1	--	14
Spring wheat				
Very poor .....	8	10	18	10
Poor .....	18	15	45	18
Fair .....	38	47	30	21
Good .....	34	27	5	44
Excellent .....	2	1	2	7
Sugarbeets				
Very poor .....	--	1	3	2
Poor .....	3	7	4	4
Fair .....	74	77	22	30
Good .....	23	14	60	54
Excellent .....	--	1	11	10
Winter wheat				
Very poor .....	14	19	14	5
Poor .....	25	29	27	12
Fair .....	29	30	25	24
Good .....	19	18	32	32
Excellent .....	13	4	2	27

<sup>1</sup>Current conditions for Dry Edible Beans, Flaxseed, Mustard Seed, Oats, and Safflower are available using the QuickStats on-line database at: [https://www.nass.usda.gov/Quick\\_Stats/](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Quick_Stats/)

NA – not available  
 (--) – zero