

# 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 10, 2022

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** This week brought scattered rain showers and severe storms to Montana, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Precipitation totals ranged from a quarter inch to one inch for most of the State; however, some areas received over 3 inches. Despite the moisture received the past few weeks, precipitation totals are still below average for the year. Year to date precipitation totals are 3 inches below normal for most of the State. For areas along the eastern border, however, yearly precipitation totals are normal to 3 inches above normal. This week was warm, with average daily temperatures 1 to 3 degrees warmer than normal. According to the United States Drought Monitor for July 7, 2022, the amount of land rated as abnormally dry was 17.8 percent, compared to 15.1 percent last week. Moderate drought was present across 13.4 percent of the State and severe drought covered 11.0 percent of the State. Extreme drought conditions increased slightly to cover 5.6 percent of the State, compared to 4.4 percent last week. Exceptional drought remained present across 3.0 percent of the State. Overall, 50.8 percent of the State is experiencing drought conditions, a decrease of approximately 8.1 percent from 55.3 percent last week.

Wibaux County reported severe storms over the weekend, mostly effecting the southern part of the county. The storms brought over 4 inches of rain, hail, and 80 mile per hour winds. There were reports of damage to crops, trees, buildings, and farm equipment. Sheridan County received multiple hailstorms causing significant damage, especially in the southern part of the county. Producers reported damage to crops due to grasshoppers as well. There were reports that many producers are spraying for insects and fungicide. Dawson County also reported significant grasshopper damage to wheat and barley. Cutworm damage is also being reported in the county. Valley County received minimal moisture this week, although there were reports that the moisture received did slightly improve conditions in some areas of the county. Reports indicate rangeland grass in the county is still in poor condition due to low subsoil moisture and increasing temperatures. Mineral, Missoula, and Ravalli Counties reported scattered storms with some areas receiving significant rain and some areas receiving little moisture. There were reports of varying sized hail – some areas received pea sized hail, while others received large hail that destroyed crops. Reports indicate livestock conditions in Mineral, Missoula, and Ravalli Counties are good, however, there is concern grazing land will begin to dry out with the increasing temperatures. Hay harvesting in the counties was slowed due to the storms but is expected to continue next week. Hay harvesting in Broadwater County was delayed slightly due to rain, but producers are expected to finish the first cutting this week. Harvesting of winter wheat for grain began this week, with harvest reported at 1 percent complete.

### 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 .....	63	43	63	61
Barley				
Booted .....	90	70	87	NA
Headed .....	59	40	67	62
Turning color .....	8	NA	NA	NA
Canola				
Blooming .....	75	48	68	65
Turning color .....	20	7	14	NA
Dry edible beans (includes Chickpeas)				
Blooming .....	60	40	49	NA
Dry edible peas				
Blooming .....	75	60	74	NA
Durum wheat				
Booted .....	78	51	67	75
Headed .....	40	22	45	51
Flaxseed				
Blooming .....	47	30	63	64
Lentils				
Blooming .....	87	65	74	78
Harvested .....	2	1	NA	NA
Mustard seed				
Blooming .....	78	55	63	68
Turning color .....	8	1	14	10
Oats				
Booted .....	88	72	77	78
Headed .....	40	23	49	49
Other hay				
1 <sup>st</sup> cutting harvested .....	61	43	63	59
Safflower				
Emerged .....	99	80	93	83
Blooming .....	23	5	28	26
Spring wheat				
Booted .....	97	89	82	84
Headed .....	40	21	64	62
Winter wheat				
Headed .....	90	80	94	95
Turning color .....	17	NA	55	56
Harvested .....	1	--	1	1

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 .....	5.7	5.9	6.9	6.3
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short .....	13	21	59	25
Short .....	36	36	35	26
Adequate .....	50	41	5	45
Surplus .....	1	2	1	4
Subsoil moisture				
Very short .....	28	34	53	19
Short .....	34	32	41	32
Adequate .....	37	33	6	46
Surplus .....	1	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 .....	5	9	20	6
Poor .....	30	24	28	12
Fair .....	33	32	26	24
Good .....	31	30	18	41
Excellent .....	1	5	8	17
Canola				
Very poor .....	--	2	2	9
Poor .....	2	4	17	7
Fair .....	43	50	36	26
Good .....	52	44	29	43
Excellent .....	3	--	16	15
Corn				
Very poor .....	3	2	10	3
Poor .....	6	5	25	8
Fair .....	47	55	40	26
Good .....	43	34	23	51
Excellent .....	1	4	2	12
Dry edible peas				
Very poor .....	4	10	14	6
Poor .....	14	16	40	16
Fair .....	43	44	41	29
Good .....	39	30	5	41
Excellent .....	--	--	--	8
Durum wheat				
Very poor .....	1	1	13	8
Poor .....	6	5	42	16
Fair .....	37	28	15	36
Good .....	56	65	25	33
Excellent .....	--	1	5	7
Lentils				
Very poor .....	2	8	4	6
Poor .....	5	11	20	11
Fair .....	57	49	43	33
Good .....	35	31	32	43
Excellent .....	1	1	1	7
Pasture and range				
Very poor .....	11	15	42	16
Poor .....	19	15	38	18
Fair .....	25	22	18	20
Good .....	42	44	2	33
Excellent .....	3	4	--	13
Spring wheat				
Very poor .....	2	8	21	11
Poor .....	11	18	42	18
Fair .....	43	38	21	20
Good .....	41	34	13	43
Excellent .....	3	2	3	8
Sugarbeets				
Very poor .....	--	--	6	1
Poor .....	--	3	8	4
Fair .....	68	74	39	28
Good .....	32	23	41	56
Excellent .....	--	--	6	11
Winter wheat				
Very poor .....	10	14	17	6
Poor .....	30	25	33	14
Fair .....	38	29	22	22
Good .....	15	19	22	28
Excellent .....	7	13	6	30

<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