

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 31, 2022

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Montana experienced a very dry week, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Precipitation totals were 0.1 inches or less for much of the State. Precipitation totals for the year range from average to 3 inches below average for most of the State. Isolated areas are drier, with precipitation totals 6 inches below average for the year. Precipitation totals for other portions of the State, such as along the eastern border and in the northwestern corner, are average to 3 inches above average for the year. The eastern portion of the State experienced a cool week, with temperatures 2 to 4 degrees below normal, while the western portion of the State was warmer, with temperatures 2 to 4 degrees above normal. Counties in the central portion of the State had mild daily temperatures, ranging from normal to 2 degrees warmer than normal. According to the United States Drought Monitor for July 28, 2022, zero percent of the State is now experiencing exceptional drought conditions, compared to 0.6 percent last week. The amount of land rated as abnormally dry remained unchanged at 17.8 percent. Moderate drought conditions also remained unchanged at 5.8 percent of the State. Severe drought conditions increased from 9.3 percent last week to 11.9 percent of the State this week. Extreme drought was present across 3.5 percent of the State, compared to 5.5 percent last week. Overall, 39.0 percent of the State continues to experience drought conditions, unchanged from last week.

Valley County reported extreme heat and no moisture this week; however, the dry conditions helped crops mature. Harvest in the county is underway and reports indicate crop yields have thus far been average. Judith Basin County reported scattered showers this week. The heat is helping crops along – harvest is either underway or about to begin. High temperatures along with high winds are drying out non irrigated acres in Mineral, Missoula, and Ravalli Counties. The high temperatures are also increasing fire danger and limiting irrigation water availability. There were also reports of grasshoppers this week in Mineral, Missoula, and Ravalli Counties. Richland County producers continue to struggle with grasshoppers – with more reports of damage to cropland and rangeland. Dry edible bean, Durum wheat, flaxseed, oat, and spring wheat harvest began this week. Winter wheat harvest was reported at 32 percent complete, compared to 48 percent complete 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 st cutting harvested.....	95	88	NA	NA
2 nd cutting harvested.....	20	5	26	NA
Barley				
Headed.....	98	95	98	97
Turning color.....	70	49	75	76
Harvested.....	10	5	11	5
Canola				
Turning color.....	68	50	64	65
Harvested.....	11	2	8	4
Dry edible beans (includes Chickpeas)				
Harvested.....	5	NA	NA	NA
Dry edible peas				
Harvested.....	29	9	59	33
Durum wheat				
Headed.....	95	84	97	94
Turning color.....	39	25	49	49
Harvested.....	1	NA	NA	NA
Flaxseed				
Turning color.....	40	20	45	41
Harvested.....	2	NA	1	2
Lentils				
Harvested.....	31	20	29	21
Mustard seed				
Turning color.....	54	39	62	60
Harvested.....	4	2	NA	NA
Oats				
Headed.....	99	83	93	NA
Turning color.....	56	32	61	54
Harvested.....	2	NA	13	9
Other hay				
1 st cutting harvested.....	93	88	94	NA
2 nd cutting harvested.....	13	5	13	NA
Safflower				
Blooming.....	75	60	73	61
Turning color.....	21	5	33	20
Spring wheat				
Headed.....	97	88	96	96
Turning color.....	50	30	69	62
Harvested.....	5	NA	16	6
Winter wheat				
Turning color.....	95	72	NA	NA
Harvested.....	32	18	48	34

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	6.9	7.0	7.0	6.8
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	30	25	79	36
Short	34	30	19	29
Adequate.....	36	44	2	34
Surplus.....	--	1	--	1
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	43	36	67	26
Short	38	37	30	36
Adequate.....	19	26	3	37
Surplus.....	--	1	--	1

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	6	6	33	8
Poor	23	23	46	15
Fair.....	39	36	13	25
Good	28	30	7	39
Excellent	4	5	1	13
Canola				
Very poor	4	3	12	9
Poor	11	8	41	16
Fair.....	35	35	41	27
Good	43	48	5	36
Excellent	7	6	1	12
Corn				
Very poor	3	3	15	4
Poor	4	4	33	12
Fair.....	25	32	37	28
Good	67	59	14	48
Excellent	1	2	1	8
Dry edible peas				
Very poor	5	6	45	NA
Poor	16	16	35	NA
Fair.....	42	43	18	NA
Good	35	34	2	NA
Excellent	2	1	--	NA
Durum wheat				
Very poor	1	1	55	19
Poor	5	4	39	16
Fair.....	43	46	4	25
Good	51	49	2	33
Excellent	--	--	--	7
Lentils				
Very poor	2	2	40	NA
Poor	6	7	34	NA
Fair.....	47	54	26	NA
Good	42	36	--	NA
Excellent	3	1	--	NA
Pasture and range				
Very poor	26	26	63	23
Poor	14	12	33	17
Fair.....	28	19	3	22
Good	32	40	1	34
Excellent	--	3	--	4
Spring wheat				
Very poor	4	4	42	16
Poor	18	19	43	19
Fair.....	36	34	12	21
Good	39	41	3	37
Excellent	3	2	--	7
Sugarbeets				
Very poor	--	--	12	3
Poor	--	--	13	4
Fair.....	42	51	41	29
Good	58	49	34	54
Excellent	--	--	--	10
Winter wheat				
Very poor	9	9	27	NA
Poor	23	28	29	NA
Fair.....	49	45	42	NA
Good	16	15	2	NA
Excellent	3	3	--	NA

¹Current 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/
 NA – not available
 (--) – zero