

MONTANA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
MONTANA FIELD OFFICE

P.O. BOX 150969 · Lakewood, CO 80215-0969
 Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 August 8, 2022

Contact: Eric Sommer
 (800) 835-2612

CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING AUGUST 7, 2022

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Montana experienced another week with warm temperatures and scattered moisture, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Counties along the northern and western border the State received minimal precipitation this week, with totals at 0.01 inches or less. Areas in the central and southern portion of the State received 0.1 inches or more of rainfall this week, while counties in the southeastern corner received over half an inch. Temperatures were above average this week for most of the State. Average daily temperatures ranged from 1 to 4 degrees warmer than normal. There was minimal change in drought conditions due to warm temperatures and limited moisture. According to the United States Drought Monitor for August 4, 2022, 39.2 percent of the State is experiencing drought conditions, a slight increase from 39.0 percent last week. The amount of land rated as abnormally dry was 18.0 percent, compared to 17.8 percent last week. Moderate drought was present across 5.8 percent of the State, unchanged from last week. Severe and extreme drought conditions also remained unchanged this week at 11.9 and 3.5 percent of the State, respectively.

Roosevelt County reported very hot temperatures this week, leading to quick crop development. Pasture conditions in the county are worsening due to minimal subsoil moisture. Mineral, Missoula, and Ravalli Counties also reported hot, dry conditions this week. Irrigated crops are faring well, however, irrigation supplies are dropping. There are reports that non-irrigated crops are dried out. Sweet Grass County reported deteriorating range land conditions due to hot temperatures, little moisture, and grasshoppers. There are reports that cattle are being sold due to lack of feed. Valley and Custer Counties reported continued problems with grasshoppers. In Custer County, producers are using insecticides to protect hay and crop ground. Harvest in Prairie County is underway, and there are reports of hail and grasshopper damage to crops. Harvest of the second cutting of alfalfa hay and other hay is slightly ahead of last year. Alfalfa hay harvest is reported at 47 percent complete and other hay harvest is reported at 30 percent complete, compared to 45 percent and 24 percent complete this time last year, respectively.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
2 nd cutting harvested	47	20	45	42
Barley				
Turning color	95	70	88	90
Harvested	17	10	26	18
Canola				
Turning color	88	68	77	79
Harvested	22	11	15	12
Dry edible beans (includes Chickpeas)				
Harvested	21	5	NA	NA
Dry edible peas				
Harvested	48	29	70	49
Durum wheat				
Turning color	74	39	72	72
Harvested	9	1	11	11
Flaxseed				
Turning color	69	40	61	62
Harvested	10	2	10	10
Lentils				
Harvested	45	31	45	36
Mustard seed				
Turning color	83	54	82	80
Harvested	5	4	14	9
Oats				
Turning color	84	56	73	75
Harvested	20	2	24	20
Other hay				
1 st cutting harvested	95	93	NA	NA
2 nd cutting harvested	30	13	24	28
Safflower				
Blooming	87	75	88	72
Turning color	49	21	44	33
Harvested	7	NA	NA	NA
Spring wheat				
Turning color	76	50	83	84
Harvested	22	5	33	19
Winter wheat				
Harvested	51	32	67	56

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	6.9	6.6	6.6
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	36	30	65	37
Short	37	34	34	32
Adequate	27	36	1	30
Surplus	--	--	--	1
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	41	43	70	31
Short	45	38	24	33
Adequate	14	19	6	35
Surplus	--	--	--	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	27	9
Poor	22	23	30	12
Fair	38	39	29	26
Good	32	28	14	41
Excellent	2	4	--	12
Canola				
Very poor	4	4	22	10
Poor	12	11	30	15
Fair	37	35	25	26
Good	43	43	15	34
Excellent	4	7	8	15
Corn				
Very poor	5	3	18	5
Poor	9	4	25	10
Fair	24	25	41	29
Good	60	67	15	47
Excellent	2	1	1	9
Dry edible peas				
Very poor	5	5	NA	NA
Poor	16	16	NA	NA
Fair	45	42	NA	NA
Good	33	35	NA	NA
Excellent	1	2	NA	NA
Durum wheat				
Very poor	1	1	53	22
Poor	4	5	30	13
Fair	52	43	13	30
Good	43	51	4	29
Excellent	--	--	--	6
Lentils				
Very poor	2	2	50	NA
Poor	7	6	21	NA
Fair	56	47	26	NA
Good	34	42	3	NA
Excellent	1	3	--	NA
Pasture and range				
Very poor	26	26	54	22
Poor	14	14	33	18
Fair	29	28	13	24
Good	30	32	--	31
Excellent	1	--	--	5
Spring wheat				
Very poor	4	4	37	17
Poor	18	18	33	15
Fair	41	36	25	24
Good	36	39	5	35
Excellent	1	3	--	9
Sugarbeets				
Very poor	1	--	12	3
Poor	1	--	13	6
Fair	49	42	41	29
Good	49	58	34	51
Excellent	--	--	--	11
Winter wheat				
Very poor	8	9	NA	NA
Poor	25	23	NA	NA
Fair	48	49	NA	NA
Good	16	16	NA	NA
Excellent	3	3	NA	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