

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 AUGUST 14, 2022

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Conditions in Montana were mostly dry and unseasonably warm this week, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Most of the State received a quarter inch or less of rainfall. Counties along the eastern border were very dry, receiving no significant moisture. For areas that did experience rainfall this week, warm temperatures quickly dried up any moisture. Average daily temperatures for most of the State were 4 to 8 degrees warmer than normal for this time of year. The very hot, dry conditions this week, along with minimal moisture received in previous weeks, worsened drought conditions. According to the United States Drought Monitor for August 11, 2022, the amount of land rated as abnormally dry was 22.5 percent, compared to 18.0 percent last week. Moderate drought was present across 12.6 percent of the State, an increase of 6.8 percentage points from 5.8 percent last week. Severe drought conditions remained at 11.9 percent of the State and extreme drought conditions increased slightly to cover 3.6 percent of the State, compared to 3.5 percent last week. Overall, 50.6 percent of the State is experiencing drought conditions, an increase of approximately 11.4 percentage points from 39.2 percent last week.

Grasshoppers continue to plague many counties. Richland and Prairie Counties reported damage to cropland and rangeland due to grasshoppers. Valley County reported that the hot, dry conditions this week allowed for harvest to progress; however, the warm temperatures and grasshopper damage is lowering crop quality. Pasture and rangeland in the county is very dry and in poor condition. Roosevelt County reported excessive grasshopper presence and damage this week. Sweet Grass County reported that the dry conditions and severe grasshopper damage is worsening rangeland conditions. Stock water is running short in the county, and comments indicate producers may begin selling cattle due to lack of water. In Custer County, producers are reporting grasshopper damage to the spring wheat crop. Pasture conditions are also declining in the county due to grasshopper damage. Barley, canola, flaxseed, and oat harvest are progressing similarly to last year. Dry edible peas, lentils, and mustard seed harvest are progressing slightly behind last year. Durum wheat, spring wheat, and winter wheat harvest are also behind compared to last year at this time. Durum wheat harvest is reported at 19 percent complete, compared to 28 percent last year, spring wheat harvested is reported at 26 percent complete, compared to 51 percent last year, and winter wheat harvested is reported at 71 percent complete, compared to 83 percent last year. Dry edible bean and safflower harvest are progressing slightly ahead of last year. Dry edible bean harvest is reported at 30 percent complete, compared to 23 percent this time last year and safflower harvest is reported at 10 percent complete, compared to 1 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				
2 nd cutting harvested	54	47	63	59
Barley				
Harvested	40	17	43	35
Canola				
Turning color	97	88	88	NA
Harvested	26	22	30	22
Dry edible beans (includes Chickpeas)				
Harvested	30	21	23	25
Dry edible peas				
Harvested	67	48	81	67
Durum wheat				
Turning color	93	74	92	86
Harvested	19	9	28	26
Flaxseed				
Turning color	82	69	82	75
Harvested	27	10	24	19
Lentils				
Harvested	55	45	63	54
Mustard seed				
Turning color	96	83	96	91
Harvested	17	5	24	14
Oats				
Turning color	95	84	92	88
Harvested	39	20	39	32
Other hay				
2 nd cutting harvested	38	30	38	42
Safflower				
Blooming	97	87	97	83
Turning color	67	49	52	44
Harvested	10	7	1	NA
Spring wheat				
Turning color	91	76	94	NA
Harvested	26	22	51	34
Winter wheat				
Harvested	71	51	83	72

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	6.8	6.9	6.0	6.4
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	33	36	67	37
Short	45	37	31	33
Adequate	22	27	2	29
Surplus	--	--	--	1
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	35	41	75	33
Short	51	45	21	32
Adequate	14	14	4	34
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	39	NA
Poor	16	22	28	NA
Fair	47	38	22	NA
Good	35	32	11	NA
Excellent	2	2	--	NA
Canola				
Very poor	--	4	27	12
Poor	3	12	20	11
Fair	43	37	24	26
Good	46	43	21	38
Excellent	8	4	8	13
Corn				
Very poor	2	5	31	9
Poor	7	9	20	10
Fair	28	24	33	26
Good	62	60	15	46
Excellent	1	2	1	9
Dry edible peas				
Very poor	1	5	NA	NA
Poor	11	16	NA	NA
Fair	54	45	NA	NA
Good	30	33	NA	NA
Excellent	4	1	NA	NA
Durum wheat				
Very poor	1	1	44	NA
Poor	3	4	38	NA
Fair	59	52	15	NA
Good	34	43	3	NA
Excellent	3	--	--	NA
Lentils				
Very poor	1	2	35	NA
Poor	3	7	22	NA
Fair	62	56	35	NA
Good	31	34	8	NA
Excellent	3	1	--	NA
Pasture and range				
Very poor	25	26	64	25
Poor	17	14	34	19
Fair	36	29	2	24
Good	21	30	--	26
Excellent	1	1	--	6
Spring wheat				
Very poor	--	4	36	17
Poor	14	18	42	17
Fair	48	41	18	24
Good	38	36	4	33
Excellent	--	1	--	9
Sugarbeets				
Very poor	1	1	11	3
Poor	1	1	12	7
Fair	40	49	30	27
Good	56	49	47	53
Excellent	2	--	--	10
Winter wheat				
Very poor	9	8	NA	NA
Poor	27	25	NA	NA
Fair	42	48	NA	NA
Good	22	16	NA	NA
Excellent	--	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