

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 MAY 21, 2023

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: The past week brought warmer than normal temperatures and scattered precipitation to the State of Montana, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. According to the National Weather Service Forecast Office several areas of the state saw varying amounts of precipitation for the week ending May 21, 2023, ranging from 0.01 inch in northern and eastern counties to upwards of 2 inches in central and northwestern counties. Temperatures ranged from 25 degrees to 90 degrees across the State. Drought conditions continued to persist. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor published on May 16, 2023, 64.8 percent of the State was experiencing dry or drought conditions, down 6.6 percentage points from the previous week. Thirty-nine percent of the State was rated as abnormally dry, up 1 percentage point from the previous week. Twenty-two percent of the State was rated as being in moderate drought, down 8 percentage points from the previous week. Four percent of the State was rated as experiencing severe drought conditions, the same as the previous week. None of the state was reported as experiencing extreme or exceptional drought conditions.

Statewide, planting progress and emergence picked up this week compared to last. Blaine County reported windy, smoky conditions and above average temperatures last week. Northwestern counties also reported warm temperatures, accelerating mountain runoff and raising river levels. Lack of precipitation has slowed lake and reservoir fill. Concerns remain for areas drying out quickly from little received moisture.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Barley				
Planted.....	78	63	89	81
Emerged.....	27	4	57	50
Canola				
Planted.....	44	24	62	56
Emerged.....	13	1	24	17
Corn				
Planted.....	53	30	37	52
Emerged.....	21	2	9	11
Dry edible beans (includes Chickpeas)				
Planted.....	75	38	57	59
Emerged.....	28	1	13	9
Dry edible peas				
Planted.....	70	55	91	82
Emerged.....	32	6	48	45
Durum wheat				
Planted.....	50	39	63	61
Emerged.....	20	4	27	24
Flaxseed				
Planted.....	60	31	49	52
Emerged.....	26	3	14	16
Lentils				
Planted.....	62	48	82	77
Emerged.....	29	5	46	36
Mustard seed				
Planted.....	79	58	74	63
Emerged.....	29	5	28	20
Oats				
Planted.....	59	35	67	66
Emerged.....	24	9	39	31
Safflower				
Planted.....	50	19	47	36
Emerged.....	10	2	13	8
Spring wheat				
Planted.....	72	54	83	78
Emerged.....	42	15	55	46
Sugarbeets				
Planted.....	39	14	33	75
Winter wheat				
Jointing.....	33	10	NA	NA
Booted.....	30	5	29	17
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved.....	95	93	96	NA
Moved to pasture.....	41	6	50	64
Receiving supplemental feed.....	30	43	55	26
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambbed.....	86	78	96	94
Moved to pasture.....	49	7	60	67
Receiving supplemental feed.....	30	41	45	27

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	6.4	4.7	5.2	5.0
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	6	1	18	8
Short	19	19	56	21
Adequate.....	74	77	26	63
Surplus.....	1	3	--	8
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	4	3	49	15
Short	37	41	32	22
Adequate.....	58	55	19	58
Surplus.....	1	1	--	5

NA – not available

(--)- zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Grazing accessibility				
Open	84	78	78	NA
Difficult	14	13	16	NA
Closed.....	2	9	6	NA
Pasture and range				
Very poor	6	10	34	12
Poor	17	16	31	15
Fair.....	48	54	26	31
Good	28	19	9	32
Excellent	1	1	--	10
Winter wheat				
Very poor	1	1	14	4
Poor	2	1	9	6
Fair.....	48	50	64	32
Good	47	48	13	31
Excellent	2	--	--	27

NA – not available

(--)- zero