

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 9, 2023

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Received moisture varied across the State last week with some localities receiving good rains while others remained dry, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service. Temperatures ran below normal in southern and eastern Montana with some areas seeing temperatures 10 degrees below average according to data from the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). Average temperatures were higher across central and northwestern Montana. Precipitation levels were at or below normal for the majority of Montana, also according to the HPRCC. However, received precipitation was above normal for some localities in southern and southeastern Montana. Isolated areas of Big Horn County received over 2 inches of moisture last week. Drought conditions remained mostly unchanged from last week according to the United States Drought Monitor report published on July 6, 2023. The amount of land rated drought free increased to 76.0 percent, compared with 75.1 percent the previous week. Abnormal dryness was found in 12.3 percent of Montana, a decrease of 0.9 percentage points. Moderate drought was at 8.2 percent, unchanged from last week. Severe drought conditions sat still at 3.5 percent. Prior week moisture delayed hay harvest in Mineral, Missoula, and Ravalli Counties and grass hay yields were noted as below average so far. In Hill County, dry conditions were beginning to adversely affect spring crops. Blaine County reporters noted increased grasshopper pressure was a concern and conditions were hot and dry. Grasshopper infestations were also noted in Roosevelt, Richland, and Sweet Grass Counties, causing damage to area crops and rangelands. In Broadwater County, the first cutting of hay was progressing slowly due to recent rains.

CROP PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
1 st cutting harvested.....	56	32	60	57
Barley				
Booted.....	88	63	87	84
Headed.....	50	17	56	59
Turning color.....	1	NA	NA	NA
Canola				
Emerged.....	82	79	NA	NA
Blooming.....	70	59	71	66
Turning color.....	13	NA	18	NA
Corn				
Emerged.....	95	91	NA	NA
Dry edible beans (includes Chickpeas)				
Blooming.....	67	32	57	NA
Dry edible peas				
Blooming.....	87	52	73	75
Durum wheat				
Booted.....	70	36	74	70
Headed.....	40	7	37	44
Flaxseed				
Blooming.....	49	26	45	54
Lentils				
Blooming.....	76	45	84	74
Mustard seed				
Blooming.....	89	46	75	68
Turning color.....	16	1	7	10
Oats				
Booted.....	74	42	86	74
Headed.....	33	NA	38	41
Other hay				
1 st cutting harvested.....	62	34	58	57
Safflower				
Emerged.....	90	76	96	86
Blooming.....	18	9	20	25
Spring wheat				
Booted.....	95	91	96	84
Headed.....	65	33	37	54
Sugarbeets				
Planted.....	90	76	NA	NA
Emerged.....	88	65	NA	NA
Winter wheat				
Headed.....	95	80	89	92
Turning color.....	40	12	NA	NA

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	6.6	6.6	5.7	6.1
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	8	3	13	16
Short	29	24	36	27
Adequate.....	62	72	50	53
Surplus.....	1	1	1	4
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	7	2	28	18
Short	32	27	34	29
Adequate.....	61	71	37	50
Surplus.....	--	--	1	3

NA – not available
 (--) – zero

CROP, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Barely				
Very poor	1	1	5	5
Poor	6	6	30	15
Fair.....	50	59	33	23
Good.....	35	33	31	41
Excellent	8	1	1	16
Canola				
Very poor	3	2	--	1
Poor	7	2	2	5
Fair.....	40	37	43	27
Good.....	45	55	52	52
Excellent	5	4	3	15
Corn				
Very poor	2	1	3	3
Poor	18	9	6	8
Fair.....	28	32	47	26
Good.....	50	56	43	52
Excellent	2	2	1	11
Dry edible peas				
Very poor	1	1	4	4
Poor	2	2	14	13
Fair.....	51	42	43	29
Good.....	45	54	39	46
Excellent	1	1	--	8
Durum Wheat				
Very poor	1	1	1	3
Poor	6	4	6	12
Fair.....	72	67	37	36
Good.....	20	28	56	43
Excellent	1	--	--	6
Lentils				
Very poor	1	--	2	1
Poor	9	--	5	7
Fair.....	41	48	57	36
Good.....	47	52	35	49
Excellent	2	--	1	7
Mustard seed				
Very poor	--	--	4	1
Poor	4	1	2	7
Fair.....	50	59	78	47
Good.....	45	40	15	38
Excellent	1	--	1	7
Pasture and range				
Very poor	1	1	11	13
Poor	8	4	19	16
Fair.....	32	28	25	20
Good.....	49	55	42	37
Excellent	10	12	3	14
Spring wheat				
Very poor	1	--	2	5
Poor	7	2	11	14
Fair.....	42	40	43	24
Good.....	47	57	41	49
Excellent	3	1	3	8
Winter wheat				
Very poor	1	--	10	7
Poor	2	1	30	17
Fair.....	45	50	38	21
Good.....	35	39	15	26
Excellent	17	10	7	29

¹Current conditions for Dry Edible Beans, Flaxseed, and Oats are available using the QuickStats on-line database at:

https://www.nass.usda.gov/Quick_Stats/

NA – not available
 (--) – zero