

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
 July 17, 2023

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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING JULY 16, 2023

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Montana experienced another week of isolated rains and varied temperatures and according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service. Precipitation levels were mostly below normal for the majority of the State, with only isolated areas receiving above normal amounts of moisture according to data from the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). Temperatures were mostly below normal in portions of the east and the south. Some areas of northeastern Montana experienced temperatures as much as 5 degrees below normal. Temperatures ran as much as 4 degrees above average in portions of the northwest, also according to the HPRCC. Drought conditions worsened according to the United States Drought Monitor report published on July 13, 2023. The amount of land rated drought free fell to 61.7 percent, compared with 76 percent the previous week. Abnormal dryness was found in 24 percent of Montana, an increase of 11.7 percentage points. Moderate drought increased to 10.8 percent, compared with 8.2 percent last week. Severe drought conditions were again unchanged at 3.5 percent. Spotty, severe thunderstorms benefitted fields in Blaine County, but for the most part, dry conditions persisted. The storms were accompanied by wind which adversely affected some crops. Air quality was poor due to smoke from Canadian wildfires. Grasshopper infestations in Custer County were having a heavy impact on both crops and rangelands. Cereal crops were being hayed in order to salvage the crop ahead of the pests. A reporter in Hill County commented that fields were still in need of moisture. Pastures and fields were drying out in Roosevelt County. Ample rain, however, was received the past week in the Culbertson area along with a lot of hail. The southern part of Wibaux County received rain along with severe hail and wind. The weather resulted in damage and even total loss in some fields. Pasturelands in the Yellowstone River Valley were green, having rebounded from the drought. First cuttings of hay were picking up speed following the late spring. Wheat and barley crops remained green with expectations of a delayed harvest. There was concern about the amount of water coming out of the Flathead Valley. Water was being held back due to the low water levels which could impact seed potatoes and other crops.

CROP PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
1 st cutting harvested.....	77	56	71	71
Barley				
Booted.....	94	88	96	NA
Headed.....	59	50	73	77
Turning color.....	9	1	18	24
Canola				
Emerged.....	83	82	NA	NA
Blooming.....	79	70	85	82
Turning color.....	20	13	28	29
Dry edible beans (includes Chickpeas)				
Blooming.....	91	67	75	64
Dry edible peas				
Blooming.....	91	87	90	91
Harvested.....	1	--	--	8
Durum wheat				
Booted.....	91	70	92	89
Headed.....	61	40	59	63
Turning color.....	2	--	--	--
Flaxseed				
Blooming.....	73	49	67	72
Turning color.....	1	--	--	--
Lentils				
Blooming.....	89	76	94	89
Mustard seed				
Blooming.....	95	89	93	84
Turning color.....	23	16	18	24
Oats				
Booted.....	89	74	96	88
Headed.....	59	33	58	63
Turning color.....	3	--	--	--
Other hay				
1 st cutting harvested.....	80	62	73	71
Safflower				
Emerged.....	96	90	NA	NA
Blooming.....	32	18	31	35
Spring wheat				
Headed.....	90	65	60	73
Turning color.....	7	--	--	--
Sugarbeets				
Planted.....	97	90	NA	NA
Emerged.....	93	88	NA	NA
Winter wheat				
Turning color.....	66	40	41	65
Harvested.....	1	--	7	3

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	6.6	6.6	6.5
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	10	8	20	21
Short	36	29	27	27
Adequate.....	53	62	53	50
Surplus.....	1	1	--	2
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	7	7	31	20
Short	41	32	35	31
Adequate.....	52	61	34	47
Surplus.....	--	--	--	2

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	2	1	5	6
Poor	12	6	24	14
Fair.....	42	50	32	24
Good.....	30	35	37	37
Excellent	14	8	2	19
Canola				
Very poor	3	3	--	2
Poor	7	7	2	6
Fair.....	31	40	34	27
Good.....	54	45	54	47
Excellent	5	5	10	18
Corn				
Very poor	2	2	3	4
Poor	20	18	5	8
Fair.....	23	28	40	25
Good.....	50	50	51	53
Excellent	5	2	1	10
Dry edible peas				
Very poor	1	1	4	5
Poor	5	2	12	14
Fair.....	42	51	35	29
Good.....	51	45	41	42
Excellent	1	1	8	10
Durum Wheat				
Very poor	1	1	1	6
Poor	15	6	3	12
Fair.....	67	72	37	35
Good.....	15	20	54	39
Excellent	2	1	5	8
Lentils				
Very poor	1	1	2	3
Poor	18	9	5	8
Fair.....	42	41	48	37
Good.....	38	47	38	42
Excellent	1	2	7	10
Mustard seed				
Very poor	--	--	4	1
Poor	13	4	2	7
Fair.....	45	50	78	48
Good.....	41	45	14	40
Excellent	1	1	2	4
Pasture and range				
Very poor	2	1	17	16
Poor	13	8	19	15
Fair.....	35	32	25	17
Good.....	45	49	36	39
Excellent	5	10	3	13
Safflower				
Very poor	--	NA	--	4
Poor	--	NA	8	12
Fair.....	45	NA	49	29
Good.....	55	NA	31	49
Excellent	--	NA	12	6
Spring wheat				
Very poor	1	1	3	8
Poor	12	7	13	14
Fair.....	45	42	34	24
Good.....	38	47	47	44
Excellent	4	3	3	10
Winter wheat				
Very poor	1	1	7	6
Poor	5	2	25	17
Fair.....	36	45	38	25
Good.....	38	35	22	26
Excellent	20	17	8	26

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