

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 30, 2023

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: It was another week of above normal temperatures, below normal precipitation, and pests for the majority of Montana according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service. Temperatures were in a range of 2-8 degrees above average for much of the State according to data from the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). Precipitation levels were slightly above normal in central Montana and a few other isolated acres. Moisture levels, however, remained below normal for most of Montana, also according to data from the HPRCC. Drought conditions worsened once again according to the United States Drought Monitor report published on July 27, 2023. The amount of land rated drought free fell slightly to 59.6 percent, compared to 60.2 percent the previous week. Abnormal dryness fell to 21.5 percent, down 3.7 percentage points. Moderate stood at 10.8 percent, compared to 11.1 last week. Severe drought conditions increased to 8.1 percent, an increase of 4.6 percentage points. Damage resulted from three nights of hail in Cascade County. One large hailstorm adversely affected unharvested acres of wheat, barley, and pulse crops. Grasshoppers ravaged ranges and crops in Custer County. The infestation was described as the worst in recent history by many observers. A reporter in Hill County stated conditions were very dry and fires emerged in various places. Harvests were well underway with the warmer weather. Wildfires were the result of thunderstorms in parts of Mineral, Missoula, and Ravalli Counties. There were a few reports of hay and livestock destroyed by lightning. Irrigation water was running short with the dryer conditions. Both heat and grasshoppers caused extensive damage to pastures in Powder River County. Small grains were being cut for hay. Grasshoppers continued to cause damage on crops and rangelands in Richland County. A few storms passed through Roosevelt County and grasshoppers were still causing damage to pastures and crops. Crops were maturing rapidly in Valley County with the hot, dry weather. Crops were developing more quickly in the south than in the north. Lentils, peas, and spring wheat harvests were underway.

CROP PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
1 st cutting harvested.....	94	92	94	NA
2 nd cutting harvested.....	8	2	18	NA
Barley				
Headed.....	95	85	98	97
Turning color.....	34	18	67	70
Harvested.....	8	5	9	5
Canola				
Blooming.....	83	82	NA	NA
Turning color.....	44	35	65	60
Harvested.....	1	--	10	4
Dry edible beans (includes Chickpeas)				
Blooming.....	96	94	NA	NA
Dry edible peas				
Blooming.....	96	93	NA	NA
Harvested.....	8	5	26	24
Durum wheat				
Booted.....	97	93	NA	NA
Headed.....	93	86	93	93
Turning color.....	52	23	37	44
Harvested.....	3	NA	NA	NA
Flaxseed				
Blooming.....	98	85	NA	NA
Turning color.....	36	16	37	35
Harvested.....	3	NA	NA	NA
Lentils				
Blooming.....	96	94	NA	NA
Harvested.....	2	--	29	15
Mustard seed				
Turning color.....	53	40	52	55
Harvested.....	1	NA	4	NA
Oats				
Headed.....	96	81	97	NA
Turning color.....	50	26	53	49
Harvested.....	3	NA	NA	NA
Other hay				
1 st cutting harvested.....	88	86	92	NA
2 nd cutting harvested.....	7	1	12	NA
Safflower				
Blooming.....	61	43	73	65
Spring wheat				
Headed.....	95	94	96	95
Turning color.....	43	16	47	57
Harvested.....	1	NA	4	4
Winter wheat				
Turning color.....	90	79	92	NA
Harvested.....	21	2	30	24

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	7.0	7.0	6.9	6.9
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	16	12	30	27
Short	49	43	34	32
Adequate.....	35	44	36	40
Surplus.....	--	1	--	1
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	16	8	43	25
Short	48	48	38	36
Adequate.....	36	43	19	39
Surplus.....	--	1	--	--

NA – not available
 (--) – zero

CROP, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Barley				
Very poor	--	1	6	8
Poor	5	10	23	16
Fair.....	60	51	39	23
Good.....	25	26	28	39
Excellent	10	12	4	14
Canola				
Very poor	1	1	4	3
Poor	1	1	11	14
Fair.....	41	39	35	27
Good.....	49	49	43	43
Excellent	8	10	7	13
Corn				
Very poor	--	--	3	4
Poor	9	18	4	8
Fair.....	25	21	25	22
Good.....	62	59	67	58
Excellent	4	2	1	8
Dry edible peas				
Very poor	1	1	5	10
Poor	2	2	16	13
Fair.....	24	33	42	28
Good.....	69	60	35	42
Excellent	4	4	2	7
Durum Wheat				
Very poor	--	--	1	11
Poor	24	20	5	11
Fair.....	49	58	43	28
Good.....	24	20	51	43
Excellent	3	2	--	7
Lentils				
Very poor	--	1	2	8
Poor	24	15	6	10
Fair.....	36	33	47	33
Good.....	38	47	42	43
Excellent	2	4	3	6
Mustard seed				
Very poor	1	1	4	1
Poor	9	10	2	9
Fair.....	29	36	79	52
Good.....	59	50	13	34
Excellent	2	3	2	4
Pasture and range				
Very poor	2	2	26	20
Poor	17	15	14	15
Fair.....	42	44	28	23
Good.....	32	36	32	38
Excellent	7	3	--	4
Safflower				
Very poor	--	--	--	6
Poor	--	--	5	12
Fair.....	36	45	46	29
Good.....	64	55	40	48
Excellent	--	--	9	5
Spring wheat				
Very poor	--	--	4	10
Poor	12	11	18	17
Fair.....	53	54	36	23
Good.....	31	29	39	43
Excellent	4	6	3	7
Winter wheat				
Very poor	--	1	9	7
Poor	6	6	23	13
Fair.....	52	45	49	27
Good.....	20	29	16	29
Excellent	22	19	3	24

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