

# MONTANA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture  
**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE**  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING APRIL 14, 2024

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** Temperatures once again ran above normal in Montana, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Temperatures were in range of 4–8 degrees above average for most of the State, according to data from the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). Isolated areas saw temperatures as high as 10 degrees above normal. Precipitation levels were mostly below normal for the majority of Montana. The exceptions were in Phillips, Valley, and Rosebud Counties, as well as surrounding areas, where moisture levels were higher. In much of Rosebud County, precipitation received was about 0.75 inches above normal. Changes in drought conditions were minimal according to the U.S. Drought Monitor report released on April 11, 2024. The amount of land rated drought free increased to 9 percent, up from almost 6 percent the previous week. At 51 percent, abnormal dryness fell by 2 percentage points. Moderate drought increased by 2 percentage points to 27 percent. Severe conditions fell to 13 percent, as compared with 16 percent the previous week. Extreme drought conditions fell to zero. A reporter in Blaine County commented that conditions were very dry. Conditions were excellent for calving in Mineral, Missoula, and Ravalli Counties following a brief period in February when temperatures hit 30 degrees or more below normal. Cool nights and warm days, however, were causing eating sickness in calves. A few cases of coccidiosis were also found. Snow and rain were lacking. Mountain snowpack levels were below normal. Operators were concerned over irrigation availability as summer approached. Farmers and ranchers hoped for more snow in the higher elevations and opportune rains to diminish the drought conditions. Little to no moisture was received in Wibaux County the past week and winds were excessive.

### CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Barley				
Planted.....	4	1	1	7
Canola				
Planted.....	1	NA	NA	NA
Dry edible beans				
Planted.....	1	NA	NA	NA
Dry peas				
Planted.....	1	--	--	3
Durum wheat				
Planted.....	1	NA	NA	NA
Flaxseed				
Planted.....	1	NA	NA	NA
Lentils				
Planted.....	1	NA	NA	NA
Mustard seed				
Planted.....	1	NA	NA	NA
Oats				
Planted.....	2	1	2	2
Safflower				
Planted.....	2	NA	NA	NA
Spring wheat				
Planted.....	2	--	1	5
Winter wheat				
Breaking dormancy .....	70	60	45	53
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved.....	64	54	55	30
Receiving supplemental feed .....	83	95	91	88
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambed .....	40	32	31	49
Receiving supplemental feed .....	81	95	93	91

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 .....	5.1	1.6	1.7	3.1
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	7	7	1	15
Short .....	46	37	9	18
Adequate.....	46	55	88	62
Surplus.....	1	1	2	5
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	11	12	2	15
Short .....	48	48	18	23
Adequate.....	40	39	79	58
Surplus.....	1	1	1	4

NA – not available

(--)- zero

**CROP, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION**

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Grazing accessibility				
Open .....	78	77	64	64
Difficult .....	11	13	21	19
Closed.....	11	10	15	17
Pasture and range				
Very poor .....	19	19	10	21
Poor .....	28	28	26	20
Fair.....	47	48	36	31
Good .....	5	4	27	24
Excellent .....	1	1	1	4
Winter wheat				
Very poor .....	1	1	1	4
Poor .....	6	4	3	7
Fair.....	37	32	65	38
Good .....	51	59	29	43
Excellent .....	5	4	2	8

NA – not available

(--)- zero