

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 5, 2024

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: All of Montana experienced below normal temperatures, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Average temperatures ranged from about 2 to 6 degrees below normal for most of the State, according to data from the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). A few areas recorded average temperatures measuring as many as 8 degrees below normal. Precipitation levels were mixed. Portions of the northeast, far west central Montana, and a few other areas received moisture levels of about 0.4 inch above normal. Portions of Blaine and Philips Counties received as much as 0.8 inch of moisture above normal. For much of the State, however, precipitation levels were in a range of about 0.2 to 0.6 inch below average. Planting continued across the State and many crops were beginning to emerge. There were 4.8 days available for field work. Conditions were dry. A reporter in Broadwater County stated that conditions were very dry. Changes in drought conditions were once again minimal according to the U.S. Drought Monitor report released on May 2, 2024. The amount of land rated drought free was unchanged at 14 percent. Abnormal dryness was found in 43 percent of the State, a decrease of 3 percentage points from the previous week. Moderate drought was rated 31 percent, up from 27 percent last week. Severe drought conditions were unchanged at 11 percent. Extreme drought was found in just under 2 percent of Montana.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Barley				
Planted.....	45	30	35	42
Emerged	6	--	--	9
Canola				
Planted.....	25	17	NA	NA
Dry edible beans				
Planted.....	12	8	5	15
Emerged	1	NA	NA	NA
Dry peas				
Planted.....	49	26	35	43
Emerged	3	--	NA	NA
Durum wheat				
Planted.....	28	22	13	19
Emerged	1	NA	NA	NA
Flaxseed				
Planted.....	16	11	8	19
Lentils				
Planted.....	39	15	25	32
Mustard seed				
Planted.....	33	11	5	20
Oats				
Planted.....	15	7	13	20
Emerged	8	1	--	2
Safflower				
Planted.....	16	14	11	10
Spring wheat				
Planted.....	52	35	26	36
Emerged	3	--	1	8
Winter wheat				
Breaking dormancy	94	93	91	NA
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved.....	86	83	89	87
Moved to pasture	19	12	NA	NA
Receiving supplemental feed	54	78	62	62
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambbed	83	78	72	79
Moved to pasture	16	13	NA	NA
Receiving supplemental feed	77	87	58	63

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	4.8	6.7	5.6	5.3
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	16	14	1	14
Short	55	57	23	23
Adequate.....	29	29	73	59
Surplus.....	--	--	3	4
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	19	14	3	18
Short	58	54	46	26
Adequate.....	23	32	48	52
Surplus.....	--	--	3	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	85	84	78	81
Difficult	6	7	15	10
Closed.....	9	9	7	9
Pasture and range				
Very poor	15	20	17	21
Poor	21	24	21	16
Fair.....	48	41	33	33
Good	15	13	25	25
Excellent	1	2	4	5
Winter wheat				
Very poor	--	--	1	5
Poor	5	5	1	9
Fair.....	58	52	44	34
Good	35	41	49	44
Excellent	2	2	5	8

NA – not available

(--) – zero