

# MONTANA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture  
**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE**  
**MONTANA FIELD OFFICE**  
 P.O. BOX 150969 · Lakewood, CO 80215-0969  
 Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
 June 17, 2024

Contact: Eric Sommer  
 (800) 392-3202

## CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING JUNE 16, 2024

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** Montana experienced another week of mostly below average rain and above average temperatures, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Precipitation levels ran about 25–70 percent of normal for most of Montana, according to data from the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). A few isolated areas received moisture levels ranging from normal to about 30 percent above normal. Southwestern Hill County, surrounding areas, and southern Park County, received even higher amounts of moisture. Temperatures ranged from about normal to 8 degrees above normal for most of the State. Isolated areas in the north and in Granite County, and surrounding areas, experienced temperatures slightly below the average. An improvement in drought conditions was evident according to the U.S. Drought Monitor report published on June 13. The amount of land rated drought free fell to 8 percent, compared to 44 percent the previous week. Abnormal dryness increased to 55 percent, up 36 percentage points. Moderate and severe conditions were unchanged at 33, and almost 5 percent, respectively. A reporter in Big Horn County stated that drier conditions, along with strong winds, hampered field work. Dry conditions, signs of drought, and grasshopper damage were reported in Roosevelt County. Heat, however, was needed for corn development. Rains fell in Wibaux County, but strong winds minimized the benefit of any moisture received. Some farmers reported short and stunted hay. Crested wheat grass was headed out, but looked short, and thin. Bloom was seen in alfalfa fields, but grasshoppers of all sizes were making their move, and damage was evident. Higher temperatures at the end of the week further had a negative effect on crops.

### CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
1 <sup>st</sup> cutting harvested.....	8	4	NA	NA
Barley				
Emerged .....	80	79	89	93
Booted .....	23	4	19	21
Headed .....	1	NA	2	2
Canola				
Planted.....	84	83	83	91
Emerged .....	78	74	74	70
Corn				
Planted.....	92	76	90	NA
Emerged .....	77	54	80	70
Dry edible beans				
Planted.....	95	93	95	NA
Emerged .....	91	79	89	74
Dry peas				
Emerged .....	95	92	93	NA
Blooming.....	23	--	17	11
Durum wheat				
Booted .....	1	--	4	6
Flaxseed				
Emerged .....	82	75	74	64
Lentils				
Emerged .....	93	77	89	86
Blooming.....	27	--	2	10
Mustard seed				
Blooming.....	5	--	18	NA
Oats				
Planted.....	94	93	95	NA
Emerged .....	89	82	88	87
Booted .....	20	12	1	10
Other hay				
1 <sup>st</sup> cutting harvested.....	3	2	NA	NA
Safflower				
Planted.....	55	48	79	NA
Emerged .....	38	28	43	43
Spring wheat				
Emerged .....	94	89	94	95
Booted .....	30	2	31	21
Headed .....	1	NA	1	2
Sugarbeets				
Planted.....	72	55	44	NA
Emerged .....	46	21	25	73
Winter wheat				
Booted .....	77	72	86	76
Headed .....	54	27	46	32
Cattle and calves				
Moved to pasture .....	82	79	92	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Moved to pasture .....	79	78	90	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 .....	6.0	6.5	6.4	5.9
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	2	7	5	11
Short .....	41	43	18	25
Adequate.....	56	49	72	62
Surplus.....	1	1	5	2
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	7	7	8	16
Short .....	37	45	19	23
Adequate.....	55	47	66	59
Surplus.....	1	1	7	2

NA – not available  
 (--) – zero

**CROP, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION**

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
<b>Barley</b>				
Very poor .....	1	--	1	3
Poor .....	1	--	10	13
Fair.....	29	32	59	32
Good .....	68	67	28	43
Excellent .....	1	1	2	9
<b>Canola</b>				
Very poor .....	--	--	7	3
Poor .....	--	--	7	4
Fair.....	51	60	19	25
Good .....	49	40	67	60
Excellent .....	--	--	--	8
<b>Corn</b>				
Very poor .....	1	NA	1	1
Poor .....	2	NA	15	10
Fair.....	22	NA	33	43
Good .....	74	NA	49	42
Excellent .....	1	NA	2	4
<b>Dry peas</b>				
Very poor .....	1	--	1	3
Poor .....	1	--	3	7
Fair.....	28	37	60	42
Good .....	69	63	36	47
Excellent .....	1	--	--	1
<b>Durum wheat</b>				
Very poor .....	--	--	2	1
Poor .....	1	1	10	4
Fair.....	39	48	60	43
Good .....	60	51	28	50
Excellent .....	--	--	--	2
<b>Lentils</b>				
Very poor .....	--	--	1	2
Poor .....	1	--	2	4
Fair.....	25	34	59	45
Good .....	74	66	38	48
Excellent .....	--	--	--	1
<b>Pasture and range</b>				
Very poor .....	3	3	2	11
Poor .....	11	11	7	15
Fair.....	34	38	44	28
Good .....	37	28	38	39
Excellent .....	15	20	9	7
<b>Spring wheat</b>				
Very poor .....	--	--	1	2
Poor .....	5	5	7	8
Fair.....	25	34	52	37
Good .....	69	61	39	50
Excellent .....	1	--	1	3
<b>Winter wheat</b>				
Very poor .....	--	--	1	4
Poor .....	1	6	7	13
Fair.....	42	51	56	31
Good .....	38	31	35	37
Excellent .....	19	12	1	15

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

[https://www.nass.usda.gov/Quick\\_Stats/](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Quick_Stats/)

NA – not available  
 (--) – zero