

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 AUGUST 4, 2024

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: The pattern of high temperatures and below normal precipitation continued according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Temperatures were, on average, in a range of 2 – 6 degrees above normal for most the State, according to data from the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). Portions of the west experienced slightly lower average temperatures. Moisture received was in a range from almost normal to about 0.6 inch below normal. Portions of the northwest received higher amounts of precipitation. Isolated areas in Flathead County received about 0.6 inch of rain above the average. Drought conditions worsened according to the U.S. Drought Monitor report released on August 1. The amount of land rated drought free fell to zero. Abnormal dryness was found in 45 percent of the State, down from 54 percent the previous week. Moderate drought conditions increased to 38 percent, up 14 percentage points. Severe conditions changed to 11 percent, down from 13 percent last week. Extreme and exceptional drought conditions were unchanged, at 6 and almost one percent, respectively. Reports of the effect of heat and lack of rain on ranges, crops, and livestock continued. The extreme heat adversely affected crops, pasture, and livestock in Big Horn County. Some rain was received in Mineral, Missoula, and Ravalli Counties, but the rain had little effect due to the hot, windy, and otherwise dry conditions. The southern half of Prairie County was suffering more than the north due to the persistent heat and dryness. Rangelands in the south were rated very poor. Considerable damage from grasshoppers and heat stress were evident. The far north of the county fared best, and was rated near average for this time in the season. Roosevelt County also reported extreme heat the past week. Valley County reports noted diminished pea yields due to the heat during bloom. Pea yields were ranging from zero to 22 bushels per acre when harvest began. White heads were found in wheat fields where the heat affected bloom and head fill. Grasshopper damage was more evident with the ongoing heat. Ranges and pastures were in decline, and water levels were down in reservoirs and stock ponds.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
1 st cutting harvested.....	95	78	96	NA
2 nd cutting harvested.....	23	11	17	23
Barley				
Headed.....	94	83	96	98
Coloring.....	57	30	55	78
Harvested.....	12	5	25	13
Canola				
Blooming.....	95	82	92	NA
Coloring.....	74	68	63	70
Harvested.....	8	3	6	10
Dry edible beans				
Blooming.....	96	92	NA	NA
Harvested.....	2	NA	NA	NA
Dry peas				
Harvested.....	40	13	26	33
Durum wheat				
Coloring.....	79	57	66	60
Harvested.....	8	2	10	5
Flaxseed				
Blooming.....	95	94	NA	NA
Coloring.....	78	57	55	52
Lentils				
Harvested.....	20	2	22	24
Mustard seed				
Coloring.....	96	67	71	69
Harvested.....	1	--	15	6
Oats				
Booted.....	97	89	NA	NA
Headed.....	92	87	NA	NA
Coloring.....	80	76	64	64
Harvested.....	19	5	16	11
Other hay				
1 st cutting harvested.....	85	83	91	NA
2 nd cutting harvested.....	16	13	10	14
Safflower				
Blooming.....	62	46	68	72
Coloring.....	12	4	NA	NA
Spring wheat				
Headed.....	96	94	96	96
Coloring.....	77	61	61	68
Harvested.....	6	2	16	13
Winter wheat				
Coloring.....	95	82	94	NA
Harvested.....	51	22	36	38

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	6.8	7.0	6.4	6.7
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	11	6	17	26
Short	57	53	50	40
Adequate.....	32	41	33	33
Surplus.....	--	--	--	1
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	17	16	25	29
Short	54	46	41	37
Adequate.....	29	38	34	34
Surplus.....	--	--	--	--

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	7
Poor	11	7	7	14
Fair.....	21	29	51	31
Good.....	67	62	34	38
Excellent	1	2	7	10
Canola				
Very poor	--	--	1	5
Poor	2	2	6	12
Fair.....	29	35	44	31
Good.....	64	55	42	40
Excellent	5	8	7	12
Corn				
Very poor	1	1	1	5
Poor	9	9	2	8
Fair.....	28	34	19	22
Good.....	60	54	68	57
Excellent	2	2	10	8
Dry peas				
Very poor	2	--	1	NA
Poor	4	1	4	NA
Fair.....	25	27	33	NA
Good.....	66	68	60	NA
Excellent	3	4	2	NA
Durum wheat				
Very poor	--	--	--	11
Poor	7	6	19	11
Fair.....	32	33	58	39
Good.....	59	58	21	35
Excellent	2	3	2	4
Lentils				
Very poor	--	--	1	11
Poor	3	1	23	11
Fair.....	26	24	45	38
Good.....	69	70	29	36
Excellent	2	5	2	4
Mustard seed				
Very poor	--	--	--	1
Poor	4	6	13	10
Fair.....	5	8	35	53
Good.....	90	85	50	33
Excellent	1	1	2	3
Pasture and range				
Very poor	12	9	4	18
Poor	21	21	15	16
Fair.....	52	45	37	26
Good.....	15	24	41	36
Excellent	--	1	3	4
Safflower				
Very poor	2	1	--	6
Poor	4	5	--	12
Fair.....	58	57	43	36
Good.....	35	36	57	45
Excellent	1	1	--	1
Spring wheat				
Very poor	2	--	--	8
Poor	5	4	15	16
Fair.....	25	27	46	31
Good.....	65	63	35	39
Excellent	3	6	4	6
Winter wheat				
Very poor	3	1	--	NA
Poor	10	4	7	NA
Fair.....	49	40	43	NA
Good.....	35	44	29	NA
Excellent	3	11	21	NA

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

https://www.nass.usda.gov/Quick_Stats/

NA – not available
 (--) – zero