

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 25, 2024

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: It was another week of varied temperatures and precipitation, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Average temperatures ran highest in eastern sections of the State, according to data from the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). Southeastern sections of Montana experienced average temperatures as high as 10 degrees above normal. Moving west, average temperatures approached normal or slightly below normal. Isolated areas in southwestern Montana saw temperatures dipping about 2 degrees below average. Rainfall was about 1 inch above normal in much of the north. Parts of Daniels County, and surrounding areas, received as much as 3 inches of above normal precipitation. Moisture levels in much of the south were in a range of about normal to 1 inch below normal. The US Drought Monitor Report released August 22 indicated that abnormal dryness was found in 38 percent of the State, up 3 percentage points from the previous week. Moderate drought was found in 40 percent of Montana, down from 43 percent. Severe conditions fell slightly to 14 percent, down 1 percentage point. Extreme conditions increased to 7 percent, down from 6 percent last week. Exceptional drought conditions were unchanged at 1 percent. Conditions in Big Horn County were once again hot and dry, along with wind. The second cutting of hay was slowed in Broadwater County following afternoon showers. Harvests were delayed in Hill County following rain events this past week. A very strong windstorm went through Mineral, Missoula, and Ravalli Counties. The storm took down trees up and down the valley. The hot and dry conditions persisted in Roosevelt County. Grasshoppers reportedly devastated 10-15 percent of field edges in some areas.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
2 nd cutting harvested.....	49	45	61	71
Barley				
Coloring.....	96	90	NA	NA
Harvested.....	39	23	71	64
Canola				
Coloring.....	91	82	93	NA
Harvested.....	29	16	49	42
Corn for silage				
Harvested.....	1	--	NA	NA
Dry edible beans				
Harvested.....	52	45	57	47
Dry peas				
Harvested.....	92	89	90	87
Durum wheat				
Harvested.....	70	42	60	45
Flaxseed				
Harvested.....	36	13	52	38
Lentils				
Harvested.....	75	65	81	77
Mustard seed				
Harvested.....	27	14	72	43
Oats				
Coloring.....	88	86	95	NA
Harvested.....	59	40	65	58
Other hay				
2 nd cutting harvested.....	38	25	45	57
Safflower				
Coloring.....	52	37	51	67
Harvested.....	11	5	16	14
Spring wheat				
Coloring.....	93	91	95	NA
Harvested.....	56	38	68	61
Winter wheat				
Harvested.....	82	75	79	87
Cattle and calves				
Moved from pasture.....	14	4	23	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Moved from pasture.....	1	--	21	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	6.2	6.2	5.9	6.0
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	24	19	42	28
Short	58	59	40	41
Adequate.....	18	22	18	29
Surplus.....	--	--	--	2
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	27	25	45	32
Short	55	54	41	38
Adequate.....	18	21	14	29
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	4	1	NA	NA
Poor	18	13	NA	NA
Fair.....	21	21	NA	NA
Good.....	56	64	NA	NA
Excellent	1	1	NA	NA
Canola				
Very poor	--	--	1	3
Poor	10	1	6	6
Fair.....	29	38	55	37
Good.....	60	61	30	41
Excellent	1	--	8	13
Corn				
Very poor	1	1	--	4
Poor	7	9	5	6
Fair.....	33	24	19	23
Good.....	55	64	66	59
Excellent	4	2	10	8
Durum wheat				
Very poor	3	--	--	NA
Poor	4	3	9	NA
Fair.....	39	41	81	NA
Good.....	53	56	9	NA
Excellent	1	--	1	NA
Mustard seed				
Very poor	--	--	NA	NA
Poor	4	3	NA	NA
Fair.....	8	6	NA	NA
Good.....	87	90	NA	NA
Excellent	1	1	NA	NA
Pasture and range				
Very poor	16	13	11	20
Poor	29	20	26	24
Fair.....	47	50	33	27
Good.....	8	14	27	24
Excellent	--	3	3	5
Safflower				
Very poor	1	2	--	7
Poor	6	4	--	12
Fair.....	59	57	43	38
Good.....	33	36	57	41
Excellent	1	1	--	2
Spring wheat				
Very poor	5	1	--	NA
Poor	11	7	18	NA
Fair.....	27	29	50	NA
Good.....	55	62	25	NA
Excellent	2	1	7	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