

# 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  
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Contact: Eric Sommer  
 (800) 392-3202

## CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** Temperatures were mostly above normal, but parts of Montana benefitted from some much-needed precipitation, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Temperatures were in a range of about normal to 8 degrees above normal, according to data from the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). Isolated areas in the west experienced temperatures about 2 degrees below normal. Higher average temperatures were experienced in eastern sections of the State. Moisture received was in a range of about normal to 0.9 inch above normal for portions of Montana. Some parts of southern Montana, some eastern sections, and various other parts of the State received below average rainfall, if any. Data from the U.S. Drought Monitor released September 12 indicate that abnormal dryness increased to 37 percent, up from 33 percent last week. Moderate drought conditions fell by 6 percentage points to 39 percent. Severe drought increased to 15 percent, up from 13 percent. Extreme and exceptional drought conditions were again unchanged at 8 and 1 percent, respectively. Following the effects of rain in some areas, days suitable for field work fell to 4.8, compared to 7.0 last week. An agent for Dawson County, however, reported that moisture was still needed. No significant levels of moisture have been received for some time. Parts of Missoula, Mineral, and Ravalli Counties received some much-needed rain, along with cooler temperatures. Wildfires continued on national lands. There were no reports of fires on private property. Fires were causing less damage following the recent precipitation. The rain reduced smoke and lessened fire conditions. Irrigation water was still available in Ravalli County, but supplies were expected to be turned off the following week from Painted Rocks Reservoir and Como Lake. This would end irrigation in Ravalli County for the season. Roosevelt County remained dry with high temperatures. Wibaux County received little to no rain. Combined with wind, pastures and water sources were drying up.

### CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
2 <sup>nd</sup> cutting harvested .....	87	84	89	NA
Barley				
Harvested.....	93	89	91	92
Canola				
Harvested.....	79	75	73	79
Corn for silage				
Harvested.....	20	14	31	33
Dry edible beans				
Harvested.....	86	84	87	80
Flaxseed				
Harvested.....	59	55	88	73
Lentils				
Harvested.....	89	85	94	NA
Mustard seed				
Harvested.....	97	82	NA	NA
Oats				
Harvested.....	79	78	78	NA
Other hay				
2 <sup>nd</sup> cutting harvested .....	67	65	75	81
Safflower				
Coloring.....	61	58	77	NA
Harvested.....	31	21	28	39
Spring wheat				
Harvested.....	95	91	93	91
Winter wheat				
Planted.....	23	2	13	16
Cattle and calves				
Moved from pasture .....	25	23	30	22
Sheep and lambs				
Moved from pasture .....	13	6	27	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.....	4.8	7.0	6.9	6.0
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short .....	19	28	38	33
Short.....	55	53	44	37
Adequate .....	26	19	18	26
Surplus .....	--	--	--	4
Subsoil moisture				
Very short .....	30	31	48	36
Short.....	46	50	31	35
Adequate .....	24	19	21	26
Surplus .....	--	--	--	3

NA – not available  
 (--) – zero

**CROP, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION**

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
<b>Corn</b>				
Very poor .....	1	1	1	5
Poor .....	8	6	7	10
Fair .....	38	33	15	23
Good .....	50	57	66	54
Excellent .....	3	3	11	8
<b>Pasture and range</b>				
Very poor .....	27	18	15	26
Poor .....	30	29	20	24
Fair .....	36	44	28	23
Good .....	6	8	32	22
Excellent .....	1	1	5	5
<b>Safflower</b>				
Very poor .....	2	2	--	NA
Poor .....	5	4	--	NA
Fair .....	59	58	23	NA
Good .....	33	35	77	NA
Excellent .....	1	1	--	NA

<sup>1</sup>Current conditions for Sugarbeets 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