

# 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 OCTOBER 6, 2024

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** Temperatures varied, and conditions remained very dry, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Isolated portions of the north and northwest experienced average temperatures from about normal to 4 degrees below normal, according to data from the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). For the most part, however, average temperatures were in a range of about 2 to 8 degrees above normal. The highest average temperatures were found mostly in southern portions of the State. Precipitation was below normal for all of Montana. The majority of the State received zero or near zero precipitation. A few isolated areas in the northwest received about 0.25 inch of moisture or less. The U.S. Drought Monitor report released October 3, indicated that the amount of land rated drought free increased to 15 percent, up from 7 percent last week. Abnormal dryness was found in 43 percent of Montana, down 6 percentage points. Moderate drought stood at 21 percent, down from 24 percent last week. Severe drought was rated 12 percent, a 1 percent increase. Extreme conditions were slightly above 8 percent, same as last week. Exceptional drought was also unchanged, standing at 1 percent. Frost occurred in Prairie County the past week, which adversely affected corn for silage. An agent in Roosevelt County reported that aside from the very dry conditions, strong winds caused damage in some parts of the county.

### 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 .....	96	93	NA	NA
Canola				
Harvested.....	93	86	88	NA
Corn				
Harvested for grain .....	18	10	31	21
Harvested for silage .....	46	36	75	70
Flaxseed				
Harvested.....	88	76	NA	NA
Oats				
Harvested.....	97	84	93	NA
Other hay				
2 <sup>nd</sup> cutting harvested .....	96	91	88	NA
Safflower				
Coloring.....	95	87	94	NA
Harvested.....	60	56	66	67
Sugar beets				
Harvested.....	9	2	17	12
Winter wheat				
Planted.....	64	61	68	60
Emerged .....	50	24	25	26
Cattle and calves				
Moved from pasture .....	36	29	44	38
Receiving supplemental feed .....	11	NA	7	16
Sheep and lambs				
Moved from pasture .....	25	18	40	38
Receiving supplemental feed .....	14	NA	4	17

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.....	6.5	6.2	6.3	5.6
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short .....	20	20	30	32
Short.....	45	39	38	34
Adequate .....	35	41	31	28
Surplus .....	--	--	1	6
Subsoil moisture				
Very short .....	26	25	40	35
Short.....	44	40	35	36
Adequate .....	30	35	25	25
Surplus .....	--	--	--	4

NA – not available  
 (-) – zero

**CROP, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION <sup>1</sup>**

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
<b>Corn</b>				
Very poor .....	1	1	1	4
Poor .....	6	10	2	8
Fair.....	30	37	20	23
Good.....	57	49	69	58
Excellent .....	6	3	8	7
<b>Pasture and range</b>				
Very poor .....	27	27	11	26
Poor .....	27	27	13	16
Fair.....	39	36	31	28
Good.....	7	9	38	23
Excellent .....	--	1	7	7

<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