

# NEW MEXICO CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture  
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## CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 8, 2023

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** Tourists who flocked to New Mexico for the annual Balloon Fiesta last weekend, had the opportunity to see the State’s agriculture in full swing as well, with early-fall fields in various states of progress. There were 6.8 days suitable for fieldwork, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. The green chile harvest continued for another week, reaching 92 percent complete by week’s end. Red chiles were also harvested, but progress was behind previous years. The cotton crop was looking better-than-average, with 60 percent observed in good or excellent condition, compared with 29 percent last year. Though in good condition, cotton progress is significantly behind the 5-year average. Last week, 95 percent of cotton fields had set bolls, and 35 percent had begun opening. Historically, the crop has finished setting bolls by this time, and 57 percent have opened. Corn was the crop hardest hit from early season hail, and crop progress has lagged all season as a result. Only 20 percent of corn had matured last week, and 15 percent had yet to dough. Corn harvested for silage sat at just 30 percent complete. Grain harvest had not begun. The 2024 onion crop was up to 10 percent planted last week. Winter wheat progressed quite a bit last week, jumping from 55 percent planted and 20 percent emerged the previous week, to 75 percent and 47 percent, respectively.

For the first time since August, a small percentage of New Mexico, 0.4 percent, was considered drought-free last week, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. The abnormally dry category (D0) was 5 percent, moderate drought (D1) was 26 percent, severe drought (D2) was 35 percent, extreme drought (D3) was 26 percent, and the area in exceptional drought (D4) held at 7 percent. On October 5, the National Weather Service issued an updated drought information statement for New Mexico. The statement was in response to widespread drought conditions, including extreme drought conditions primarily in southern New Mexico. Due to combined below normal rainfall, above normal temperatures, and breezy conditions, drought conditions were likely to persist through fall. The NOAA Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service recorded light showers throughout the week, along with two more substantial storms that brought over 1 inch of rain to northeastern New Mexico. Reporters in the area noted that rangelands greened up from the rain but, “drought was still present.” Temperatures in New Mexico were at or just below average last week, according to the High Plains Regional Climate Center, with clear skies, dry air, and calm winds. Parts of western and northern New Mexico saw their first freeze of the season.

Livestock in New Mexico were observed in remarkably good condition, coming off a hot, dry summer. Cattle are doing significantly better than average, with 33 percent reported in excellent condition, compared to 16 percent last year. Only 2 percent of sheep were in excellent condition, but 54 percent were in good condition, on par with the 5-year average. Pecan nut set was observed as 14 percent light and 86 percent moderate, a slight improvement from the previous week, but still worse than the previous year and the 5-year average, which included heavy nut set at 15 percent and 18 percent, respectively. Wind damage to all crops was reported as 11 percent light, 9 percent moderate, and 5 percent severe, while hail damage to all crops was reported as 9 percent light, 19 percent moderate, and 12 percent severe. Hay and roughage supplies deteriorated slightly from the previous week, and were observed to be 16 percent very short, 48 percent short, 35 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus. Stock water supplies were 13 percent very short, 40 percent short, 45 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus.

### CROP PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
<b>Alfalfa Hay</b>				
4 <sup>th</sup> cutting harvested .....	95	87	NA	NA
5 <sup>th</sup> cutting harvested .....	30	15	82	83
6 <sup>th</sup> cutting harvested .....	15	1	35	37
<b>Chiles</b>				
Green harvested .....	92	90	NA	NA
Red harvested.....	27	23	62	32
<b>Corn</b>				
Doughed .....	85	77	NA	NA
Dented .....	61	51	84	NA
Mature .....	20	9	50	66
Harvested for silage .....	30	18	68	80
<b>Cotton</b>				
Setting Bolls .....	95	80	NA	NA
Bolls Opening.....	35	25	68	57
<b>Onions</b>				
Planted.....	10	5	22	NA
<b>Winter wheat</b>				
Planted.....	75	55	69	82
Emerged .....	47	20	44	63

NA – not available  
 (--) – zero

**DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELD WORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION**

	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
Days suitable for fieldwork.....	6.8	6.9	5.9	6.0
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	35	42	16	21
Short.....	47	38	43	38
Adequate.....	16	20	36	38
Surplus.....	2	--	5	3
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	34	39	25	29
Short.....	50	41	50	40
Adequate.....	16	20	23	30
Surplus.....	--	--	2	1

NA – not available

(--) – zero

**CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION**

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Very poor.....	--	--	1	NA
Poor.....	--	1	5	NA
Fair.....	26	20	22	NA
Good.....	61	57	54	NA
Excellent.....	13	22	18	NA
Corn				
Very poor.....	7	7	5	1
Poor.....	7	6	12	6
Fair.....	25	26	21	29
Good.....	31	40	29	35
Excellent.....	30	21	33	29
Cotton				
Very poor.....	--	--	5	2
Poor.....	11	11	28	19
Fair.....	29	33	38	42
Good.....	27	32	26	30
Excellent.....	33	24	3	7
Pasture and Range				
Very poor.....	7	8	4	12
Poor.....	29	23	25	26
Fair.....	37	28	42	39
Good.....	14	23	20	16
Excellent.....	13	18	9	7
Peanuts				
Very poor.....	--	--	5	1
Poor.....	25	25	7	11
Fair.....	50	50	75	54
Good.....	25	25	13	34
Excellent.....	--	--	--	--
Pecans				
Very poor.....	--	1	1	--
Poor.....	2	1	3	2
Fair.....	3	4	3	9
Good.....	2	10	35	64
Excellent.....	93	84	58	25
Cattle and calves				
Very poor.....	2	3	2	2
Poor.....	4	3	6	9
Fair.....	27	22	37	39
Good.....	34	30	39	34
Excellent.....	33	42	16	16
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor.....	14	6	--	8
Poor.....	13	8	4	9
Fair.....	26	21	38	34
Good.....	45	54	56	46
Excellent.....	2	11	2	3

NA – not available

(--) – zero