

ARIZONA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
ARIZONA FIELD OFFICE
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 Cooperating with the Arizona Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
 January 2, 2024

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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION MONTH OF DECEMBER 2023

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: By month's end, Arizona cotton harvest had progressed to 99 percent complete, up one percentage point from the previous year's levels, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Twenty-five percent of the State's barley has been planted, and 25 percent of the crop has emerged. Similarly, 20 percent of Arizona's Durum wheat has been planted; 18 percent of the crop has emerged. Arizona's alfalfa crop was rated in mostly good to excellent condition, with only 22 percent of the crop rated fair to poor. As native forages have fully matured or continue to mature toward vegetative dormancy, 23 percent of the State's pasture and rangeland was rated very poor, 31 percent was rated poor, 35 percent was rated fair, and 11 percent was rated good. Topsoil moisture levels remained mostly adequate, with 18 percent rated very short, 23 percent rated short, and 59 percent rated adequate. Subsoil moisture levels followed a similar trend. Throughout the month of December, measurable precipitation was received across much of the State. According to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) data, much of the precipitation received was realized throughout southern regions where approximately 1.25 inches was recorded while northern areas of Arizona received anywhere between 0.10 and 0.80 inch of precipitation. The drought information statements for southwest Arizona and southeastern California, northern Arizona, and southeastern Arizona all remained in effect and were updated on December 22, December 24, and December 30, respectively, in response to below normal precipitation and above normal temperatures. According to the National Weather Service, rainfall across southern portions of Arizona has been less than 50 percent of normal over the last six months. Despite a disappointing monsoon season, the seasonal precipitation outlook for January, February, and March of 2024 shows that odds are slightly tilted toward wetter than normal conditions throughout most of the State with the exception being southeastern Arizona. Subsequently, Arizona's long-term drought outlook shows that conditions are expected to improve or end throughout all areas of the State excluding southeastern regions. As of December 26, the U.S. Drought Monitor showed a slight improvement from the previous report. Abnormally dry conditions (D0) spanned 36 percent of the State, moderate drought (D1) enveloped 20 percent, severe drought (D2) encompassed 28 percent, and extreme drought (D3) remained at 6 percent of the State's total land area. Arizona once again remained free of exceptional (D4) drought. Throughout the month of December, temperatures across much of the State increased according to the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). Daytime highs throughout Arizona ranged from 2 to 8 degrees above normal and ranged from the low 40s in Coconino County to the low to mid-70s across southwestern regions of Arizona. Overnight lows ranged from 4 degrees below to 5 degrees above normal and ranged from 15 to 40 degrees across northern and eastern counties, whereas counties within the Sonoran Desert experienced lows of 40 to 50 degrees Fahrenheit.

Note: Monthly reports will be released for January on January 29, 2024; and for February on February 26, 2024.

CROP PROGRESS

Commodity	Current report (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Barley				
Planted	25	NA	26	NA
Emerg'd	25	NA	9	NA
Cotton				
Harvested	99	70	98	NA
Durum wheat				
Planted	20	NA	22	NA
Emerg'd	18	NA	4	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

	Current report	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Topsoil moisture				
Very short	18	16	2	NA
Short	23	2	7	NA
Adequate	59	82	90	NA
Surplus	--	--	1	NA
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	23	15	2	NA
Short	18	3	2	NA
Adequate	59	82	95	NA
Surplus	--	--	1	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP AND PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current report	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Very poor	--	--	--	NA
Poor	2	--	--	NA
Fair	20	4	5	NA
Good	32	37	68	NA
Excellent	46	59	27	NA
Pasture and range				
Very poor	23	28	6	NA
Poor	31	30	11	NA
Fair	35	36	40	NA
Good	11	6	38	NA
Excellent	--	--	5	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero