

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



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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Arizona cotton harvest is well underway, with 11 percent of the crop reported as harvested by week's end, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Arizona's current cotton harvest is 6 percentage points ahead of the State's 5-year average. In contrast, by week's end, 67 percent of Arizona's cotton crop had advanced to the bolls opening stage, which was again, well behind the State's 5-year average of 82 percent, as well as last year's report of 72 percent. Arizona's cotton crop was again rated in mostly good to excellent condition, with only 22 percent of the crop being rated as very poor to fair. Following the previous week's trend, Arizona's alfalfa crop was also rated in mostly good to excellent condition with none of the crop rated as very poor or poor. Alfalfa hay harvest continues to take place throughout Arizona on more than 75 percent of the crop's acreage within the State. However, some of the alfalfa producing regions in northeastern Arizona were struggling to obtain viable second and third cuts. The largest portion of the Arizona's pastures and ranges were reported to be in fair condition, with only 19 percent of the State's acreage being rated in good condition and no acreage rated as excellent. Corroborative reports regarding the lack of native forage production from eastern counties continued to highlight the struggles Arizona livestock producers face due to continual drought conditions. Topsoil moisture levels remained mostly adequate, with 8 percent rated very short, 16 percent rated short, 75 percent rated adequate, and 1 percent rated as surplus despite drying conditions. Subsoil moisture levels followed a similar trend. Over the past week, measurable precipitation was lacking throughout the State, with most areas receiving less than 0.10 inches of rain according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Given the lack of precipitation received throughout the week, drought conditions worsened when compared to that of the previous week's U.S. Drought Monitor Report. As of September 5, the U.S. Drought Monitor showed that abnormally dry conditions (D0) covered 44 percent of the State, moderate drought (D1) spanned 29 percent of the State, and severe drought (D2) dramatically increased from a mere 2 percent of the State's total land area to a whopping 18 percent. For another week, Arizona was free of extreme (D3), as well as exceptional (D4) drought. As the autumn equinox approaches, northern Arizona has received some relief as daytime temperatures have begun to cool. Over the past week, daytime highs throughout Arizona ranged from the mid to high 60s in southern Apache and northern Greenlee County to over 100 degrees throughout southwestern regions of the State according to the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC).

CROP PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Cotton				
Bolls opening	67	62	72	82
Harvested	11	5	--	5

NA – not available
 (--) – zero

DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
Days suitable for fieldwork	7.0	6.5	6.7	6.9
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	8	4	10	6
Short	16	12	8	14
Adequate	75	83	80	79
Surplus	1	1	2	1
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	7	4	9	6
Short	6	6	8	13
Adequate	86	89	79	80
Surplus	1	1	4	1

NA – not available
 (--) – zero

CROP, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Very poor.....	--	1	6	1
Poor.....	--	1	6	5
Fair.....	9	10	14	14
Good.....	41	38	38	46
Excellent.....	50	50	36	34
Cotton				
Very poor.....	1	2	--	--
Poor.....	1	1	--	3
Fair.....	20	22	10	25
Good.....	36	34	49	46
Excellent.....	42	41	41	26
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	17	19	2	13
Poor.....	24	31	9	26
Fair.....	40	33	40	35
Good.....	19	16	32	19
Excellent.....	--	1	17	7

NA – not available

(--) – zero