

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:
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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 22, 2023

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Arizona cotton harvest had progressed to 23 percent complete by week's end, falling ten percentage points behind the State's 5-year average, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Arizona cotton was rated in mostly good to excellent condition, with only 6 percent of the crop rated fair to poor. Arizona's alfalfa crop was also rated in mostly good to excellent condition, with only 5 percent of the crop rated as fair. Alfalfa harvest continues to take place throughout Arizona on more than 75 percent of the crop's acreage within the State. The largest portion of Arizona's pastures and ranges were reported to be in poor condition in response to significant decreases observed within the fair category over the past week. Twenty-six percent of the State's pasture and rangeland was rated very poor, 34 percent was rated poor, 23 percent was rated fair, and 17 percent was rated good. Topsoil moisture levels remained mostly adequate, with 11 percent rated very short, 13 percent rated short, and 76 percent rated adequate. Subsoil moisture levels followed a similar trend. Over the past week, measurable precipitation was lacking across much of Arizona, with most areas receiving less than 0.10 inch. Despite continuing arid conditions, precipitation totaling nearly 0.50 inches was received in isolated areas of Pinal and Graham Counties, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). As drought conditions continued to escalate throughout the Southwest, the drought information statement issued by the National Weather Service for southwest Arizona and southeast California was updated and expanded on October 20 to also cover south-central Arizona. According to the National Weather Service, most areas of southern Arizona received less than 50 percent of normal monsoon precipitation, and as a result, drought was expected to persist according to the State's long-term drought outlook. The drought information statements for northern Arizona, as well as southeast Arizona, remained in effect. As of October 17, the U.S. Drought Monitor remained at the previous week's levels and showed that abnormally dry conditions (D0) spanned 38 percent of the State, moderate drought (D1) covered 24 percent, severe drought (D2) encompassed 24 percent, and extreme drought (D3) enveloped 6 percent of the State's total land area. Arizona once again remained free of exceptional (D4) drought. Throughout the week, temperatures across Arizona significantly increased according to the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). Daytime highs throughout much of Arizona were 5 to 12 degrees above normal and ranged from the low to mid-sixties in the mountainous areas of Coconino County to over one hundred degrees across southwestern regions of the State. Overnight lows were 1 to 9 degrees above normal and ranged from 25 to 55 degrees across northern and eastern counties, whereas counties within the Sonoran Desert experienced lows of 60 to 73 degrees Fahrenheit.

CROP PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Cotton				
Harvested	23	22	37	33

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	7.0	7.0	6.9
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	11	10	7	6
Short	13	4	2	8
Adequate	76	85	91	84
Surplus	--	1	--	2
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	11	10	7	6
Short	15	6	1	8
Adequate	74	83	92	85
Surplus	--	1	--	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.....	--	--	4	1
Poor.....	--	--	7	4
Fair.....	5	6	12	15
Good.....	39	40	26	38
Excellent.....	56	54	51	42
Cotton				
Very poor.....	--	--	1	1
Poor.....	1	1	1	5
Fair.....	5	5	9	20
Good.....	23	32	36	43
Excellent.....	71	62	53	31
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	26	19	8	17
Poor.....	34	31	13	24
Fair.....	23	32	39	30
Good.....	17	18	22	22
Excellent.....	--	--	18	7

NA – not available

(--) – zero