



Colorado Crop Progress

NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

USDA NASS Colorado Field Office
P.O. Box 150969, Lakewood, CO 80215
Phone 1-800-392-3202 · 1-800-643-6885
e-mail: nass-co@nass.usda.gov

To access USDA-NASS reports <http://www.nass.usda.gov/>

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Agricultural Summary: Colorado experienced widespread thunderstorms again across Eastern Colorado last week with temperatures reported at or below average for the state. Normal September weather patterns allowed farmers 5.7 days in the field to continue fieldwork and other operations. Overcast days and cooler temperatures continue to slow crop maturity progress and harvesting. Subsoil moisture increased as a result of much-needed precipitation.

TOP SOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	14	28	56	2
Last Week	12	29	55	4
Last Year	11	31	57	1

SUBSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	26	41	32	1
Last Week	30	42	27	1
Last Year	20	43	36	1

Small Grains: Spring wheat was 86 percent harvested while spring barley was 92 percent harvested by week's end. Reporters are indicating that color and quality of malting barley in the San Luis Valley is poor due to elevated moisture levels. Winter wheat producers are starting to plant with 8 percent now seeded.

Row Crops: The corn crop has reached 85 percent at or beyond the dough stage, 60 percent of the crop was or beyond the dent stage, with 17 percent at or beyond the mature stage. Roughly 40 percent of corn for silage has been harvested. The corn crop currently is rated in mostly good to fair condition. The sorghum crop reached 95 percent at or beyond the headed stage, 44 percent at or beyond the turning color stage, with 10 percent at or beyond the mature stage by week's end. The crop is rated in mostly good condition. Summer potatoes were 50 percent harvested by week's end and are currently rated in good to excellent condition. Producers began to harvest fall potatoes last week with 7 percent harvest

by week's end. Reporters are indicating that recent wet weather is causing concerns with potato blight and early plant kill which will affect size and yield. While fall potatoes are rated in good to fair condition, producers continue to keep a close eye on diseases. The dry onion crop reached 46 percent harvested by week's end and is currently rated in good condition. The sugarbeet crop is rated in good to fair condition. Dry beans were 42 percent at or beyond the cut stage with 13 percent harvested by week's end. Dry beans were rated in mostly good condition. Sunflowers are rated in good to fair condition.

ROW CROP CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week ending September 10, 2006

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	3	10	20	47	20
Sorghum	1	4	31	62	2

Hay: Producers continue to cut alfalfa with 99 percent of the crop at or beyond the second cutting and 57 percent at or beyond the third cutting with 10 percent at or beyond the fourth cutting. The crop is currently rated in good to fair condition.

Pasture and Range: Overall, pasture and range feed conditions held steady thanks to the seasonal temperatures and rainfall. Reports indicate that weed growth is becoming a problem for hay production and grazing pastures.

Livestock: Death losses for cattle and sheep were average for the week. Producers continue to feed supplements due to the lack of grazable range and pastures. Many producers are trying to secure hay for the upcoming winter.

PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week ending September 10, 2006

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture & Range-2006	16	28	36	18	2
Prev. Year - 2005	13	26	37	22	2
5-Year Avg.	20	21	31	25	3

COLORADO CROP PROGRESS

Development Ratings for Week Ending September 10, 2006

Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg.
Winter Wheat				
Seeded	8	0	18	20
Spring Wheat				
Harvested	86	60	80	88
Spring Barley				
Harvested	92	75	85	95
Corn				
Dough	85	79	82	90
Dent	60	39	48	59
Mature	17	10	14	14
Corn Silage				
Harvested	40	22	26	34
Sorghum				
Headed	95	90	98	94
Turning color	44	38	46	46
Mature	10	8	13	13
Alfalfa				
2 nd cutting	99	95	100	100
3 rd cutting	57	40	55	56
4 th cutting	10	0	0	3
Dry Beans				
Cut	42	22	32	38
Harvested	13	5	11	18
Fall Potatoes				
Harvested	7	0	11	11
Summer Potatoes				
Harvested	50	40	55	61
Dry Onions				
Harvest	46	39	52	54

COLORADO CROP CONDITION RATINGS ^{1/}

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Sunflower	4	11	29	47	9
Alfalfa hay	9	15	30	39	7
Dry Onions	1	2	16	58	23
Sugarbeets	4	9	23	49	15
Summer Potatoes	1	8	8	43	40
Fall Potatoes	0	5	34	42	19
Dry Beans	12	4	20	54	10

^{1/} Crop condition ratings pertain to emerged plants early in the growing season through plants remaining to be harvested late in the season.