



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/>

Released: October 10, 2006

Vol. 43 No. 31

Agricultural Summary: Colorado experienced warmer temperatures along with dry sunny conditions for most of the week. Normal October weather patterns allowed farmers 6 days in the field to continue fieldwork and other operations. The sun-filled days aided harvest of several crops throughout the state. Frost was again reported throughout the state last week. Subsoil moisture decreased slightly as a result of the dry days.

TOP SOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	10	23	65	2
Last Week	8	22	68	2
Last Year	20	44	35	1

SUBSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	21	37	41	1
Last Week	21	38	40	1
Last Year	19	46	34	1

Small Grains: Winter wheat producers continue to plant with 93 percent now seeded and 69 percent emerged by week's end. Winter wheat is currently rated in excellent to fair condition. Reporters are indicating the winter wheat seeding is progressing nicely in areas that have good moisture levels.

SMALL GRAIN CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week ending October 8, 2006

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Winter Wheat	1	4	32	25	38

Row Crops: The corn crop has reached 95 percent mature, with 15 percent harvested. All corn for silage has been harvested. The corn crop currently is rated in mostly good to fair condition. The sorghum crop reached 94 percent at or beyond the turning color stage, 55 percent mature, with 10 percent harvested by week's end. The crop is rated in mostly good condition. Summer potatoes were 89 percent harvested by week's end.

Producers continued to harvest fall potatoes last week with 74 percent harvested by week's end. The dry onion crop reached 95 percent harvested by week's end. The sugarbeet harvest has begun with 17 percent of the crop now harvested. Sugarbeets are rated in good to fair condition. Dry beans were 93 percent cut with 75 percent harvested by week's end. Sunflowers are rated in mostly good to fair condition with 30 percent of the crop now harvested.

ROW CROP CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week ending October 8, 2006

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	6	12	22	44	16
Sorghum	1	14	32	51	2

Hay: Producers continue to cut alfalfa with 95 percent of the third cutting and 38 percent of the fourth cutting harvested. The crop is currently rated in good to fair condition.

Pasture and Range: Overall, pasture and range feed conditions declined slightly thanks to the early season snow and frost. Reports indicate that grasses are beginning to mature and turn color. Weed growth has slowed thanks to the cooler temperatures.

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 beginning to sell cattle do to shortages in winter feed and hay storage.

PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week ending October 8, 2006

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture & Range-2006	13	25	39	21	2
Prev. Year - 2005	6	24	46	22	2
5-Year Avg.	16	22	38	23	1

COLORADO CROP PROGRESS

Development Ratings for Week Ending October 8, 2006

Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg.
Winter Wheat				
Seeded	93	84	93	94
Emerged	69	46	74	65
Corn				
Mature	95	71	88	85
Harvested	15	7	16	17
Corn Silage				
Harvested	100	99	89	94
Sorghum				
Turning color	94	86	97	94
Mature	55	48	57	60
Harvested	10	3	14	19
Sunflowers				
Harvested	30	12	25	21
Alfalfa				
3 rd cutting	95	92	95	95
4 th cutting	38	30	43	41
Dry Beans				
Cut	93	89	95	95
Harvested	75	70	76	78
Fall Potatoes				
Harvested	74	50	68	75
Summer Potatoes				
Harvested	89	87	89	91
Sugarbeets				
Harvest	17	2	11	12
Dry Onions				
Harvest	95	90	87	87

COLORADO CROP CONDITION RATINGS ^{1/}

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Sunflower	4	14	28	45	9
Alfalfa hay	7	17	30	36	10
Sugarbeets	4	15	27	37	17

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

USDA NASS
Colorado Field Office

Colorado State University
Cooperative Extension Service

Colorado Department
of Agriculture