



# 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](mailto:nass-co@nass.usda.gov)

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

Released: May 20, 2013

Vol. 50 No. 10

**Agricultural Summary:** Much needed precipitation fell across Colorado last week with the heaviest amounts concentrated to the east. Planting progress improved significantly as weather conditions improved, allowing producers to wrap up planting of small grains. Crop development was accelerated for crops in areas that received adequate rainfall and warmer temperatures last week. Improvements in crop conditions varied by locality as some areas remained depleted of adequate soil moisture supplies. As of May 18, mountain snowpack had fallen to 70 percent of average. Statewide, on average, farmers were allowed 6.1 days in the field for spring operations.

## TOP SOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	17	28	52	3
Last Week	18	28	52	2
Last Year	12	32	53	3

## SUBSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	29	43	28	0
Last Week	32	41	26	1
Last Year	15	38	47	0

**Small Grains:** For the week ending May 19<sup>th</sup>, 56 percent of the winter wheat crop had reached the jointing stage. This is an increase of 29 percentage points from last week. Conditions fell slightly last week while remaining mostly fair to very poor. Planting of barley was virtually complete last week at 95 percent. Emergence of barley reached 76 percent, up 16 percentage points from last week. Seeding of spring wheat was virtually complete at 95 percent.

**Row Crops:** Planting of onions was virtually complete by week's end at 98 percent. Planting of sugarbeets advanced 23 percentage points from last week to 66 percent by week's end while 22 percent had emerged. The corn crop was 59 percent planted, behind 93 percent last year and 82 percent on average. Sixteen percent had emerged, up 15 percentage points from last week. Fall potatoes were 70 percent planted by week's end, a considerable gain of 35 percentage points from last week. Summer potatoes were 77 percent planted, compared with 96

percent last year and the average of 63 percent. Eleven percent of the crop had emerged. Sunflowers were 3 percent planted, behind 15 percent last year and the average of 11 percent. Three percent of the sorghum crop was planted by week's end, behind last year and the average.

## SMALL GRAIN CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week ending May 19, 2013

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Spring Barley					
This Week	0	0	39	52	9
Last Year	0	1	24	64	11
Spring Wheat					
This Week	7	9	25	30	29
Last Year	1	3	36	59	1
Winter Wheat					
This Week	29	23	32	15	1
Last Year	3	10	39	43	5

**Pasture and Range:** As a result of last week's precipitation and climbing temperatures, pasture and range conditions continued to improve. Forty-eight percent was rated very poor to poor, compared with 64 percent the week prior. This is compared with the five-year average of 28 percent very poor to poor. The first cutting of alfalfa has started, and was 2 percent completed by week's end.

## PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week ending May 19, 2013

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture & Range-2013	25	23	36	15	1
Prev. Year - 2012	4	26	39	30	1
5-Year Avg.	7	21	37	32	3

**Livestock:** Calving and lambing were virtually complete at 97 and 98 percent, respectively. Livestock conditions generally held steady last week.

## Spring 2013 Calving and Lambing

	2013	5-Yr Avg.
Cows Calved since Jan 1	97	98
Ewes Lambled since Jan 1	98	98

## COLORADO CROP PROGRESS

Development Ratings for Week Ending May 19, 2013

Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg.
<b>Alfalfa</b>				
1 <sup>st</sup> Cutting	2	-	-	5
<b>Corn</b>				
Planted	59	32	93	82
Emerged	16	1	56	30
<b>Dry Beans</b>				
Planted	2	-	17	8
<b>Dry Onions</b>				
Planted	98	90	100	98
<b>Fall Potatoes</b>				
Planted	70	35	77	73
Emerged	-	-	3	2
<b>Spring Barley</b>				
Seeded	95	88	98	98
Emerged	76	60	89	81
<b>Spring Wheat</b>				
Seeded	95	80	97	89
Emerged	58	50	71	63
<b>Sorghum</b>				
Planted	3	-	26	16
<b>Sugarbeets</b>				
Planted	66	43	99	93
Up to Stand	22	4	73	42
<b>Summer Potatoes</b>				
Planted	77	50	96	63
Emerged	11	5	76	24
<b>Sunflowers</b>				
Planted	3	2	15	11
<b>Winter Wheat</b>				
Jointed	56	27	99	89
Headed	1	-	86	36

- Represents zero.

N/A Not available.

### COLORADO CONDITION RATINGS <sup>1/</sup>

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
<b>Alfalfa</b>	4	20	23	45	8
<b>Dry Onions</b>	0	0	11	71	18
<b>Livestock</b>	2	6	32	54	6

<sup>1/</sup> Crop condition ratings pertain to emerged plants early in the growing season through plants remaining to be harvested late in the season.

**Alert! The window to respond to the Census of Agriculture is almost closed!**

**There are only a few weeks left to complete and return the 2012 Census of Agriculture.** Because time is running out, NASS may contact you or farmers in your area by phone or in person to collect information for the Census. *Help ensure you and your industry have the most complete set of agricultural statistics available for your country and county.* For more information or for help filling out your Census form, visit [www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov) or call (888) 424-7828.