



# COLORADO CROP PROGRESS

United States Department of Agriculture  
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE  
COLORADO FIELD OFFICE  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING MAY 5, 2024

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** Warm temperatures and windy conditions were prevalent across the State, according to the Mountain Region Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor released on May 2, drought conditions were present across just under 8 percent of the State, unchanged from last week and down from 30 percent a year ago. More than 33 percent of the State was under abnormally dry conditions, down from 36 percent last week. Conditions within the northeastern plains improved slightly after good moisture was received from rainstorms. In total, almost 8 percent of the State was rated under moderate drought conditions equal to last week. Northwestern counties received moisture last week, with most counties getting at least half an inch. According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA, snowpack in the region was 98 percent of median snowfall. Northeastern counties received varied moisture last week, with several counties having received more than two inches. Reports noted sawfly emergence was nearing and cutworms had affected the winter wheat crop. Conditions across the growing area were varied. In the San Luis Valley, planting of the potato crop progressed rapidly with warm, dry weather. Reporters noted pastures were drying out due to lack of recent moisture but remained in good condition. Southeastern counties remained primarily dry last week. The lack of moisture in the area had begun to deteriorate the winter wheat crop. As of May 6, 2024, snowpack in Colorado was 87 percent measured as percent of median snowfall according to the NRCS, USDA. The Southwest and San Luis Valley were 62 and 47 percent, respectively.

Planting of the barley crop jumped ahead of the 5-year average last week, with 85 percent of the crop planted. Emergence of the barley crop continued, with 52 percent of the crop emerged, compared to the 5-year average of 49 percent. Twelve percent of the corn crop was reported planted last week. Potato planting progressed quickly across the State last week, with 34 percent of acres planted in the San Luis Valley and 30 percent reported planted across the rest of the State. Planting of the onion and sugarbeet crop continued ahead of normal with 66 percent of onions and 62 percent of the sugarbeet crop planted. Stored feed supplies were rated 4 percent very short, 13 percent short, 63 percent adequate, and 20 percent surplus. Cattle death loss was 27 percent average and 73 percent light. Sheep death loss was 55 percent average and 45 percent light.

### CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Barley				
Planted .....	85	69	74	84
Emerged.....	52	37	26	49
Corn				
Planted .....	12	8	17	26
Onions				
Planted .....	66	48	43	44
Potatoes inside San Luis Valley				
Planted .....	34	6	26	39
Potatoes outside San Luis Valley				
Planted .....	30	15	33	38
Proso millet				
Planted .....	3	1	3	2
Sugarbeets				
Planted .....	62	49	25	46
Emerged.....	18	5	--	8
Winter wheat				
Jointing.....	54	35	35	52
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved.....	94	90	94	93
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambled.....	88	77	97	97

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.....	6.1	5.1	6.3	5.7
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	27	25	15	18
Short.....	37	31	30	26
Adequate.....	35	39	52	53
Surplus.....	1	5	3	3
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	6	15	18	19
Short.....	22	23	34	30
Adequate.....	71	60	46	50
Surplus.....	1	2	2	1

NA – not available

(-) – zero

## CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Very poor.....	3	1	5	3
Poor.....	8	5	8	6
Fair.....	18	16	29	24
Good.....	58	71	49	58
Excellent.....	13	7	9	9
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	7	8	11	14
Poor.....	14	12	25	18
Fair.....	26	27	35	31
Good.....	49	48	28	36
Excellent.....	4	5	1	1
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	10	10	14	14
Poor.....	17	13	33	21
Fair.....	28	31	31	31
Good.....	41	44	21	30
Excellent.....	4	2	1	4
Livestock				
Very poor.....	2	2	2	2
Poor.....	5	5	15	8
Fair.....	24	30	35	26
Good.....	60	50	42	56
Excellent.....	9	13	6	8

NA – not available

(-) – zero