



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 OCTOBER 6, 2024

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Above average temperatures and dry conditions were prevalent last week, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor for October 1, drought conditions were present across more than 24 percent of the State, up from last week. Abnormally dry conditions were spread across more than 27 percent of the State. Moderate drought increased more than 4 percentage points, covering almost 20 percent of the State, while severe drought was up to almost 5 percent. According to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) data, minimal measurable moisture was seen across the State. Most of the State experienced temperatures at least 9 degrees above average, with isolated areas seeing temperatures more than 15 degrees above normal. Condition reports of the winter wheat vary across the State, with reporters in Kiowa County stating dry conditions have stunted crop development. Reports from the western slope state planting had gone well due to topsoil moisture levels, and emerged wheat is in good condition. In the San Luis Valley, third cutting of alfalfa was wrapping up and barley harvest is effectively complete. Reporters noted potato harvest continued, and livestock were in good condition.

The third cutting of alfalfa was wrapping up Statewide, with 91 percent harvested. The fourth cutting fell behind average at 45 percent harvested. Corn development continued, with 95 percent dented and 67 percent mature by week's end. Corn harvested for grain was 20 percent complete, behind the 5-year average of 22 percent. Corn silage harvest continued behind the average, with 84 percent complete by week's end. Progress of the dry edible bean crop continued behind normal, with 60 percent of the crop cut and 35 percent harvested. Potato harvest continued across the State, with 74 percent of the crop inside the San Luis Valley harvested, and 90 percent of potatoes across the rest of the State harvested. Harvest of the sorghum crop was off to a slow start, with 10 percent reported harvested, behind the 5-year average of 18 percent. Planting of the 2025 winter wheat continued last week, with 82 percent of intended acres reported planted and 42 percent of the crop emerged.

Stored feed supplies were reported as 1 percent very short, 6 percent short, 74 percent adequate, and 19 percent surplus. Cattle death loss was reported as 21 percent average and 79 percent light. Sheep death loss was reported as 90 percent average and 10 percent light.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa				
3 rd cutting harvested.....	91	84	91	NA
4 th cutting harvested.....	45	38	40	47
Corn				
Dented.....	95	89	97	98
Mature.....	67	52	62	70
Harvested for grain.....	20	3	17	22
Harvested for silage.....	84	69	91	NA
Dry edible beans				
Cut.....	60	41	91	86
Harvested.....	35	25	57	49
Onions				
Harvested.....	90	74	91	85
Potatoes inside San Luis Valley				
Harvested.....	74	52	68	75
Potatoes outside San Luis Valley				
Harvested.....	90	81	95	90
Proso Millet				
Harvested.....	65	50	81	84
Sorghum				
Mature.....	53	46	73	67
Harvested.....	10	--	13	18
Sugarbeets				
Harvested.....	40	25	40	39
Sunflowers				
Harvested.....	11	2	11	11
Winter Wheat				
Planted.....	82	69	84	82
Emerged.....	42	30	46	44

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.....	6.6	6.8	7.0	6.8
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	30	34	14	25
Short.....	33	35	37	40
Adequate.....	35	30	48	35
Surplus.....	2	1	1	--
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	19	23	5	24
Short.....	37	39	27	36
Adequate.....	43	34	65	39
Surplus.....	1	4	3	1

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Very poor	2	4	4	5
Poor	10	13	9	9
Fair	24	27	23	21
Good.....	57	52	55	58
Excellent.....	7	4	9	7
Corn				
Very poor	12	13	3	8
Poor	20	20	9	15
Fair	34	34	34	30
Good.....	29	31	47	40
Excellent.....	5	2	7	7
Dry edible beans				
Very poor	3	3	6	3
Poor	5	5	21	16
Fair	21	15	42	36
Good.....	68	74	30	35
Excellent.....	3	3	1	10
Pasture and range				
Very poor	6	15	4	14
Poor	21	23	5	18
Fair	35	37	23	27
Good.....	30	22	53	32
Excellent.....	8	3	15	9
Potatoes inside San Luis Valley				
Very poor	1	1	NA	NA
Poor	10	6	NA	NA
Fair	31	23	NA	NA
Good.....	48	53	NA	NA
Excellent.....	10	17	NA	NA
Sorghum				
Very poor	28	19	--	4
Poor	15	18	1	9
Fair	22	29	14	32
Good.....	34	30	77	46
Excellent.....	1	4	8	9
Sugarbeets				
Very poor	5	2	--	1
Poor	7	3	1	2
Fair	28	27	26	31
Good.....	59	68	57	54
Excellent.....	1	--	16	12
Sunflowers				
Very poor	29	22	--	2
Poor	21	27	2	6
Fair	31	33	20	41
Good.....	18	18	75	47
Excellent.....	1	--	3	4
Livestock				
Very poor	2	1	--	1
Poor	5	3	1	4
Fair	15	15	8	16
Good.....	65	71	83	64
Excellent.....	13	10	8	15

NA – not available

(--) – zero