



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 13, 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 8, drought conditions were present across almost 38 percent of the State, up significantly from last week. Abnormally dry conditions were spread across more than 30 percent of the State. Moderate drought increased almost 8 percentage points, covering more than 27 percent of the State, while severe drought was over 10 percent, up almost 6 percentage points. Moisture was minimal and temperatures were at least 9 degrees above average across most of the State, with isolated areas reaching temperatures more than 15 degrees above normal. Reports from Kiowa County stated there was some late planted wheat due to drought conditions, and sorghum harvest was underway in the area. In the San Luis Valley, dry weather allowed alfalfa and potato harvest to move along quickly. Reporters noted livestock were in good condition, and producers were beginning to move cattle off mountain grazing.

The third cutting of alfalfa was almost complete, with 98 percent harvested. The fourth cutting continued behind average at 57 percent harvested. The corn crop was 85 percent mature by week's end, slightly behind the 5-year average of 86 percent. Corn harvested for grain was 30 percent complete, behind the 5-year average of 33 percent. Corn silage harvest was wrapping up, with 95 percent complete by week's end. Progress of the dry edible bean crop continued behind normal, with 80 percent of the crop cut and 44 percent harvested. Potato harvest continued across the State, with 83 percent of the crop inside the San Luis Valley harvested, and 99 percent of potatoes across the rest of the State harvested. Harvest of the sorghum crop continued behind normal, with 20 percent reported harvested, behind the 5-year average of 32 percent. Planting of the 2025 winter wheat continued last week, with 91 percent of intended acres reported planted and 50 percent of the crop emerged.

Stored feed supplies were reported as 4 percent very short, 10 percent short, 68 percent adequate, and 18 percent surplus. Cattle death loss was reported as 19 percent average and 81 percent light. Sheep death loss was reported as 81 percent average and 19 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.....	98	91	96	NA
4 th cutting harvested.....	57	45	59	61
Corn				
Mature.....	85	67	79	86
Harvested for grain	30	20	30	33
Harvested for silage.....	95	84	96	NA
Dry edible beans				
Cut.....	80	60	NA	NA
Harvested	44	35	74	66
Onions				
Harvested	98	90	NA	NA
Potatoes inside San Luis Valley				
Harvested	83	74	85	NA
Potatoes outside San Luis Valley				
Harvested	99	90	NA	NA
Proso Millet				
Harvested	80	65	88	NA
Sorghum				
Mature.....	70	53	89	84
Harvested	20	10	21	32
Sugarbeets				
Harvested	63	40	58	54
Sunflowers				
Harvested	30	11	29	31
Winter Wheat				
Planted.....	91	82	93	92
Emerged.....	50	42	56	57

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	6.7	6.6	6.7	6.5
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	36	30	15	31
Short	32	33	41	36
Adequate.....	31	35	42	33
Surplus.....	1	2	2	--
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	26	19	7	28
Short	27	37	26	32
Adequate.....	46	43	64	39
Surplus.....	1	1	3	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)
Corn				
Very poor	17	12	3	11
Poor	20	20	7	16
Fair	32	34	31	28
Good.....	28	29	47	37
Excellent.....	3	5	12	8
Dry edible beans				
Very poor	2	3	5	NA
Poor	8	5	20	NA
Fair	11	21	51	NA
Good.....	77	68	23	NA
Excellent.....	2	3	1	NA
Pasture and range				
Very poor	15	6	4	16
Poor	22	21	5	18
Fair	33	35	25	26
Good.....	28	30	55	33
Excellent.....	2	8	11	7
Sorghum				
Very poor	21	28	1	7
Poor	15	15	1	11
Fair	29	22	13	29
Good.....	31	34	77	45
Excellent.....	4	1	8	8
Sugarbeets				
Very poor	6	5	--	NA
Poor	8	7	1	NA
Fair	20	28	28	NA
Good.....	64	59	55	NA
Excellent.....	2	1	16	NA
Sunflowers				
Very poor	21	29	--	6
Poor	26	21	2	10
Fair	37	31	29	38
Good.....	15	18	64	42
Excellent.....	1	1	5	4
Winter wheat				
Very poor	10	NA	NA	NA
Poor	13	NA	NA	NA
Fair	27	NA	NA	NA
Good.....	45	NA	NA	NA
Excellent.....	5	NA	NA	NA
Livestock				
Very poor	2	2	1	1
Poor	5	5	1	4
Fair	21	15	7	15
Good.....	59	65	82	65
Excellent.....	13	13	9	15

NA – not available

(--) – zero