



# 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 20, 2024

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** Good moisture was received across most of the State, while above average temperatures remained 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 15, drought conditions were present across almost 41 percent of the State, up from last week. Abnormally dry conditions were spread across almost 30 percent of the State. Moderate drought increased minimally, covering more than 28 percent of the State, while severe drought accounted for over 10 percent of the State. Areas of Boulder, Larimer and Weld Counties were downgraded to extreme drought conditions, encompassing almost 2 percent of the State. After weeks of minimal moisture, several areas of the State received rain, and the high country received the first snow of the season. Areas of Conejos, Costilla, Las Animas, La Plata, and San Juan Counties received upwards of 4 inches of moisture, while northern counties remained primarily dry. Temperatures continued to trend above average across most of the State last week, with areas in northern counties reaching temperatures more than 10 degrees above normal. Reports from Kiowa County stated rain received was too late to help pasture conditions, but will help planted winter wheat. In the San Luis Valley, moisture received slowed potato and alfalfa harvest. Reporters noted livestock were in good condition.

The fourth cutting of alfalfa jumped ahead of the average at 75 percent harvested. The corn crop was 95 percent mature by week's end, even with the 5-year average. Corn harvested for grain was 46 percent complete, moving ahead of the 5-year average of 44 percent. Significant maturation of the dry edible bean crop was made last week, with 95 percent of the crop cut and 73 percent harvested. Potato harvest is virtually complete in the San Luis Valley, with 99 percent of the crop harvested. Harvest of the sorghum crop continued behind normal, with 40 percent reported harvested, behind the 5-year average of 46 percent. Sunflower harvest progressed rapidly last week, with 58 percent of acres harvested, significantly ahead of the 5-year average of 48 percent. Planting of the 2025 winter wheat is almost complete, with 96 percent of intended acres reported planted and 62 percent of the crop emerged.

Stored feed supplies were reported as 2 percent very short, 7 percent short, 75 percent adequate, and 16 percent surplus. Cattle death loss was reported as 20 percent average and 80 percent light. Sheep death loss was reported as 85 percent average and 15 percent light.

### CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa				
4 <sup>th</sup> cutting harvested.....	75	57	75	73
Corn				
Mature.....	95	85	92	95
Harvested for grain .....	46	30	42	44
Dry edible beans				
Cut .....	95	80	NA	NA
Harvested .....	73	44	84	82
Onions				
Harvested .....	99	98	NA	NA
Potatoes inside San Luis Valley				
Harvested .....	99	83	94	NA
Proso Millet				
Harvested .....	86	80	93	NA
Sorghum				
Mature.....	91	70	97	93
Harvested .....	40	20	38	46
Sugarbeets				
Harvested .....	70	63	72	68
Sunflowers				
Harvested .....	58	30	53	48
Winter Wheat				
Planted.....	96	91	95	96
Emerged .....	62	50	67	67

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 .....	6.0	6.7	6.7	6.5
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	35	36	21	29
Short .....	33	32	33	37
Adequate.....	29	31	44	33
Surplus.....	3	1	2	1
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	23	26	15	28
Short .....	35	27	21	31
Adequate.....	41	46	63	40
Surplus.....	1	1	1	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)
<b>Corn</b>				
Very poor .....	12	17	5	NA
Poor .....	21	20	12	NA
Fair .....	35	32	26	NA
Good.....	28	28	40	NA
Excellent.....	4	3	17	NA
<b>Dry edible beans</b>				
Very poor .....	2	2	NA	NA
Poor .....	5	8	NA	NA
Fair .....	15	11	NA	NA
Good.....	73	77	NA	NA
Excellent.....	5	2	NA	NA
<b>Pasture and range</b>				
Very poor .....	8	15	5	16
Poor .....	15	22	7	19
Fair .....	37	33	20	24
Good.....	36	28	55	35
Excellent.....	4	2	13	6
<b>Sorghum</b>				
Very poor .....	30	21	1	5
Poor .....	17	15	3	10
Fair .....	20	29	14	29
Good.....	32	31	75	48
Excellent.....	1	4	7	8
<b>Sunflowers</b>				
Very poor .....	12	21	1	NA
Poor .....	17	26	3	NA
Fair .....	43	37	23	NA
Good.....	25	15	70	NA
Excellent.....	3	1	3	NA
<b>Winter wheat</b>				
Very poor .....	10	10	1	7
Poor .....	12	13	6	14
Fair .....	23	27	30	34
Good.....	48	45	57	38
Excellent.....	7	5	6	7
<b>Livestock</b>				
Very poor .....	2	2	1	1
Poor .....	5	5	2	4
Fair .....	16	21	6	18
Good.....	60	59	77	62
Excellent.....	17	13	14	15

NA – not available

(-) – zero