



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 27, 2024

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Scattered moisture was seen around 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 22, drought conditions were present across more than 33 percent of the State, a vast improvement from last week. Abnormally dry conditions were spread across 22 percent of the State. Moderate and severe drought conditions decreased, with almost 25 percent of the State in moderate drought, while severe drought accounted for almost 7 percent of the State. Areas of Boulder, Larimer and Weld Counties remained in extreme drought conditions, encompassing almost 2 percent of the State. Drought conditions in the high country and western slope improved after much needed moisture. Moisture was received in northwestern counties, while northeastern counties experienced another primarily dry week. Isolated areas of Las Animas and Otero Counties received over an inch of moisture, while other counties in the district had areas received up to an inch. Temperatures continued to trend above average across the State last week, with areas in northern counties reaching temperatures more than 10 degrees above normal. Northeastern counties experienced wind gusts above 40 miles per hour last week, further exacerbating dry conditions. In the San Luis Valley, reporters stated livestock were being moved from mountain pastures and were in good condition.

The fourth cutting of alfalfa continued ahead of the average at 90 percent harvested. Corn harvested for grain was 58 percent complete, falling slightly behind the 5-year average of 59 percent. Harvest of the dry edible bean crop progressed well last week, with 88 percent of the crop reported harvested. Harvest of the sorghum crop made significant progress but continued behind normal, with 58 percent reported harvested, behind the 5-year average of 65 percent. Sunflower harvest progressed rapidly last week, with 73 percent of acres harvested, significantly ahead of the 5-year average of 61 percent. Emergence of the 2025 winter wheat crop continued behind average, with 74 percent of the crop emerged.

Stored feed supplies were reported as 1 percent very short, 4 percent short, 77 percent adequate, and 18 percent surplus. Cattle death loss was reported as 28 percent average and 72 percent light. Sheep death loss was reported as 82 percent average and 18 percent light.

CROP PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa				
4 th cutting harvested.....	90	75	87	81
Corn				
Harvested for grain	58	46	61	59
Dry edible beans				
Harvested	88	73	89	NA
Proso Millet				
Harvested	93	86	96	NA
Sorghum				
Mature.....	99	91	99	96
Harvested	58	40	61	65
Sugarbeets				
Harvested	80	70	83	79
Sunflowers				
Harvested	73	58	70	61
Winter Wheat				
Emerged	74	62	79	76

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	6.0	6.0	5.8
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	29	35	20	27
Short	34	33	32	38
Adequate.....	34	29	47	34
Surplus.....	3	3	1	1
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	23	23	15	25
Short	30	35	26	35
Adequate.....	43	41	58	40
Surplus.....	4	1	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)
Pasture and range				
Very poor	7	8	1	16
Poor	20	15	2	16
Fair	33	37	29	27
Good.....	35	36	55	35
Excellent.....	5	4	13	6
Sorghum				
Very poor	32	30	1	NA
Poor	15	17	7	NA
Fair	16	20	10	NA
Good.....	36	32	78	NA
Excellent.....	1	1	4	NA
Winter wheat				
Very poor	9	10	--	7
Poor	14	12	6	15
Fair	26	23	31	35
Good.....	49	48	58	37
Excellent.....	2	7	5	6
Livestock				
Very poor	2	2	--	2
Poor	7	5	1	4
Fair	16	16	5	18
Good.....	66	60	82	63
Excellent.....	9	17	12	13

NA – not available

(--) – zero