



COLORADO CROP PROGRESS

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
COLORADO FIELD OFFICE
P.O. BOX 150969 · Lakewood, CO 80215-0969



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Rodger Ott
(800) 392-3202

CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 3, 2024

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Western counties experienced much needed moisture, while drought conditions worsened in eastern counties 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 29, drought conditions were present across almost 35 percent of the State, an increase from last week. Abnormally dry conditions were spread across 25 percent of the State. Moderate and severe drought conditions changed minimally, with 25 percent of the State in moderate drought, while severe drought accounted for more than 6 percent of the State. Extreme drought conditions worsened across Boulder, Larimer, and Weld Counties and spread into Gilpin and Grand Counties, encompassing more than 3 percent of the State. Conditions were downgraded across many counties across the eastern portion of the State due to continued lack of moisture. Many areas in the western half of the State received at least 0.5 inch of moisture last week, while eastern counties remained primarily dry. Isolated areas of Mesa, Montrose and San Juan Counties received over 3.0 inches of moisture, while other counties in the district had areas that received more than an inch. Temperatures continued to trend above average in the eastern portion of the State, while western counties fell below the normal temperatures. Reports from Phillips County noted the dry weather has aided harvest progress, but moisture is needed. Reporters in Mesa and Montrose Counties stated steady rain over the weekend had left fields muddy in the district.

The fourth cutting of alfalfa is almost complete at 98 percent harvested. Corn harvested for grain was 74 percent complete, jumping ahead of the 5-year average of 72 percent. Harvest of the dry edible bean crop progressed well last week, with 96 percent of the crop reported harvested, ahead of the previous year. Harvest of the sorghum crop made significant progress but continued behind normal, with 78 percent reported harvested, minimally behind the 5-year average of 79 percent. Sunflower harvest progressed rapidly last week, with 85 percent of acres harvested, significantly ahead of the 5-year average of 71 percent. Emergence of the 2025 winter wheat crop jumped ahead of average, with 86 percent of the crop emerged.

Stored feed supplies were reported as 2 percent very short, 5 percent short, 78 percent adequate, and 15 percent surplus. Cattle death loss was reported as 35 percent average and 65 percent light. Sheep death loss was reported as 86 percent average and 14 percent light.

CROP PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa				
4 th cutting harvested.....	98	90	93	86
Corn				
Harvested for grain	74	58	76	72
Dry edible beans				
Harvested	96	88	94	NA
Proso Millet				
Harvested	96	93	NA	NA
Sorghum				
Harvested	78	58	75	79
Sugarbeets				
Harvested	89	80	90	NA
Sunflowers				
Harvested	85	73	83	71
Winter Wheat				
Emerged	86	74	86	84

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	5.7	6.6	6.3	6.0
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	29	29	17	28
Short	36	34	38	35
Adequate.....	28	34	44	36
Surplus.....	7	3	1	1
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	19	23	16	29
Short	39	30	33	35
Adequate.....	40	43	50	36
Surplus.....	2	4	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)
Pasture and range				
Very poor	15	7	2	18
Poor	21	20	3	17
Fair	34	33	28	26
Good	29	35	55	33
Excellent	1	5	12	6
Winter wheat				
Very poor	8	9	1	9
Poor	12	14	4	15
Fair	22	26	32	34
Good	53	49	58	36
Excellent	5	2	5	6
Livestock				
Very poor	2	2	--	3
Poor	4	7	1	5
Fair	18	16	6	19
Good	68	66	82	62
Excellent	8	9	11	11

NA – not available

(--) – zero