

MONTANA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
MONTANA FIELD OFFICE
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 Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING JULY 12, 2015

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Temperatures returned to much closer to normal for a good part of this week in Montana and there were scattered storms that brought much needed precipitation to parts of the State following weeks of very hot, dry weather. Some of these storms did bring more hail and high winds to some areas however. Winter wheat harvest has begun weeks ahead of normal due to warmer than normal spring conditions. First cuttings of alfalfa and other hay are wrapping up with 91 percent and 88 percent complete respectively but reporters are noting that yield is down due to hot temperatures, lack of precipitation and grasshopper damage. Durum and spring wheats made significant progress heading over the course of the week in the warm, sunny weather and are well ahead of last year and the five year average with 81 percent and 92 percent headed respectively. Pulse and oilseed crops also made strides in progress, most of which are blooming and turning ahead of normal as well. Pasture and range conditions declined slightly from last week as this week's precipitation was just too late to prevent grass from maturing and reporters say producers are already in search of hay to supplement deteriorating native grass conditions.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
First cutting.....	91	82	80	73
Barley				
Headed.....	97	92	85	67
Turning.....	41	11	9	10
Camelina				
Blooming.....	80	47	80	85
Turning.....	1	NA	11	19
Canola				
Blooming.....	96	94	81	88
Turning.....	38	13	25	12
Dry beans				
Emerged.....	96	90	99	99
Durum wheat				
Boot stage.....	98	79	69	70
Headed.....	81	48	11	25
Turning.....	5	NA	NA	NA
Flaxseed				
Blooming.....	85	71	62	70
Turning.....	11	--	NA	NA
Lentils				
Blooming.....	99	79	57	71
Mustard seed				
Blooming.....	88	83	69	87
Turning.....	21	14	1	19
Oats				
Boot stage.....	89	87	82	85
Headed.....	79	64	45	48
Turning.....	8	NA	NA	NA
Other hay				
First cutting.....	88	80	70	65
Potatoes				
Emerged.....	96	94	100	100
Safflower				
Emerged.....	95	90	99	100
Blooming.....	23	18	54	58
Spring wheat				
Boot stage.....	98	89	92	85
Headed.....	92	65	65	54
Turning.....	11	NA	6	4
Winter wheat				
Turning.....	93	75	50	41
Harvested.....	4	--	--	--

NA – not available
 (--) – zero

DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
Days suitable for fieldwork.....	6.5	6.5	6.3	6.4
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	13	10	5	8
Short.....	39	39	30	28
Adequate.....	42	45	58	59
Surplus.....	6	6	7	5
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	10	9	5	7
Short.....	37	34	26	22
Adequate.....	44	48	63	64
Surplus.....	9	9	6	7

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Barley				
Very poor.....	3	2	--	2
Poor.....	10	9	5	5
Fair.....	33	33	44	31
Good.....	41	43	40	46
Excellent.....	13	13	11	16
Durum wheat				
Very poor.....	8	8	1	1
Poor.....	11	9	3	3
Fair.....	50	47	26	20
Good.....	30	35	69	63
Excellent.....	1	1	1	13
Oats				
Very poor.....	1	1	--	2
Poor.....	3	2	1	5
Fair.....	31	31	41	32
Good.....	55	56	51	53
Excellent.....	10	10	7	8
Pasture and Range				
Very poor.....	6	6	4	7
Poor.....	20	19	13	12
Fair.....	42	41	31	24
Good.....	28	29	38	38
Excellent.....	4	5	14	19
Spring wheat				
Very poor.....	4	4	1	1
Poor.....	8	8	3	5
Fair.....	34	35	36	29
Good.....	45	44	51	54
Excellent.....	9	9	9	11
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	3	2	1	2
Poor.....	9	8	6	7
Fair.....	34	35	27	24
Good.....	34	35	52	48
Excellent.....	20	20	14	19

NA – not available

(--) – zero

Montana's weather data can be accessed at the following:

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Montana/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/2015/MT_Weather_07122015.pdf