

# 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 AUGUST 20, 2017

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** Extremely dry weather persisted across much of the State last week, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. High temperatures ranged from 77 to 94 degrees. Low temperatures ranged from 21 degrees to the mid 50s. The highest amount of precipitation was recorded in West Yellowstone with only 0.78 inches of moisture. Other stations recorded between zero and 0.76 of an inch of moisture, with 40 stations recording no precipitation and 50 station receiving less than 0.25 of an inch. Despite some lower temperatures crop conditions continued to deteriorate due to lack of moisture. Soil moisture conditions were recorded with 98 percent of topsoil rated very short to short and 90 percent of subsoil rated very short to short, compared with 38 percent of topsoil last year rated very short to short and 42 percent of subsoil last year rated very short to short. Reporters noted that livestock sales have been accelerated 3 to 4 weeks ahead of normal due to the extreme lack of moisture. Wildfires have been reported and contributed to poor air quality.

### CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Second cutting .....	88	76	79	69
Barley				
Coloring.....	97	96	NA	NA
Harvested for grain .....	72	57	64	60
Camelina				
Blooming .....	97	95	NA	NA
Coloring.....	50	48	58	91
Harvested.....	17	13	10	22
Canola				
Harvested.....	62	36	29	36
Dry edible beans				
Harvested.....	70	65	65	40
Dry edible peas				
Harvested.....	89	86	85	81
Durum wheat				
Coloring.....	95	94	95	93
Harvested for grain .....	75	50	40	28
Flaxseed				
Coloring.....	96	95	88	91
Harvested.....	64	44	10	20
Lentils				
Harvested.....	95	91	69	63
Mustard seed				
Coloring.....	92	90	NA	NA
Harvested.....	59	34	44	35
Oats				
Coloring.....	93	91	NA	NA
Harvested.....	72	61	67	56
Other hay				
Second cutting .....	64	51	72	55
Safflower				
Blooming .....	80	75	NA	NA
Coloring.....	50	46	65	61
Harvested.....	2	1	NA	NA
Spring wheat				
Coloring.....	94	92	NA	NA
Harvested for grain .....	66	39	51	45
Winter wheat				
Harvested for grain .....	95	92	97	91
Cattle and Calves				
Moved from summer pasture .....	13	8	19	10
Sheep and lambs				
Moved from summer pasture .....	13	9	19	11

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 field work .....	6.8	6.7	5.6	5.8
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short .....	78	82	14	20
Short .....	20	16	24	33
Adequate .....	2	2	55	40
Surplus .....	--	--	7	7
Subsoil moisture				
Very short .....	62	67	15	17
Short .....	28	24	27	33
Adequate .....	9	8	54	44
Surplus .....	1	1	4	6

NA – not available

(--) – zero

**CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION**

	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Camelina				
Very poor .....	28	24	--	NA
Poor .....	18	20	1	NA
Fair .....	46	43	38	NA
Good .....	8	13	59	NA
Excellent .....	--	--	2	NA
Canola				
Very poor .....	32	30	1	1
Poor .....	28	32	1	4
Fair .....	27	23	22	30
Good .....	13	12	57	57
Excellent .....	--	3	19	8
Corn				
Very poor .....	8	2	--	1
Poor .....	16	16	3	5
Fair .....	51	54	31	37
Good .....	24	26	52	44
Excellent .....	1	2	14	13
Mustard Seed				
Very poor .....	25	27	-	NA
Poor .....	20	19	6	NA
Fair .....	44	43	30	NA
Good .....	9	9	58	NA
Excellent .....	2	2	6	NA
Pasture and range				
Very poor .....	42	43	13	15
Poor .....	25	23	20	18
Fair .....	27	22	34	35
Good .....	6	10	28	27
Excellent .....	--	2	5	5
Potatoes				
Very poor .....	--	--	--	NA
Poor .....	1	1	2	NA
Fair .....	10	10	5	NA
Good .....	56	48	48	NA
Excellent .....	33	41	45	NA
Safflower				
Very poor .....	29	29	--	--
Poor .....	29	28	--	4
Fair .....	41	42	7	35
Good .....	1	1	78	53
Excellent .....	--	--	15	8
Spring wheat				
Very poor .....	42	46	2	NA
Poor .....	23	17	4	NA
Fair .....	27	26	29	NA
Good .....	6	8	52	NA
Excellent .....	2	3	13	NA
Sugarbeets				
Very poor .....	2	3	--	1
Poor .....	11	12	1	6
Fair .....	56	59	12	22
Good .....	29	24	66	53
Excellent .....	2	2	21	18

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/2017/MT\\_Weather\\_08202017.pdf](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Montana/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/2017/MT_Weather_08202017.pdf)