

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 MAY 8, 2022

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: This week brought minimal precipitation and above average temperatures to Montana, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Most areas in the eastern and central portion of the State received no significant moisture this week, with totals less than 0.1 inches. Counties along the western border recorded precipitation totals between 0.3 and 0.9 inches. Average daily temperatures for the majority of the State were 2 to 5 degrees above average. Counties along the western border were slightly cooler, with average daily temperatures ranging from average to 2 degrees above average. According to the United States Drought Monitor for May 5, 2022, the amount of land rated as abnormally dry was 7.7 percent, compared to 5.1 percent last week. Moderate drought was present across 19.9 percent of the State, compared to 8.2 percent last week. Severe drought covered 46.4 percent of the State, an increase from 37.9 percent last week. Extreme drought conditions decreased to cover 19.1 percent of the State. Overall, 93.1 percent of the State continues to experience drought conditions.

Mineral, Missoula, and Ravalli Counties reported widespread moisture this week, with some snow accumulation in the mountains. Cooler temperatures during the day and freezing temperatures at night continue to slow plant growth. There are reports of cattle producers turning cattle out to pasture early due to lack of hay and high hay prices. Roosevelt County continues to be exceptionally dry and there are reports of ranchers beginning to sell off pairs of cattle. Valley County reported scattered showers this week, with pastures beginning to green up. There are reports in Cascade County of insurance claims being filed for failed winter wheat. Spring crops are beginning to emerge, but they are reported as being stressed due to drought conditions in the county. Topsoil moisture levels were reported as 35 percent very short, 42 percent short, and 23 percent adequate and subsoil moisture levels were reported as 52 percent very short, 34 percent short, and 14 percent adequate.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Barley				
Planted	60	44	55	51
Emerged	25	5	20	17
Canola				
Planted	30	15	28	27
Corn				
Planted	7	3	17	20
Dry edible beans (includes Chickpeas)				
Planted	23	9	25	24
Emerged	2	NA	NA	NA
Dry edible peas				
Planted	55	40	51	55
Emerged	15	5	11	14
Durum wheat				
Planted	30	23	28	27
Emerged	1	NA	NA	NA
Flaxseed				
Planted	20	11	26	24
Emerged	1	NA	NA	NA
Lentils				
Planted	43	31	40	41
Emerged	15	3	NA	NA
Mustard seed				
Planted	37	22	29	20
Emerged	5	--	NA	NA
Oats				
Planted	23	16	29	30
Emerged	5	--	4	7
Safflower				
Planted	15	7	18	10
Spring wheat				
Planted	50	31	50	44
Emerged	16	7	18	14
Sugarbeets				
Planted	5	1	41	54
Winter wheat				
Breaking dormancy	95	86	94	NA
Booted	10	1	2	2
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved	89	82	90	90
Moved to pasture	25	19	31	40
Receiving supplemental feed	80	84	59	45
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambbed	85	70	82	85
Moved to pasture	39	24	30	40
Receiving supplemental feed	71	91	63	49

NA – not available

(--) – zero

DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
Days suitable for field work	5.8	5.1	5.4	5.6
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	35	40	29	8
Short	42	33	28	16
Adequate	23	27	41	70
Surplus	--	--	2	6
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	52	43	33	9
Short	34	41	29	17
Adequate	14	16	37	66
Surplus	--	--	1	8

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Grazing accessibility				
Open	72	72	83	NA
Difficult	10	17	7	NA
Closed	18	11	10	NA
Pasture and range				
Very poor	61	69	28	7
Poor	25	20	26	10
Fair	10	9	32	40
Good	4	2	13	34
Excellent	--	--	1	9
Winter wheat				
Very poor	21	25	4	2
Poor	18	24	19	8
Fair	48	39	28	29
Good	12	11	44	45
Excellent	1	1	5	16

NA – not available

(--) – zero