

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 11, 2024

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Much needed relief from the heat and lack of rain was received this past week, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. The majority of Montana received moisture ranging from normal to about 1.5 inches above normal, according to data from the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). Isolated areas received lesser amounts, as much as about 0.6 inch below normal in the far northeast. Temperatures were in a range of about 2 to 10 degrees below normal for most of the State. Average temperatures were lowest in eastern sections of the State. In far western sections of Montana, temperatures were closer to average, or slightly above average. The drought continued according to the U.S. Drought Monitor report released August 8. Abnormal dryness was found in 38 percent of Montana, down from 45 percent last week. Moderate drought increased by 4 percent points to 42 percent. Severe drought conditions now measure 12 percent, up from 11 percent. Extreme and exceptional conditions remain unchanged at 6 and 1 percent, respectively. Beneficial rain was received in Big Horn County. Reports from Custer County noted that grasshoppers and hail impacted late summer crops and forage. Thunderstorms went through Mineral, Missoula, and Ravalli Counties. Precipitation was limited in some areas. The heat and winds resulted in rapid evaporation. Non-irrigated areas were tinder dry. Lightning sparked new wildfires in public forests. It was not known if private and public lands allocated to grazing were affected by wildfires. Conditions remained dry in Roosevelt County. Test weights for various crops were low. Drought conditions eased in Valley County this past week as cooler weather and moisture moved into the county. The precipitation and cooler conditions slowed harvests.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
2 nd cutting harvested.....	40	23	37	40
Barley				
Headed.....	97	94	98	99
Coloring.....	75	57	81	NA
Harvested.....	19	12	46	26
Canola				
Coloring.....	78	74	76	83
Harvested.....	11	8	16	18
Dry edible beans				
Harvested.....	24	2	21	15
Dry peas				
Harvested.....	61	40	54	55
Durum wheat				
Coloring.....	93	79	78	80
Harvested.....	24	8	23	14
Flaxseed				
Coloring.....	96	78	78	70
Harvested.....	1	--	10	11
Lentils				
Harvested.....	43	20	46	40
Mustard seed				
Harvested.....	5	1	32	13
Oats				
Headed.....	96	92	NA	NA
Coloring.....	83	80	81	83
Harvested.....	28	19	35	25
Other hay				
1 st cutting harvested.....	90	85	94	NA
2 nd cutting harvested.....	18	16	16	26
Safflower				
Blooming.....	81	62	86	85
Coloring.....	29	12	22	39
Harvested.....	2	NA	NA	NA
Spring wheat				
Coloring.....	87	77	82	87
Harvested.....	22	6	34	26
Winter wheat				
Harvested.....	69	51	62	60
Cattle and calves				
Moved from pasture.....	2	--	14	NA

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	5.2	6.8	6.5	6.4
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	20	11	26	29
Short	55	57	44	38
Adequate.....	25	32	30	32
Surplus.....	--	--	--	1
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	25	17	33	31
Short	51	54	36	37
Adequate.....	24	29	31	32
Surplus.....	--	--	--	--

NA – not available
 (--) – zero

CROP, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Barley				
Very poor	--	--	--	8
Poor	11	11	7	12
Fair.....	30	21	47	32
Good.....	58	67	37	38
Excellent	1	1	9	10
Canola				
Very poor	--	--	1	6
Poor	2	2	7	8
Fair.....	38	29	53	31
Good.....	55	64	33	41
Excellent	5	5	6	14
Corn				
Very poor	--	1	--	7
Poor	9	9	2	7
Fair.....	22	28	21	22
Good.....	67	60	67	57
Excellent	2	2	10	7
Dry Edible Peas				
Very poor	2	2	1	NA
Poor	4	4	5	NA
Fair.....	34	25	41	NA
Good.....	57	66	51	NA
Excellent	3	3	2	NA
Durum wheat				
Very poor	--	--	--	9
Poor	7	7	15	12
Fair.....	38	32	67	41
Good.....	52	59	17	31
Excellent	3	2	1	7
Lentils				
Very poor	--	--	1	7
Poor	3	3	14	9
Fair.....	35	26	54	43
Good.....	60	69	29	35
Excellent	2	2	2	6
Mustard seed				
Very poor	--	--	--	2
Poor	3	4	12	10
Fair.....	8	5	44	52
Good.....	88	90	41	31
Excellent	1	1	3	5
Pasture and range				
Very poor	17	12	7	21
Poor	25	21	16	18
Fair.....	43	52	36	27
Good.....	13	15	39	30
Excellent	2	--	2	4
Safflower				
Very poor	2	2	--	8
Poor	5	4	--	12
Fair.....	59	58	43	36
Good.....	33	35	57	43
Excellent	1	1	--	1
Spring wheat				
Very poor	2	2	--	8
Poor	6	5	16	18
Fair.....	34	25	45	30
Good.....	56	65	34	36
Excellent	2	3	5	8

¹Current conditions for Dry Edible Beans, Flaxseed, Oats, and Sugarbeets are available using the QuickStats on-line database at:

https://www.nass.usda.gov/Quick_Stats/

NA – not available
 (--) – zero