

# 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 28, 2024

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** Temperatures were once again mostly above average, and precipitation was limited, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Temperatures were in a range of about 2 to 8 degrees above average for most of the State, according to data from the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). Exceptions were in minor portions of the northwest, where temperatures ran from about normal to 2 degrees below normal. Precipitation levels were in a range of about 0.15 to 0.45 inch below average for most of Montana. Portions of west-central, and south-central Montana received higher amounts of moisture. Drought conditions again increased according to the U.S. Drought Monitor report released July 25. The amount of land rated drought free was unchanged at 3 percent. Moderate drought conditions fell by 2 percentage points to 54 percent. Moderate drought was again found in 24 percent of the State. Severe conditions sat at 13 percent, down from 15 last week. Extreme drought increased to almost 6 percent, up from almost 3 percent the previous week. Exceptional drought conditions returned to Montana, measuring just under one percent. Harvests of grain and other crops moved forward in Blaine County. The heat, wind, and low humidity were detrimental to pastures and ranges. Subsequently fire danger was high, and several fires were reported the past week. Winter wheat harvest began in Broadwater County. Range conditions were very dry following the many days reaching 90 degrees this month. Hot, dry, and windy conditions persisted in Mineral, Missoula, and Ravalli Counties. Yields for the first cutting of hay were below average due to the cool, damp spring. Northern Ravalli and southern and central Missoula Counties bore the brunt of a severe storm that passed through. Broken tree limbs, lightning strikes, and power outages resulted. Some trees broke in half. Wind gusts reached to over 100 mph in parts of Missoula County. Immense downpours occurred in some areas, but moisture evaporated quickly due to the heat and wind. Several wildfires caused hazardous air quality. Grasshoppers were abundant and consuming anything green in Powder River County. Pastures and crops in Roosevelt County were reportedly stressed with the high heat and dry conditions. Grain ripened quickly, haying activities increased, and pasture and range quality was reduced with the brutal heat in Valley County. Hay was reportedly not good in Wibaux County and some producers were filing for loss. Various field sections were left unharvested. Temperatures reached to over 90 and 100 degrees, and rain was scarce all month. Crops were turning fast. In some fields, crop stems were brown and drying up.

### CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
1 <sup>st</sup> cutting harvested.....	78	72	93	NA
2 <sup>nd</sup> cutting harvested.....	11	4	6	NA
Barley				
Booted .....	95	94	NA	NA
Headed .....	83	80	92	95
Coloring.....	30	14	29	56
Harvested.....	5	2	7	4
Canola				
Blooming.....	82	78	83	NA
Coloring.....	68	41	41	52
Harvested.....	3	--	1	3
Dry edible beans				
Blooming.....	92	72	95	NA
Dry peas				
Harvested.....	13	3	7	18
Durum wheat				
Headed .....	99	86	91	91
Coloring.....	57	31	44	36
Harvested.....	2	--	NA	NA
Flaxseed				
Blooming.....	94	66	94	NA
Coloring.....	57	29	30	30
Lentils				
Harvested.....	2	--	1	12
Mustard seed				
Coloring.....	67	38	49	46
Oats				
Booted .....	89	86	NA	NA
Headed .....	87	82	92	90
Coloring.....	76	52	43	40
Harvested.....	5	2	NA	NA
Other hay				
1 <sup>st</sup> cutting harvested.....	83	78	87	86
2 <sup>nd</sup> cutting harvested.....	13	8	5	NA
Safflower				
Blooming.....	46	38	56	59
Coloring.....	4	--	NA	NA
Spring wheat				
Headed .....	94	88	95	94
Coloring.....	61	34	35	44
Harvested.....	2	--	1	3
Winter wheat				
Coloring.....	82	78	87	NA
Harvested.....	22	3	16	19

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 .....	7.0	7.0	7.0	6.9
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	6	6	16	27
Short .....	53	44	49	33
Adequate.....	41	50	35	39
Surplus.....	--	--	--	1
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	16	7	16	27
Short .....	46	46	48	35
Adequate.....	38	47	36	37
Surplus.....	--	--	--	1

NA – not available

(--) – zero

**CROP, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION**

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
<b>Barley</b>				
Very poor .....	--	--	--	8
Poor .....	7	5	5	17
Fair.....	29	23	60	29
Good .....	62	71	25	33
Excellent .....	2	1	10	13
<b>Canola</b>				
Very poor .....	--	--	1	4
Poor .....	2	1	1	12
Fair.....	35	30	41	31
Good .....	55	64	49	42
Excellent .....	8	5	8	11
<b>Corn</b>				
Very poor .....	1	1	--	4
Poor .....	9	5	9	10
Fair.....	34	34	25	23
Good .....	54	58	62	57
Excellent .....	2	2	4	6
<b>Dry peas</b>				
Very poor .....	--	--	1	11
Poor .....	1	--	2	12
Fair.....	27	18	24	26
Good .....	68	77	69	46
Excellent .....	4	5	4	5
<b>Durum wheat</b>				
Very poor .....	--	--	--	11
Poor .....	6	6	24	15
Fair.....	33	31	49	30
Good .....	58	61	24	38
Excellent .....	3	2	3	6
<b>Lentils</b>				
Very poor .....	--	--	--	8
Poor .....	1	1	24	14
Fair.....	24	19	36	32
Good .....	70	74	38	41
Excellent .....	5	6	2	5
<b>Mustard seed</b>				
Very poor .....	--	--	1	1
Poor .....	6	5	9	10
Fair.....	8	6	29	51
Good .....	85	88	59	35
Excellent .....	1	1	2	3
<b>Pasture and range</b>				
Very poor .....	9	4	2	19
Poor .....	21	17	17	15
Fair.....	45	40	42	26
Good .....	24	33	32	34
Excellent .....	1	6	7	6
<b>Safflower</b>				
Very poor .....	1	1	--	6
Poor .....	5	7	--	12
Fair.....	57	57	36	33
Good .....	36	34	64	47
Excellent .....	1	1	--	2
<b>Spring wheat</b>				
Very poor .....	--	--	--	10
Poor .....	4	5	12	18
Fair.....	27	19	53	28
Good .....	63	71	31	38
Excellent .....	6	5	4	6
<b>Winter wheat</b>				
Very poor .....	1	--	--	7
Poor .....	4	6	6	16
Fair.....	40	47	52	36
Good .....	44	35	20	24
Excellent .....	11	12	22	17

\*Current 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/](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Quick_Stats/)

NA – not available

(--) – zero