



Crop Weather Report

Issue: 12-03
Issued: Weekly: Apr-Oct
Monthly: Nov-Mar

Montana Field Office · 10 W 15th St, Suite 3100 · Helena, MT 59626
(406) 441-1240 · (406) 441-1250 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov/mt

Released: March 26, 2012
For the Month Ending:
March 31, 2012

Weather Summary

Spring-like conditions came to most of Montana during the month of March with many stations seeing temperatures in the 60s and 70s. The average low temperature was in the upper 30s to mid 40s degrees at most reporting stations. Lakeview received the highest amount of precipitation for the month with 3.37 inches of moisture. Most other station reported receiving 0.01 of an inch to 2.77 inches of moisture in March. High temperatures ranged from the upper 50s to upper 70s, with the state-wide high temperature of 83 degrees recorded at Broadus. A majority of stations reported lows in the teens and below, the coldest being West Yellowstone at -18 degrees, followed by Cooke City with -12 degrees in March.

The weather outlook for April 2nd through April 8th is for above normal temperatures and above normal precipitation on both east and west sides of the Great Divide. Normal temperatures for this period in Montana are highs in the lower 40s to mid 50s, with lows in the upper teens to the lower 30s.

Topsoil moisture adequate and surplus is 61 percent compared with 97 percent last year. Subsoil moisture also declined with 57 percent adequate and surplus compared to 91 percent last year.

According to the NRCS report on March 7, 2012, snow water content state-wide was 95 percent of average and 113 percent of last year. West of the Continental Divide mountain snow water content was 97 percent of average and 115 percent of last year. East of the Continental Divide mountain snow water content was 90 percent of average and 111 percent of last year.

Livestock Report

Early spring grazing conditions are 79 percent open, far above last year's 18 percent. The need to provide supplemental feed has remained mostly steady from last month and slightly lower from the previous year to 92 percent of cattle and 90 percent of sheep. Livestock birthing has continued slightly behind last year with 41 percent calving completed and 24 percent lambing completed.

Range & Livestock Table	This Month	Last Month	Last Year
Livestock Birthing			
Calving Complete	41	14	44
Lambing Complete	24	6	31
Livestock Grazing			
Open	79	63	18
Difficult	6	18	33
Closed	15	19	49
Livestock Receiving Supplemental Feed			
Cattle and Calves	92	91	95
Sheep and Lambs	90	91	92

Soil Moisture Table	This Month	Last Month	Last Year
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	6	14	0
Short	33	39	3
Adequate	57	46	68
Surplus	4	1	29
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	7	14	1
Short	36	38	8
Adequate	50	44	80
Surplus	7	4	11

Field Crops Report

Winter wheat condition is rated 28 percent good to excellent, compared to 64 percent good to excellent from last March as dry, windy conditions continued and accumulation of precipitation was scattered throughout the state. Wind damage was 27 percent moderate to heavy compared to last year's 2 percent. Winter wheat is showing signs of spring with 28% of greening, ahead of last year's 8%, 10% green & growing, and 62% remains dormant.

Crop Condition Table	This Month	Last Month	Last Year
Winter Wheat			
Very Poor	3	2	0
Poor	12	10	3
Fair	57	64	33
Good	25	22	60
Excellent	3	2	4
Winter Wheat – Wind Damage			
None	48	46	69
Light	25	19	29
Moderate	24	32	1
Heavy	3	3	1
Winter Wheat – Freeze and Drought Damage			
None	60	55	71
Light	31	31	26
Moderate	8	13	3
Heavy	1	1	0
Winter Wheat – Protectiveness of Snow Cover			
Very Poor	59	69	8
Poor	33	23	29
Fair	6	6	26
Good	2	2	36
Excellent	0	0	1
Winter Wheat Spring Stages			
Still Dormant	62	na	92
Greening	28	na	8
Green & Growing	10	na	0

*******Special Publication Notice*******

Starting with next Monday's publication, NASS will begin publishing weekly Crop Weather Reports each Monday through October for the 2012 crop season.

Weather Information for the month ending 03/31/2012

Station	Temperature				Precipitation March			Precipitation October 1 to date		
	Hi	Low	Avg	DFN	Total	DFN	% Nrm	Total	DFN	% Nrm
NORTHWEST										
Alberton	67	16	37	+0	1.53	+0.75	196	9.77	+4.19	175
Anaconda	62	7	37	+4	1.86	+1.04	227	6.14	+1.95	147
Clinton	63	15	39	+7	1.76	+1.13	279	7.80	+0.44	106
Corvallis	68	17	39	+2	0.93	+0.42	182	5.08	+0.98	124
Creston	63	21	38	+4	1.10	+0.08	108	5.85	-2.10	74
Deer Lodge	69	7	35	+2	1.11	+0.71	278	3.13	+0.76	132
Drummond	66	14	38	+3	1.27	+0.69	219	4.89	+0.53	112
Hamilton	69	18	39	+2	0.85	+0.12	116	7.45	+1.82	132
Kalispell	64	15	37	+3	1.35	+0.43	147	6.81	-0.83	89
Missoula	64	20	38	+2	0.84	+0.06	108	6.74	+1.16	121
Olney	59	4	30	-1	1.91	+0.83	177	11.77	+0.17	101
Polson	63	20	38	+2	1.14	+0.33	141	6.72	+0.49	108
St Ignatius	66	20	39	+2	0.83	-0.10	89	7.68	+1.68	128
Seeley Lake	61	4	34	+3	1.97	+0.89	182	14.22	+2.86	125
Sula	64	11	38	+6	1.92	+1.16	253	8.99	+3.12	153
Superior	67	17	40	+0	2.38	+1.36	233	12.39	+4.28	153
Swan Lake	51	17	32	-1	0.91	-0.70	57	8.69	-7.57	53
Thompson Falls	67	20	39	-2	2.77	+1.31	190	14.18	+0.95	107
West Glacier	58	20	36	+4	1.51	+0.00	100	14.33	-0.99	94
NORTH CENTRAL										
Chester	66	4	36	+5	1.56	+1.16	390	4.14	+1.86	182
Chinook	70	8	37	+7	1.32	+0.87	293	2.84	-0.12	96
Choteau	67	10	39	+5	0.51	+0.26	204	3.12	+1.43	185
Cut Bank	64	6	36	+7	0.33	-0.11	75	3.30	+0.96	141
Ft Assiniboine	69	10	38	+7	0.66	+0.16	132	1.76	-1.33	57
Fort Benton	71	10	40	+4	0.74	+0.06	109	3.39	-0.11	97
Goldbutte	64	3	37	+7	0.82	+0.29	155	4.87	+1.90	164
Harlem	69	10	37	+6	0.99	+0.72	367	3.28	+0.92	139
Havre	70	10	39	+9	0.57	+0.00	100	1.86	-1.14	62
Malta	72	11	42	+13	0.04	-0.44	8	2.80	-0.05	98
Rudyard	69	7	36	+5	0.40	+0.06	118	1.98	+0.22	113
Shelby	66	5	35	+4	0.74	+0.24	148	3.58	+0.79	128
Turner	68	4	38	+9	0.49	+0.16	148	2.80	+0.60	127
Valier	64	3	36	+4	0.37	-0.02	95	2.63	+0.42	119
NORTHEAST										
Bredette	73	4	39	+11	0.48	+0.10	126	2.96	+0.65	128
Culbertson	78	-7	41	+12	0.30	-0.08	79	1.65	-0.93	64
Glasgow	75	4	41	+12	0.27	-0.09	75	2.98	+0.53	122
Glendive	78	10	45	+14	0.01	-0.42	2	1.72	-1.35	56
Jordan	75	16	42	+10	0.18	-0.32	36	2.80	-0.41	87
Nashua	76	-3	42	+9	0.18	-0.11	62	2.52	+0.34	116
Opheim	69	-5	37	+12	0.10	-0.22	31	1.19	-0.89	57
Plentywood	76	1	38	+10	0.05	-0.45	10	3.15	+0.49	118
St Marie	71	6	40	+11	0.13	-0.23	36	1.61	-0.84	66
Scobey	74	4	39	+13	0.07	-0.36	16	2.45	+0.29	113
Sidney	79	4	44	+12	0.03	-0.42	7	1.27	-2.10	38
Wolf Point	77	4	41	+11	0.04	-0.35	10	1.57	-0.97	62
CENTRAL										
Cascade	65	1	38	+6	0.96	+0.40	171	4.43	+1.07	132
Grass Range	72	11	42	+9	0.44	-0.33	57	4.65	+0.59	115
Great Falls	68	12	41	+9	1.10	+0.31	139	4.46	+0.27	106
Harlowton	69	8	39	+6	0.59	+0.03	105	4.53	+1.33	142
Helena	68	16	40	+6	0.82	+0.32	164	4.01	+0.99	133
Lewistown	65	5	38	+7	0.65	-0.28	70	5.11	+0.06	101
Martinsdale	68	8	39	+7	0.72	+0.17	131	3.64	+0.48	115
Neihart	62	10	38	+6	0.75	-0.33	69	7.62	+1.50	125
Rogers Pass	62	10	37	+5	1.05	+0.15	117	6.52	+1.54	131
Roundup	76	9	46	+10	0.59	+0.11	123	4.36	+1.25	140
Ryegate	72	10	38	+7	0.48	+0.02	104	3.52	+0.50	117
Stanford	66	8	39	+6	0.58	-0.18	76	4.03	-0.21	95
Townsend	71	7	40	+4	0.68	+0.25	158	2.50	+0.13	105
Valentine	72	11	39	+8	0.22	-0.34	39	3.39	+0.12	104
Wht Sulphur Spr	62	6	38	+7	0.74	+0.07	110	2.30	-1.14	67
SOUTHWEST										
Boulder	65	8	38	+6	2.40	+1.99	585	4.40	+1.68	162
Bozeman	65	9	40	+7	0.88	+0.01	101	3.71	-1.15	76
Butte	60	1	35	+6	1.06	+0.40	161	2.58	-1.02	72
Dillon	62	0	38	+5	0.99	+0.57	236	2.37	+0.25	112
Ennis	64	-4	38	+4	1.20	+0.50	171	3.92	+0.19	105
Lakeview	64	-7	30	+7	3.37	+1.93	234	8.83	+1.76	125
W Yellowstone	58	-18	24	-1	2.56	+1.24	194	12.01	+1.74	117
Wisdom	65	-10	31	+6	1.89	+1.39	378	5.98	+2.08	153
SOUTH CENTRAL										
Billings	73	16	46	+10	0.70	-0.17	80	3.91	-1.06	79
Cooke City	57	-12	28	+5	1.43	-0.21	87	9.19	-2.47	79
Gardiner	70	5	39	+4	1.72	+1.21	337	8.54	+5.47	278
Hardin	76	5	46	+10	0.58	+0.07	114	4.04	+0.20	105
Huntley	78	8	43	+9	0.44	-0.25	64	3.77	-0.40	90
Hysham	75	15	46	+11	0.05	-0.60	8	3.15	-0.61	84
Joliet	74	2	40	+5	0.36	-0.63	36	2.98	-2.30	56
Livingston	68	6	44	+9	0.51	-0.14	78	3.39	-0.90	79
Nye	67	-3	43	+7	1.45	+0.59	169	6.78	+1.76	135
Rapelje	72	9	43	+9	0.44	-0.36	55	2.97	-1.51	66
SOUTHEAST										
Albion	77	13	44	+15	0.00	-0.36	0	1.97	-0.92	68
Baker	77	9	43	+12	0.12	-0.48	20	2.19	-1.68	57
Broadus	83	20	47	+12	0.10	-0.55	15	2.66	-1.24	68
Ekalaka	74	13	44	+13	0.04	-0.55	7	3.11	-1.55	67
Miles City	79	20	46	+13	0.01	-0.41	2	1.86	-1.51	55
Plevna	76	13	44	+13	0.02	-0.58	3	2.31	-1.56	60

Compiled by AWIS, Inc. based on NWS data. DFN - Departure from normal 1971-2000.