

ARIZONA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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 Cooperating with the Arizona Department of Agriculture



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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION MONTH OF DECEMBER 2024

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: By month’s end, 99 percent of Arizona cotton had been harvested, unchanged from the previous year’s levels, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Twelve percent of the State’s barley had been planted, and 10 percent of the crop had emerged. Similarly, 9 percent of Arizona’s Durum wheat had been planted, of which 6 percent had emerged. Planting and emergence of the State’s barley and Durum wheat crop were both significantly behind the previous year’s levels. Alfalfa hay harvest continued to take place on about 45 percent of the crop’s acreage throughout the State. Arizona’s alfalfa crop was rated in mostly good to excellent condition, with only 4 percent of the crop rated fair. Pasture and range conditions throughout the State improved slightly when compared to that of the previous report. Nineteen percent of the State’s pasture and rangeland was rated very poor, 39 percent was rated poor, 18 percent was rated fair, 22 percent was rated good, and 2 percent was rated excellent. Topsoil moisture levels remained mostly adequate, with 21 percent rated very short, 23 percent rated short, and 56 percent rated adequate. Subsoil moisture levels followed a similar trend.

Throughout the month of December, measurable precipitation was lacking across much of the State; however, according to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) data, northern areas of the Defiance and Shivwits Plateau, as well as the Chuska Mountains, accumulated anywhere from trace amounts to 0.30 inch of total precipitation. The drought information statement for south-central Arizona, southwest Arizona, and southeast California remained in effect and was updated on December 21, 2024, in response to the driest monsoon and hottest summer-fall on record. The seasonal mean temperature and total precipitation outlooks for January, February, and March 2025 were issued by the National Weather Service on December 19, 2024. The seasonal mean temperature outlook continues to show that temperatures will likely be above normal for the entirety of the State, with the eastern two-thirds of Arizona having a higher probability of experiencing warmer temperatures than the remaining third of the State. Similarly, the seasonal total precipitation outlook continues to show that precipitation will likely be below normal for the entirety of the State, with southeastern regions having a higher probability of experiencing below average precipitation than remaining areas of the State. Arizona’s seasonal drought outlook was updated on December 31, 2024. The outlook now shows that conditions are expected to persist throughout all areas of the State that were affected by moderate drought (D1) or higher on December 24, 2024. Drought is now expected to develop across all remaining areas of the State. Streamflow conditions throughout Arizona deteriorated significantly when compared to that of the previous report. As of December 31, 2024, the U.S. Drought Monitor showed a deterioration in conditions when compared to that of the previous report. Abnormally dry conditions (D0) bounded 20 percent of the State, moderate drought (D1) enveloped 33 percent, severe drought (D2) encompassed 30 percent, and extreme drought (D3) spanned 14 percent of the State’s total land area. Arizona once again remained free of exceptional (D4) drought. Throughout the month of December, temperatures were at or above normal according to the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). Daytime highs throughout Arizona ranged from 3 to 14 degrees above normal and ranged from the mid-30’s in northern Apache County to the high 70’s across south-central regions of the State. Overnight lows ranged from 8 degrees below to 8 degrees above normal and ranged from 13 to 35 degrees across northern and eastern counties, whereas counties within the Sonoran Desert experienced lows of 40 to 55 degrees Fahrenheit.

Note: Monthly reports will be released for January on February 3, 2025; and for February on March 3, 2025.

CROP PROGRESS

Commodity	Current report (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Barley				
Planted	12	NA	25	NA
Emerg ed.....	10	NA	25	NA
Cotton				
Harvested.....	99	78	99	NA
Durum wheat				
Planted	9	NA	20	NA
Emerg ed.....	6	NA	18	NA

NA – not available
 (–) – zero

SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

	Current report	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Topsoil moisture				
Very short.....	21	7	18	NA
Short	23	14	23	NA
Adequate.....	56	78	59	NA
Surplus.....	--	1	--	NA
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	19	7	23	NA
Short	22	13	18	NA
Adequate.....	59	79	59	NA
Surplus.....	--	1	--	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP, PASTURE, AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current report	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	NA
Poor.....	--	--	2	NA
Fair	4	7	20	NA
Good	27	32	32	NA
Excellent.....	69	61	46	NA
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	19	42	23	NA
Poor.....	39	33	31	NA
Fair	18	13	35	NA
Good	22	10	11	NA
Excellent.....	2	2	--	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero