

ARIZONA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING JULY 14, 2024

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: By week’s end, 80 percent of Arizona cotton had set bolls, and 31 percent of bolls had opened, up 25 and 26 percentage points, respectively, from the State’s 5-year average, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Arizona cotton was rated in mostly good to excellent condition, with only 1 percent of the crop rated poor. Alfalfa hay harvest continued to take place on more than 75 percent of the crop’s acreage throughout the State. Arizona’s alfalfa crop was rated in mostly good to excellent condition, with only 21 percent of the crop rated fair to poor. Pasture and range conditions throughout the State improved slightly when compared to that of the previous report. Forty-one percent of the State’s pasture and rangeland was rated very poor, 14 percent was rated poor, 24 percent was rated fair, and 21 percent was rated good. Reports from Navajo and Apache Counties stated that ranchers have continued to transport feed and water to rangeland livestock, and that recent precipitation has had minimal effect on grazing conditions. As of July 7, the National Drought Mitigation Center’s Vegetation Drought Response Index (VegDRI) showed that the vegetative conditions of northern rangelands generally improved when compared to that of the conditions reported on June 9. Contrastingly, the vegetative conditions of southern rangelands generally deteriorated when compared to the same report. The vegetative condition of northwestern rangelands was rated from near normal to severe drought, whereas conditions were rated from very moist to severe drought throughout northeastern and southwestern areas of the State. Rangeland vegetative conditions throughout southeastern counties continued to deteriorate, and were rated from near normal to severe drought. Topsoil moisture levels remained mostly adequate, with 15 percent rated very short, 2 percent rated short, 76 percent rated adequate, and 7 percent rated surplus. Subsoil moisture levels followed a similar trend.

Over the past week, measurable precipitation was experienced across much of the State, however, northeastern and southwestern areas of the State were the exception and remained relatively dry. According to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) data, the Juniper Mountains and the Chino Valley received the most precipitation, accumulating approximately 2.50 inches while other areas of the State received anywhere from trace amounts to 1.50 inches of total precipitation. The seasonal mean temperature outlook continues to show that temperatures will likely be above normal for the entirety of the State, with northern and eastern regions having a higher probability of experiencing hotter temperatures than southern and western areas. The seasonal total precipitation outlook continues to show that precipitation will likely be below normal for the entirety of the State, with the eastern third of Arizona having a higher probability of experiencing below average precipitation than the western two-thirds of the State. The seasonal drought outlook continues to show that conditions are expected to persist throughout all areas of the State that were affected by moderate drought (D1) or higher on June 25. Additionally, drought is expected to develop across all areas of the State apart from the Sonoran Desert. Despite the precipitation received, streamflow conditions have deteriorated across the State as monsoonal weather patterns have weakened. Many portions of Arizona’s river basins are now rated from normal to below normal, however, the Salt River Basin has been affected the most as its entirety is rated below normal. Contrastingly, streamflow conditions in the Santa Cruz River Basin continue to be rated above normal. As of July 9, the U.S. Drought Monitor showed a slight improvement in conditions when compared to that of the previous report. Abnormally dry conditions (D0) spanned 48 percent of the State, moderate drought (D1) enveloped 16 percent, and severe drought (D2) encompassed 2 percent of the State’s total land area. Arizona once again remained free of extreme (D3) and exceptional (D4) drought. Temperatures across much of the State were above normal according to the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). Daytime highs throughout Arizona ranged from 2 to 10 degrees above normal and ranged from the low 80’s in southern Apache County to well over 100 degrees across southwestern regions of the State. Overnight lows ranged from 6 degrees below to 9 degrees above normal and ranged from 50 to 75 degrees across northern and eastern counties, whereas southwestern counties experienced lows of 80 to 93 degrees Fahrenheit.

CROP PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Cotton				
Setting Bolls.....	80	71	50	55
Bolls Opening.....	31	9	8	5

NA – not available

(--) – zero

DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
Days suitable for fieldwork	7.0	7.0	7.0	6.8
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	15	14	7	8
Short	2	4	11	13
Adequate.....	76	78	81	77
Surplus.....	7	4	1	2
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	14	14	11	9
Short	2	7	8	12
Adequate.....	76	75	80	76
Surplus.....	8	4	1	3

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP, PASTURE, AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	--
Poor.....	6	4	--	1
Fair.....	15	20	6	12
Good	27	32	39	42
Excellent.....	52	44	55	45
Cotton				
Very poor.....	--	--	1	--
Poor.....	1	--	1	2
Fair	--	--	8	13
Good	35	44	41	58
Excellent.....	64	56	49	27
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	41	39	15	26
Poor.....	14	17	24	22
Fair	24	32	32	31
Good	21	12	20	19
Excellent.....	--	--	9	2

NA – not available

(--) – zero