

# ARIZONA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture  
**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE**  
**ARIZONA FIELD OFFICE**  
 P.O. BOX 150969 · Lakewood, CO 80215-0969  
 Cooperating with the Arizona Department of Agriculture



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Contact: Rodger Ott  
 (800) 392-3202

## CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING JULY 21, 2024

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** By week’s end, 88 percent of Arizona cotton had set bolls, and 42 percent of bolls had opened, up 17 and 32 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 when compared to that of the previous report. Twenty-seven percent of the State’s pasture and rangeland was rated very poor, 14 percent was rated poor, 26 percent was rated fair, 28 percent was rated good, and 5 percent was rated excellent. Reports from Navajo and Apache Counties continue to state that recent precipitation has had minimal effect on grazing conditions and that stock water levels are approximately at 10 percent. Reports from southeastern counties have expressed variable rainfall observances, however, warm-season forages were greening as a result of recent precipitation. As of July 9, the National Drought Mitigation Center’s Grass Productivity Forecast (Grass-Cast) showed that native forage production for northeastern and southwestern counties is generally expected to be 5 to 15 percent less than the area’s 36-year average apart from southern Coconino, western Gila, and northern Apache Counties where production is expected to be near normal. Native forage production for northern Pinal, eastern Graham, northeast Cochise, and western areas of Yavapai and Pima Counties is expected to be at least 30 percent less than the area’s 36-year average. Native forage production for all remaining areas is expected to be 15 to 30 percent less than the area’s 36-year average. Topsoil moisture levels remained mostly adequate, with 11 percent rated very short, 4 percent rated short, 84 percent rated adequate, and 1 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 were the exception and remained relatively dry. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the mountainous areas surrounding the San Pedro Valley in addition to the Pajarito Mountains received the most precipitation, accumulating approximately 3.50 inches while other areas of the State received anywhere from trace amounts to 1.75 inches. The seasonal mean temperature and total precipitation outlooks for August, September, and October were issued by the National Weather Service on July 18. The seasonal mean temperature outlook continues to show that temperatures will likely be above normal for the entirety of Arizona, with far northern regions having a higher probability of experiencing hotter temperatures than the remainder 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. Arizona’s seasonal drought outlook was also updated on July 18. The 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 western Mohave County, the Sonoran Desert, and the Colorado Plateau. As monsoonal weather patterns have once again gained traction, streamflow conditions throughout the State have improved slightly. Many portions of Arizona’s river basins continue to be rated from normal to below normal, however, streamflow in the Verde, Gila, and San Pedro River Basins has improved the most. Contrastingly, the Salt River Basin’s streamflow condition continues to be rated below normal. As of July 16, the U.S. Drought Monitor showed no change when compared to that of the previous report. Abnormally dry conditions (D0) spanned 48 percent of the State, moderate drought (D1) encompassed 16 percent, and severe drought (D2) enveloped 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 at or above normal according to the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). Daytime highs throughout Arizona ranged from 1 degree below to 5 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 45 to 75 degrees across northern and eastern counties, whereas counties within the Sonoran Desert experienced lows of 80 to 95 degrees Fahrenheit.

### CROP PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Cotton				
Setting Bolls.....	88	80	59	71
Bolls Opening.....	42	31	11	10

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 .....	6.8	7.0	7.0	6.6
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	11	15	10	9
Short .....	4	2	16	10
Adequate.....	84	76	73	77
Surplus.....	1	7	1	4
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	11	14	8	9
Short .....	5	2	17	9
Adequate.....	83	76	74	77
Surplus.....	1	8	1	5

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.....	5	6	--	5
Fair.....	16	15	5	12
Good .....	36	27	41	39
Excellent.....	43	52	54	44
Cotton				
Very poor.....	--	--	1	1
Poor.....	1	1	--	3
Fair.....	--	--	--	13
Good .....	64	35	50	54
Excellent.....	35	64	49	29
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	27	41	14	25
Poor.....	14	14	20	21
Fair.....	26	24	37	34
Good .....	28	21	24	18
Excellent.....	5	--	5	2

NA – not available

(-) – zero