

ARIZONA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING JULY 28, 2024

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: By week’s end, 91 percent of Arizona cotton had set bolls, and 51 percent of bolls had opened, up 9 and 36 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 3 percent of the crop rated fair to very 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 19 percent of the crop rated fair to poor. Pasture and range conditions throughout the State improved when compared to that of the previous report. Fifteen percent of the State’s pasture and rangeland was rated very poor, 10 percent was rated poor, 35 percent was rated fair, 32 percent was rated good, and 8 percent was rated excellent. As of July 21, the National Drought Mitigation Center’s Vegetation Drought Response Index (VegDRI) showed that the vegetative conditions of northern rangelands generally deteriorated when compared to the conditions reported on July 7. Similarly, the vegetative conditions of southern rangelands also generally deteriorated when compared to the same report. The vegetative condition of northwestern rangelands was rated from pre-drought stress to severe drought, whereas conditions were rated from near-normal to unusually moist throughout south-central and southwestern areas of the State. Rangeland vegetative conditions throughout north and southeastern counties deteriorated and were rated from unusually moist to severe drought. This deterioration was largely driven by a shift from near-normal ratings to pre-drought stress. Topsoil moisture levels remained mostly adequate, with 7 percent rated very short, 8 percent rated short, 75 percent rated adequate, and 10 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 western areas were the exception and remained relatively dry. According to data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the southern Santa Cruz Valley in addition to the Pajarito and Cimarron Mountains received the most precipitation, accumulating approximately 2.75 inches while other areas of the State received anywhere from trace amounts to 1.25 inches of total precipitation. 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 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. Although monsoonal weather patterns have persisted, streamflow conditions throughout the State have remained relatively static. Many portions of Arizona’s river basins continue to be rated from normal to below normal, however, streamflow in the Upper Verde and Gila River Basins have deteriorated when compared to that of the previous report. Contrastingly, the San Pedro and Santa Cruz River Basin’s streamflow conditions have improved and are now rated from normal to much above normal. As of July 23, 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) 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 at or above normal according to the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). Daytime highs throughout Arizona ranged from 2 degrees below to 8 degrees above normal and ranged from the mid 70’s in northern Greenlee 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 southwestern counties 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.....	91	88	73	82
Bolls Opening.....	51	42	19	15

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	6.3	6.8	7.0	6.4
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	7	11	8	6
Short	8	4	12	12
Adequate.....	75	84	79	76
Surplus.....	10	1	1	6
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	8	11	7	6
Short	7	5	11	11
Adequate.....	76	83	81	78
Surplus.....	9	1	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.....	--	--	1	--
Poor.....	3	5	2	5
Fair.....	16	16	13	17
Good	23	36	32	36
Excellent.....	58	43	52	42
Cotton				
Very poor.....	1	--	1	1
Poor.....	1	1	1	3
Fair.....	1	--	5	15
Good	38	64	41	50
Excellent.....	59	35	52	31
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	15	27	17	24
Poor.....	10	14	21	19
Fair.....	35	26	39	33
Good	32	28	19	19
Excellent.....	8	5	4	5

NA – not available

(-) – zero