

# ARIZONA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture  
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## CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING AUGUST 4, 2024

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** By week’s end, 96 percent of Arizona cotton had set bolls, and 57 percent of bolls had opened, up 6 and 34 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 good to excellent condition, with 56 percent rated good and 44 percent rated excellent. 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 22 percent of the crop rated fair to poor. Pasture and range conditions throughout the State deteriorated when compared to that of the previous report. Thirty-one percent of the State’s pasture and rangeland was rated very poor, 13 percent was rated poor, 29 percent was rated fair, 24 percent was rated good, and 3 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 ranchers have continued to transport feed to rangeland livestock. As of July 22, 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 south-central Coconino, north-west Gila, and southern Apache Counties where production is expected to be 5 to 30 percent more than the area’s 36-year average. Native forage production for northern Yavapai, western Pima, eastern Cochise, south-eastern Graham, and northern Pinal Counties is expected to be at least 30 percent less than the area’s 36-year average. Native forage production for all remaining areas of the State is expected to be 15 to 30 percent less than the area’s 36-year average. Topsoil moisture levels remained mostly adequate, with 16 percent rated very short, 2 percent rated short, 79 percent rated adequate, and 3 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, far western, and central areas were the exception and remained relatively dry. According to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) data, the Gu Oidak Valley in addition to the Puerto Blanco and Mule Mountains received the most precipitation, accumulating approximately 2.75 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 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 remained steady, streamflow conditions throughout the State have slightly deteriorated when compared to that of the previous report. Many portions of Arizona’s river basins are now rated from much below normal to normal given that monsoonal systems have not settled over the State’s major watersheds. Streamflow conditions in many portions of the Salt, Verde, Gila, and Lower Colorado River Basins are now rated below normal while conditions in the Santa Cruz, San Pedro, and Whitewater Draw River Basins remain normal. As of July 30, 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). Reports from Mohave and La Paz Counties stated that the area has continued to experience excessive heat. Daytime highs throughout Arizona ranged from 2 degrees below to 8 degrees above normal and ranged from the mid 70’s in southern Apache County to well over 100 degrees across southwestern regions of the State. Overnight lows ranged from 3 degrees below to 5 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.....	96	91	92	90
Bolls Opening.....	57	51	34	23

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 .....	6.5	6.3	6.6	6.7
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	16	7	17	8
Short .....	2	8	10	12
Adequate.....	79	75	72	76
Surplus.....	3	10	1	4
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	17	8	11	7
Short .....	2	7	9	12
Adequate.....	81	76	79	77
Surplus.....	--	9	1	4

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	1
Poor.....	3	3	5	4
Fair.....	19	16	9	15
Good .....	32	23	39	39
Excellent.....	46	58	46	41
Cotton				
Very poor.....	--	1	2	1
Poor.....	--	1	1	2
Fair .....	--	1	5	14
Good .....	56	38	49	54
Excellent.....	44	59	43	29
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	31	15	18	21
Poor.....	13	10	29	20
Fair .....	29	35	30	35
Good .....	24	32	20	20
Excellent.....	3	8	3	4

NA – not available  
 (--) – zero