

# ARIZONA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture  
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## CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING AUGUST 18, 2024

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** By week’s end, 65 percent of Arizona cotton had opened bolls, up 22 percentage points 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 deteriorated when compared to that of the previous report. Thirty percent of the State’s pasture and rangeland was rated very poor, 22 percent was rated poor, 30 percent was rated fair, 4 percent was rated good, and 14 percent was rated excellent. Corroborating reports from eastern counties stated that precipitation has been extremely variable in both accumulation and concentration. Recent precipitation in northeastern counties continues to have minimal effect on grazing conditions, however, some areas are experiencing new forage growth. Additionally, ranchers throughout Navajo and Apache Counties continue to transport feed and water to rangeland livestock. As of August 11, the National Drought Mitigation Center’s Vegetation Drought Response Index (VegDRI) showed that the vegetative conditions of rangelands generally deteriorated when compared to that of the conditions reported on July 21. The vegetative conditions of northern rangelands deteriorated and was rated from pre-drought stress to extreme drought with the worst conditions concentrated in northeastern Mohave County. Contrastingly, the vegetative conditions of southwestern rangelands remained relatively static and was rated from severe drought to extremely moist with the worst conditions concentrated along the Gila River in Maricopa County. Rangeland vegetative conditions throughout southeastern counties slightly deteriorated and was rated from unusually moist to severe drought with the worst conditions dispersed throughout Cochise County. Topsoil moisture levels remained mostly adequate, with 9 percent rated very short, 6 percent rated short, 83 percent rated adequate, and 2 percent rated surplus. Subsoil moisture levels followed a similar trend.

Over the past week, measurable precipitation was experienced across much of the State, however, far northeastern and western areas were the exception and remained relatively dry. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the eastern San Francisco and Moenkopi Plateaus in addition to the Santa Teresa Mountains received the most precipitation, accumulating approximately 2.50 inches while other areas of the State received anywhere from trace amounts to 1.25 inches of total precipitation. The seasonal mean temperature and total precipitation outlooks for September, October, and November were issued by the National Weather Service on August 15. 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 southwestern areas. Similarly, the seasonal total precipitation outlook now shows that precipitation is leaning below normal for the entirety of the State. Arizona’s seasonal drought outlook was also updated on August 15. 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 August 6. Additionally, drought is now expected to develop across southern Apache County. As monsoonal weather patterns have remained steady, streamflow conditions throughout the State have slightly improved when compared to that of the previous report. Many portions of Arizona’s river basins continue to be rated from much below normal to normal given that monsoonal systems have just begun to settle over the State’s major watersheds. Streamflow conditions in many portions of the Salt, Gila, and Lower Colorado River Basins continue to be rated below normal while conditions in the Verde, Little, and Upper Colorado River Basins remain normal. As of August 13, the U.S. Drought Monitor showed no change when compared to that of the previous report. Abnormally dry conditions (D0) spanned 62 percent of the State, moderate drought (D1) enveloped 19 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 along the Mogollon Rim to well over 100 degrees across southwestern regions of the State. Overnight lows ranged from 6 degrees below to 6 degrees above normal and ranged from 45 to 70 degrees across northern and eastern counties, whereas southwestern counties experienced lows of 75 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit.

### CROP PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Cotton Bolls Opening.....	65	64	52	43

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	7.0	6.6	6.2
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	9	7	7	6
Short .....	6	3	11	11
Adequate.....	83	88	80	79
Surplus.....	2	2	2	4
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	8	8	8	6
Short .....	5	3	9	11
Adequate.....	86	88	82	80
Surplus.....	1	1	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.....	--	--	1	1
Poor.....	3	1	3	4
Fair.....	18	15	9	17
Good .....	29	29	39	39
Excellent.....	50	55	48	39
Cotton				
Very poor.....	--	--	2	1
Poor.....	1	2	1	3
Fair.....	--	--	20	17
Good .....	38	47	33	48
Excellent.....	61	51	44	31
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	30	30	19	18
Poor.....	22	18	31	26
Fair.....	30	25	30	36
Good .....	4	15	18	16
Excellent.....	14	12	2	4

NA – not available

(--) – zero