

# ARIZONA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture  
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## CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING AUGUST 25, 2024

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** By week’s end, 71 percent of Arizona cotton had opened bolls, up 13 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 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 13 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. Twenty-five percent of the State’s pasture and rangeland was rated very poor, 27 percent was rated poor, 24 percent was rated fair, 11 percent was rated good, and 13 percent was rated excellent. Corroborating reports from eastern counties have 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 as run-off is evident and soil infiltration is minimal. Variable grazing conditions have been reported throughout southeastern counties as rangelands throughout Cochise County have experienced improvements in vegetative condition while rangelands in southern Graham and Greenlee Counties have not. As of August 20, the National Drought Mitigation Center’s Grass Productivity Forecast (Grass-Cast) showed that native forage production for southern Maricopa, east-central Cochise, and western areas of Pima and Pinal Counties is expected to be at least 30 percent less than the area’s 36-year average. Contrastingly, native forage production for south-central Coconino, northwest Cochise, northern Navajo, and the mountainous areas of Apache Counties is expected to be 5 to 30 percent more than the area’s 36-year average. Native forage production for northern Coconino, southwestern Yavapai, western Gila, southern Mohave, and central areas of Navajo, Apache, and Greenlee Counties is expected to be near normal. Native forage production for all remaining areas of the State is expected to be 5 to 30 percent less than the area’s 36-year average. Topsoil moisture levels remained mostly adequate, with 6 percent rated very short, 18 percent rated short, 72 percent rated adequate, and 4 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, central, and western areas were the exception and remained relatively dry. According to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) data, the Rincon and Chiricahua Mountains in addition to eastern portions of the Coconino Plateau received the most precipitation, accumulating approximately 3.25 inches while other areas of the State received anywhere from trace amounts to 2.00 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 southwestern areas. The seasonal total precipitation outlook continues to show that precipitation is leaning below normal for the entirety of the State. Similarly, 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 August 6. Drought is still 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 below normal given that monsoonal systems have not settled 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, Santa Cruz, San Pedro, Little, and Upper Colorado River Basins remain normal. As of August 20, 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) encompassed 19 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. Excluding northern areas of Coconino and Mohave Counties, 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 5 degrees below to 6 degrees above normal and ranged from the mid 60’s in southern Apache County to well over 100 degrees across southwestern regions of the State. Overnight lows ranged from 10 degrees below to 6 degrees above normal and ranged from 40 to 70 degrees across northern and eastern counties, whereas counties within the Sonoran Desert experienced lows of 75 to 85 degrees Fahrenheit.

### CROP PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Cotton Bolls Opening.....	71	65	57	58

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 .....	6.0	6.5	6.7	6.7
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	6	9	8	7
Short .....	18	6	13	8
Adequate.....	72	83	79	83
Surplus.....	4	2	--	2
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	6	8	6	7
Short .....	17	5	10	8
Adequate.....	74	86	83	84
Surplus.....	3	1	1	1

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.....	--	--	--	2
Poor.....	2	3	4	5
Fair.....	11	18	11	17
Good .....	38	29	43	41
Excellent.....	49	50	42	35
Cotton				
Very poor.....	1	--	1	--
Poor.....	1	1	2	3
Fair.....	1	--	22	17
Good .....	29	38	34	50
Excellent.....	68	61	41	30
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	25	30	20	15
Poor.....	27	22	33	26
Fair.....	24	30	31	36
Good .....	11	4	15	18
Excellent.....	13	14	1	5

NA – not available

(--) – zero