

# 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 SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** By week’s end, 80 percent of Arizona cotton had opened bolls, up 9 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 excellent condition, with only 21 percent of the crop rated good. Alfalfa hay harvest continued to take place on more than 65 percent of the crop’s acreage throughout the State. Arizona’s alfalfa crop was rated in mostly good to excellent condition, with only 10 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. Thirty percent of the State’s pasture and rangeland was rated very poor, 24 percent was rated poor, 15 percent was rated fair, 12 percent was rated good, and 19 percent was rated excellent. Reports from Navajo and Apache Counties continue to state that precipitation has been extremely variable in both accumulation and concentration. Recent precipitation received throughout both counties continues to have minimal effect on grazing conditions as rangeland and soil moisture levels continue to deteriorate. As of August 25, the National Drought Mitigation Center’s Vegetation Drought Response Index (VegDRI) showed that the vegetative conditions of rangelands generally improved when compared to that of the conditions reported on August 11. The vegetative conditions of northern rangelands improved and was rated from very moist to severe drought with the worst conditions remaining in northeastern Mohave County and the Juniper Mountains. Contrastingly, the vegetative conditions of southwestern rangelands slightly deteriorated and was rated from severe drought to very moist with the worst conditions reported along the Gila River in Maricopa County. Rangeland vegetative conditions throughout southeastern counties improved slightly and was rated from extremely moist to severe drought with the worst conditions dispersed throughout Cochise County. The improvements in rangeland vegetative condition throughout southeastern counties was mainly caused by a shift in rating from pre-drought stress to near normal levels. Topsoil moisture levels remained mostly adequate, with 4 percent rated very short, 31 percent rated short, 63 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, northern and southwestern areas were the exception and remained relatively dry. According to data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the mountainous areas surrounding the San Simon Valley, as well as areas along the Mogollon Rim, received the most precipitation, accumulating approximately 1.60 inches while other areas of the State received anywhere from trace amounts to 1.00 inch 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. Arizona’s seasonal drought outlook was adjusted on August 31 to account for the newly released monthly drought outlook for September. The seasonal 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 slowed, streamflow conditions throughout the State have deteriorated when compared to that of the previous report. Streamflow in many portions of the Salt, Gila, Verde, Little, and Lower Colorado River Basins are now rated below normal as many of the intermittent streams that feed them have experienced reduced streamflow. Streamflow conditions in the Santa Cruz, Whitewater Draw, and Upper Colorado River Basins remain normal. As of August 27, 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. Excluding west-central and eastern 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 4 degrees below to 5 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 5 degrees below to 5 degrees above normal and ranged from 45 to 65 degrees across northern and eastern counties, whereas southwestern counties experienced lows of 70 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit.

### CROP PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Cotton Bolls Opening.....	80	71	61	71

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	6.0	6.5	6.7
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	4	6	4	6
Short .....	31	18	12	8
Adequate.....	63	72	83	84
Surplus.....	2	4	1	2
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	3	6	4	6
Short .....	34	17	6	8
Adequate.....	62	74	89	85
Surplus.....	1	3	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.....	--	--	1	1
Poor.....	3	2	1	6
Fair.....	7	11	10	14
Good .....	36	38	38	39
Excellent.....	54	49	50	40
Cotton				
Very poor.....	--	1	2	--
Poor.....	--	1	1	2
Fair.....	--	1	22	13
Good .....	21	29	34	51
Excellent.....	79	68	41	34
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	30	25	19	12
Poor.....	24	27	31	24
Fair.....	15	24	33	39
Good .....	12	11	16	18
Excellent.....	19	13	1	7

NA – not available

(-) – zero