

ARIZONA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 8, 2024

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: By week’s end, 87 percent of Arizona cotton had opened bolls, and 9 percent of the crop had been harvested, up 9 and 5 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 about 60 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. Pasture and range conditions throughout the State improved slightly when compared to that of the previous report. Seventeen percent of the State’s pasture and rangeland was rated very poor, 18 percent was rated poor, 33 percent was rated fair, 10 percent was rated good, and 22 percent was rated excellent. On September 3, the National Drought Mitigation Center released its final Grass Productivity Forecast (Grass-Cast) for the 2024 growing season. The forecast showed that native forage production for western Pima, southern Maricopa, southeastern Graham, east-central Cochise, and northern Pinal Counties was at least 30 percent less than the area’s 36-year average. Contrastingly, native forage production for northeastern Pima, central Coconino, northern Navajo, the mountainous areas of Apache, and the remainder of Pinal Counties was 15 to 30 percent more than the area’s 36-year average. Native forage production for southern Yuma, south-central Cochise, southwestern Yavapai, southern Gila, central Navajo and Apache, and the remainder of Coconino Counties was normal. Native forage production for all remaining areas of the State was 5 to 30 percent less than the area’s 36-year average. Topsoil moisture levels remained mostly adequate, with 7 percent rated very short, 22 percent rated short, 66 percent rated adequate, and 5 percent rated surplus. Subsoil moisture levels followed a similar trend.

Over the past week, measurable precipitation was experienced across western and central areas of the State while northeastern and southern areas remained relatively dry. According to data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Hualapai and Bradshaw Mountains, in addition to the Parker Valley, received the most precipitation, accumulating approximately 1.50 inches while other areas of the State received anywhere from trace amounts to 0.75 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 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 development is still expected across southern Apache County. As monsoonal weather patterns continue to wane in strength, streamflow conditions throughout the State have slightly deteriorated when compared to that of the previous report. Streamflow in many portions of the Salt, Gila, Verde, Little, and Lower Colorado River Basins continues to be rated below normal as many of the intermittent streams that feed them have dried. Streamflow conditions in the Santa Cruz, Whitewater Draw, and Upper Colorado River Basins remains normal. As of September 3, the U.S. Drought Monitor showed a deterioration in conditions when compared to that of the previous report. Abnormally dry conditions (D0) spanned 50 percent of the State, moderate drought (D1) encompassed 30 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 areas along the New Mexico Border, 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 8 degrees above normal and ranged from the low 70’s in southern Apache County to well over 100 degrees across southwestern regions of the State. Overnight lows ranged from 6 degrees below to 8 degrees above normal and ranged from 35 to 65 degrees across northern and eastern counties, whereas counties within the Sonoran Desert experienced lows of 70 to 85 degrees Fahrenheit.

CROP PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Cotton				
Bolls Opening.....	87	80	66	78
Harvested.....	9	NA	9	4

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	7.0	6.0	7.0	6.9
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	7	4	8	8
Short	22	31	16	12
Adequate.....	66	63	75	79
Surplus.....	5	2	1	1
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	5	3	7	7
Short	23	34	6	11
Adequate.....	67	62	86	81
Surplus.....	5	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.....	--	--	--	1
Poor.....	--	3	--	4
Fair.....	10	7	9	14
Good	27	36	41	43
Excellent.....	63	54	50	38
Cotton				
Very poor.....	1	--	1	--
Poor.....	1	--	1	3
Fair.....	1	--	20	16
Good	30	21	36	48
Excellent.....	67	79	42	33
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	17	30	17	10
Poor.....	18	24	24	22
Fair.....	33	15	40	41
Good	10	12	19	22
Excellent.....	22	19	--	5

NA – not available

(--)- zero