

ARIZONA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
 September 16, 2024

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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: By week's end, 90 percent of Arizona cotton had opened bolls, and 17 percent of the crop had been harvested, up 5 and 8 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 1 percent of the crop rated poor. Alfalfa hay harvest continued to take place on about 50 percent of the crop's acreage throughout the State. Arizona's alfalfa crop was rated in mostly good to excellent condition, with only 9 percent of the crop rated fair. Pasture and range conditions throughout the State deteriorated when compared to that of the previous report. Twenty-six percent of the State's pasture and rangeland was rated very poor, 25 percent was rated poor, 24 percent was rated fair, 10 percent was rated good, and 15 percent was rated excellent. Reports from Navajo and Apache Counties have stated that ranchers continue to transport feed and water to rangeland livestock as a result of poor grazing conditions. As of September 8, 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 August 25. The vegetative conditions of northern rangelands deteriorated and was rated from very moist to extreme drought with the worst conditions concentrated in the Juniper Mountains and San Francisco Plateau. Similarly, the vegetative conditions of southwestern rangelands slightly deteriorated and was rated from extremely moist to severe drought with the worst conditions reported along the Gila River in Maricopa County. Rangeland vegetative conditions throughout southeastern counties also deteriorated and was rated from very moist to extreme drought with the worst conditions concentrated in the Tecolote Valley as well as the Tombstone Hills. The decline in rangeland vegetative condition throughout southeastern counties was mainly caused by a shift in rating from near-normal levels to pre-drought stress. Topsoil moisture levels remained mostly adequate, with 10 percent rated very short, 14 percent rated short, 75 percent rated adequate, and 1 percent rated surplus. Subsoil moisture levels followed a similar trend.

Over the past week, measurable precipitation was experienced across southeastern Arizona while remaining areas of the State stayed relatively dry. According to data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Santa Teresa and Pinaleno Mountains, in addition to the southern San Pedro Valley, received the most precipitation, accumulating approximately 1.25 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 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 continue to weaken, 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, and Little Colorado River Basins continues to be rated below normal as many of the intermittent streams that feed them have dried. Contrastingly, streamflow conditions in the Santa Cruz, San Pedro, Upper, and Lower Colorado River Basins is now rated normal. As of September 10, the U.S. Drought Monitor showed a deterioration in conditions when compared to that of the previous report. Abnormally dry conditions (D0) spanned 32 percent of the State, moderate drought (D1) enveloped 35 percent, and severe drought (D2) encompassed 5 percent of the State's total land area. Arizona once again remained free of extreme (D3) and exceptional (D4) drought. Excluding the mountainous areas of southeastern Arizona, 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 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 8 degrees below to 6 degrees above normal and ranged from 35 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	90	87	71	85
Harvested	17	9	13	9

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	7.0	6.7
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	10	7	4	6
Short	14	22	25	16
Adequate.....	75	66	71	77
Surplus.....	1	5	--	1
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	9	5	8	7
Short	14	23	15	14
Adequate.....	76	67	77	78
Surplus.....	1	5	--	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
Fair.....	9	10	16	14
Good	32	27	32	42
Excellent.....	59	63	52	40
Cotton				
Very poor.....	--	1	1	--
Poor.....	1	1	1	4
Fair.....	--	1	27	19
Good	39	30	38	47
Excellent.....	60	67	33	30
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	26	17	24	14
Poor.....	25	18	33	25
Fair.....	24	33	31	35
Good	10	10	12	20
Excellent.....	15	22	--	6

NA – not available
 (--) – zero