

ARIZONA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 6, 2024

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: By week’s end, 68 percent of Arizona cotton had been harvested, up 48 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 just under 50 percent of the crop’s acreage throughout the State. Arizona’s alfalfa crop was rated in mostly excellent condition, with 33 percent of the crop rated good. Pasture and range conditions throughout the State improved slightly when compared to that of the previous report. Reports from Navajo and Apache Counties have stated that ranchers continue to transport feed and water to rangeland livestock due to poor grazing conditions. Additionally, reports from southeastern counties stated that monsoonal accumulation was extremely variable which resulted in variable forage growth and condition across the landscape. As of September 29, the National Drought Mitigation Center’s Vegetation Drought Response Index (VegDRI) showed that the vegetative conditions of rangelands followed the trends reported on the September 8 release. Excluding the Painted Desert, southern Apache County, and areas just north of the Little Colorado River in Navajo and Apache Counties, the vegetative conditions of northern rangelands deteriorated and was rated from unusually moist to extreme drought with the worst conditions concentrated in the Juniper Mountains and San Francisco Plateau in Navajo County. Similarly, the vegetative conditions of southwestern rangelands slightly deteriorated and was rated from unusually 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 unusually moist to severe drought with the worst conditions concentrated in areas east of the San Pedro River but west of the Dragoon Mountains. The decline in rangeland vegetative condition throughout southeastern counties was mainly caused by a shift in rating from pre-drought stress to severe drought. Topsoil moisture levels remained mostly adequate, with 14 percent rated very short, 7 percent rated short, and 79 percent rated adequate. Subsoil moisture levels followed a similar trend.

Measurable precipitation was experienced across central and south-central Arizona while remaining areas of the State stayed relatively dry. According to data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Bates and Puerto Blanco Mountains, in addition to the southern Growler Valley, received the most precipitation, accumulating approximately 1.00 inch, while other areas of the State received anywhere from trace amounts to 0.50 inch of total precipitation. The seasonal mean temperature and total precipitation outlooks for October, November, and December were issued by the National Weather Service on September 19. The seasonal mean temperature outlook continues to show that temperatures will likely be above normal for the entirety of the State, with the eastern quarter of Arizona having a higher probability of experiencing hotter temperatures than the remaining three-quarters of the State. Similarly, the seasonal total precipitation outlook continues to show that precipitation is leaning below normal for the entirety of the State, with the eastern half of Arizona having a higher probability of experiencing below average precipitation than the western half of the State. Arizona’s seasonal drought outlook was also updated on September 30. 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 September 10. As Arizona’s established monsoon season has ended, streamflow conditions throughout the State have slightly improved when compared to that of the previous report. Streamflow in many portions of the Salt, Upper Gila, San Pedro, Little, and Lower 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 Verde, Whitewater Draw, Lower Gila and Upper Colorado River Basins are now rated normal. As of October 1, the U.S. Drought Monitor showed no change when compared to that of the previous report. Abnormally dry conditions (D0) spanned 32 percent of the State, moderate drought (D1) encompassed 35 percent, and severe drought (D2) enveloped 5 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 5 to 15 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 6 degrees below to 13 degrees above normal and ranged from 20 to 60 degrees across northern and eastern counties, whereas counties within the Sonoran Desert experienced lows of 65 to 75 degrees Fahrenheit.

CROP PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Cotton Harvested.....	68	46	18	20

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	7.0	7.0	6.9
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	14	6	5	6
Short.....	7	5	9	12
Adequate.....	79	88	86	82
Surplus.....	--	1	--	--
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	13	4	5	6
Short.....	7	8	15	13
Adequate.....	80	87	80	80
Surplus.....	--	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.....	--	--	--	2
Fair.....	--	1	12	11
Good.....	33	37	37	40
Excellent.....	67	62	51	46
Cotton				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	--
Poor.....	1	1	1	3
Fair.....	--	--	10	13
Good.....	50	41	36	47
Excellent.....	49	58	53	37
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	42	27	10	7
Poor.....	19	26	25	21
Fair.....	15	28	37	37
Good.....	19	11	27	25
Excellent.....	5	8	1	10

NA – not available
 (--) – zero