

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 OCTOBER 13, 2024

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: By week’s end, 69 percent of Arizona cotton had been harvested, up 44 percentage points from the State’s 5-year average, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Alfalfa hay harvest continued to take place on about 55 percent of the crop’s acreage throughout the State. Arizona’s alfalfa crop was rated in mostly good to excellent condition, with only 5 percent of the crop rated fair. Pasture and range conditions throughout the State deteriorated when compared to that of the previous report. Thirty-three percent of the State’s pasture and rangeland was rated very poor, 28 percent was rated poor, 22 percent was rated fair, 13 percent was rated good, and 4 percent was rated excellent. Reports from Navajo and Apache Counties have stated that precipitation has been lacking and that fall winds have contributed to the deterioration of rangeland vegetative condition throughout the area. Additionally, cattle throughout northeastern counties continue to be moved to fall and winter pasture or are being sold at market. Reports from Pima County continue to state that conditions have been hot and dry. As of October 13, 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 September 29. Excluding the Painted Desert, southeastern Apache County, and areas just north of the Little Colorado River in Apache County, the vegetative conditions of northern rangelands deteriorated and was rated from near-normal to extreme drought with the worst conditions concentrated in the Juniper Mountains, the Black Hills, the San Francisco Plateau in Navajo County, and northeastern Mohave County. Similarly, the vegetative conditions of southwestern rangelands deteriorated and was rated from pre-drought stress 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 extreme drought with the worst conditions concentrated in southern Cochise County and throughout Santa Cruz County. The decline in rangeland vegetative condition throughout southeastern counties was mainly caused by a shift in rating from near-normal levels to severe drought. Topsoil moisture levels remained mostly adequate, with 6 percent rated very short, 12 percent rated short, 81 percent rated adequate, and 1 percent rated surplus. Subsoil moisture levels followed a similar trend.

Over the past week, measurable precipitation was experienced across north-central Arizona while remaining areas of the State stayed relatively dry. According to data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Coyote Valley in addition to the Shonto and Paria Plateaus received the most precipitation, accumulating approximately 0.50 inch, while other areas of the State received only trace amounts. 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 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 September 10. Streamflow conditions throughout the State slightly deteriorated when compared to that of the previous report. Streamflow in many portions of the Salt, Upper Gila, Verde, 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 Whitewater Draw, Lower Gila, and Upper Colorado River Basins continue to be rated normal. As of October 8, the U.S. Drought Monitor showed a deterioration in conditions when compared to that of the previous report. Abnormally dry conditions (D0) spanned 35 percent of the State, moderate drought (D1) enveloped 24 percent, and severe drought (D2) encompassed 21 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 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 2 degrees below to 14 degrees above normal and ranged from 25 to 60 degrees across northern and eastern counties, whereas southwestern counties experienced lows of 65 to 78 degrees Fahrenheit.

CROP PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Cotton Harvested.....	69	68	21	25

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.....	6	14	10	7
Short	12	7	4	10
Adequate.....	81	79	85	82
Surplus.....	1	--	1	1
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	6	13	10	7
Short	10	7	6	11
Adequate.....	83	80	83	81
Surplus.....	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.....	--	--	--	2
Fair	5	--	6	11
Good	42	33	40	39
Excellent.....	53	67	54	47
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	33	42	19	12
Poor.....	28	19	31	22
Fair	22	15	32	35
Good	13	19	18	23
Excellent.....	4	5	--	8

NA – not available

(--)- zero