

ARIZONA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 20, 2024

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: By week’s end, 70 percent of Arizona cotton had been harvested, up 40 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 just under 50 percent of the crop’s acreage throughout the State. Arizona’s alfalfa crop was rated in mostly good to excellent condition, with only 3 percent of the crop rated fair. Reports from Mohave and La Paz Counties have stated that producers have been busy preparing land and planting new stands of alfalfa. Pasture and range conditions throughout the State improved slightly when compared to that of the previous report. Forty percent of the State’s pasture and rangeland was rated very poor, 22 percent was rated poor, 13 percent was rated fair, 22 percent was rated good, and 3 percent was rated excellent. Reports from Navajo and Apache Counties have stated that significant amounts of rain and snow were received over the past few days which helped to improve soil moisture condition throughout the area. Additionally, freezing temperatures were experienced across northeastern counties and cattle continue to be moved to fall and winter pasture. The most recent version of the National Drought Mitigation Center’s Vegetation Drought Response Index (VegDRI) has yet to be published. Topsoil moisture levels remained mostly adequate, with 11 percent rated very short, 15 percent rated short, 65 percent rated adequate, and 9 percent rated surplus. Subsoil moisture levels followed a similar trend.

Over the past week, measurable precipitation was experienced across much of the State, however, areas south and west of the Mogollon Rim remained relatively dry. According to data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), areas directly east of the San Francisco Mountains, Walnut Canyon, and the northern Shonto Plateau received the most precipitation, accumulating approximately 2.50 inches, while other areas of the State received anywhere from trace amounts to 1.25 inches of total precipitation. The seasonal mean temperature and total precipitation outlooks for November and December of 2024 and January of 2025 were issued by the National Weather Service on October 17. The seasonal mean temperature outlook continues to show that temperatures will likely be above normal for the entirety of the State, with the eastern two-thirds of Arizona having a higher probability of experiencing warmer temperatures than the remaining third of the State. Similarly, the seasonal total precipitation outlook continues to show that precipitation will likely be below normal for the entirety of the State, with southeastern regions having a higher probability of experiencing below average precipitation than remaining areas of the State. Arizona’s seasonal drought outlook was also updated on October 17. 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 October 15. Drought is now expected to develop across all remaining areas of the State. Streamflow conditions throughout the State improved slightly when compared to that of the previous report. Streamflow in many portions of the Salt, Upper Gila, San Pedro, 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, Lower Gila, Little, and Upper Colorado River Basins continue to be rated normal. As of October 15, the U.S. Drought Monitor showed a deterioration in conditions when compared to that of the previous report. Abnormally dry conditions (D0) spanned 36 percent of the State, moderate drought (D1) encompassed 25 percent, and severe drought (D2) enveloped 27 percent of the State’s total land area. Arizona once again remained free of extreme (D3) and exceptional (D4) drought. Apart from central Pima and northeastern Yavapai Counties, temperatures 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 50’s in north-central Coconino County to 95 degrees across south-central regions of the State. Overnight lows ranged from 4 degrees below to 8 degrees above normal and ranged from 30 to 50 degrees across northern and eastern counties, whereas counties within the Sonoran Desert experienced lows of 55 to 75 degrees Fahrenheit.

CROP PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Cotton Harvested.....	70	69	23	30

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	7.0	7.0	7.0
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	11	6	11	8
Short	15	12	13	10
Adequate.....	65	81	76	82
Surplus.....	9	1	--	--
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	11	6	11	8
Short	14	10	15	10
Adequate.....	66	83	74	82
Surplus.....	9	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	3	5	5	12
Good	33	42	39	38
Excellent.....	64	53	56	46
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	40	33	26	16
Poor.....	22	28	34	26
Fair	13	22	23	30
Good	22	13	17	23
Excellent.....	3	4	--	5

NA – not available

(--)- zero