

# ARIZONA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture  
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## CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 27, 2024

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** By week's end, 71 percent of Arizona cotton had been harvested, up 35 percentage points from the State's 5-year average, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Reports from Graham County have stated that extreme winds from the previous weekend's storm system caused damage to some cotton throughout the area. Alfalfa hay harvest continued to take place on just under 45 percent of the crop's acreage throughout the State. Arizona's alfalfa crop was rated in mostly good to excellent condition, with only 1 percent of the crop rated fair. Pasture and range conditions throughout the State deteriorated when compared to that of the previous report. Fifty-four percent of the State's pasture and rangeland was rated very poor, 18 percent was rated poor, 4 percent was rated fair, and 24 percent was rated good. Reports from Navajo and Apache Counties continue to state that livestock continue to be moved to fall and winter pasture. As of October 20, 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 October 13. 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 on the Coconino-Yavapai County line, the San Francisco Plateau in Navajo and Apache Counties, the northern Mazatzal Mountains, and northeastern Mohave County. Similarly, the vegetative conditions of southwestern rangelands deteriorated and was rated from pre-drought stress to extreme drought with the worst conditions reported along the Gila River in Maricopa County and areas south of the Gila River in Yuma 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 and western Santa Cruz Counties. 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 15 percent rated very short, 11 percent rated short, and 74 percent rated adequate. Subsoil moisture levels followed a similar trend.

Over the past week, measurable precipitation was lacking across much of the State, however, according to data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Virgin Valley as well as isolated areas in the Sierra Ancha Range received approximately 0.25 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 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 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 October 15. Drought development is expected across all remaining areas of the State. Streamflow conditions throughout the State deteriorated slightly when compared to that of the previous report. Streamflow in many portions of the Salt, Upper Gila, San Pedro, and Verde River Basins continues to be rated below normal as precipitation has been extremely limited. Contrastingly, streamflow conditions in the Lower Gila, Santa Cruz, Little, Lower, and Upper Colorado River Basins continue to be rated normal. As of October 22, the U.S. Drought Monitor showed a slight improvement in conditions when compared to that of the previous report. Abnormally dry conditions (D0) spanned 33 percent of the State, moderate drought (D1) enveloped 25 percent, and severe drought (D2) encompassed 27 percent of the State's total land area. Arizona once again remained free of extreme (D3) and exceptional (D4) drought. Over the past week, temperatures were at or above normal according to the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). Daytime highs throughout Arizona ranged from 2 degrees below to 10 degrees above normal and ranged from the low 60's in north-central Coconino County to 98 degrees across south-central regions of the State. Overnight lows ranged from 8 degrees below to 10 degrees above normal and ranged from 30 to 50 degrees across northern and eastern counties, whereas southwestern counties experienced lows of 55 to 70 degrees Fahrenheit.

### CROP PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Cotton Harvested.....	71	70	32	36

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	7.0
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	15	11	11	7
Short .....	11	15	10	10
Adequate.....	74	65	78	83
Surplus.....	--	9	1	--
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	15	11	12	7
Short .....	10	14	8	9
Adequate.....	75	66	79	84
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	1
Poor.....	--	--	--	2
Fair .....	1	3	7	13
Good .....	25	33	45	39
Excellent.....	74	64	47	45
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	54	40	23	19
Poor.....	18	22	26	24
Fair .....	4	13	25	30
Good .....	24	22	26	21
Excellent.....	--	3	--	6

NA – not available

(--)- zero