

# ARIZONA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture  
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## CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 17, 2024

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** By week’s end, 74 percent of Arizona cotton had been harvested, up 13 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 60 percent of the crop’s acreage throughout the State. Arizona’s alfalfa crop was rated in mostly excellent condition, with 23 percent of the crop rated good. Pasture and range conditions throughout the State improved slightly when compared to that of the previous report. Thirty-three percent of the State’s pasture and rangeland was rated very poor, 31 percent was rated poor, 18 percent was rated fair, 16 percent was rated good, and 2 percent was rated excellent. Reports from Navajo and Apache Counties have stated that most cattle have been moved to fall and winter pastures and that rangeland vegetative conditions continue to deteriorate resulting from inconsistent moisture. Additionally, reports from northeastern counties have stated that all activities relating to major field crops have now concluded for the growing season. 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 9 percent rated very short, 13 percent rated short, 75 percent rated adequate, and 3 percent rated surplus. Subsoil moisture levels followed a similar trend.

Over the past week, measurable precipitation was experienced across northwestern and southeastern Arizona while remaining areas of the State stayed relatively dry. According to data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Kaibab Plateau as well as southern areas of the Sulphur Springs Valley and Chiricahua Mountains received the most precipitation, accumulating approximately 0.50 inch, while other areas of the State received anywhere from trace amounts to 0.25 inch of total precipitation. On November 16, the National Weather Service issued a drought information statement for south-central Arizona, southwest Arizona, and southeast California in response to the driest monsoon on record with many areas receiving less than 50 percent of normal precipitation over the last 6 months. Additionally, much of the region has experienced its warmest 6-month timeframe on record with average temperatures reaching more than 3 degrees above normal. 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 29. 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, Verde, Upper Gila, and San Pedro River Basins continues to be rated below normal as measurable precipitation has been lacking. Contrastingly, streamflow conditions in the Lower Gila, Santa Cruz, Little, Lower, and Upper Colorado River Basins continue to be rated normal. As of November 12, the U.S. Drought Monitor showed a deterioration in conditions when compared to that of the previous report. Abnormally dry conditions (D0) bounded 30 percent of the State, moderate drought (D1) encompassed 27 percent, severe drought (D2) enveloped 21 percent, and for the first time since April 16, extreme drought (D3) spanned 8 percent of the State’s total land area. Arizona once again remained free of exceptional (D4) drought. Excluding Santa Cruz, western Pima, northern Graham, and southern areas of Navajo, Apache, and Cochise Counties, temperatures were at or below normal according to the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). Daytime highs throughout Arizona ranged from 5 degrees below to 6 degrees above normal and ranged from the mid 40’s in north-central Coconino County to 85 degrees across southwestern regions of the State. Overnight lows ranged from 12 degrees below to 4 degrees above normal and ranged from 15 to 40 degrees across northern and eastern counties, whereas counties within the Sonoran Desert experienced lows of 45 to 55 degrees Fahrenheit.

### CROP PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Cotton Harvested.....	74	73	59	61

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	7.0
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	9	16	11	5
Short .....	13	14	3	10
Adequate.....	75	62	86	85
Surplus.....	3	8	--	--
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	9	15	10	5
Short .....	13	13	3	10
Adequate.....	76	64	87	85
Surplus.....	2	8	--	--

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 .....	--	2	5	12
Good .....	23	32	37	41
Excellent.....	77	66	57	44
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	33	39	30	25
Poor.....	31	25	36	23
Fair .....	18	22	29	31
Good .....	16	14	5	16
Excellent.....	2	--	--	5

NA – not available  
 (--) – zero