

ARIZONA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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 Cooperating with the Arizona Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
 November 25, 2024

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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 24, 2024

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: By week’s end, 78 percent of Arizona cotton had been harvested, up 9 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 over 50 percent of the crop’s acreage throughout the State. Arizona’s alfalfa crop was rated in mostly good to excellent condition, with only 7 percent of the crop rated fair. Pasture and range conditions throughout the State deteriorated slightly when compared to that of the previous report. Forty-two percent of the State’s pasture and rangeland was rated very poor, 33 percent was rated poor, 13 percent was rated fair, 10 percent was rated good, and 2 percent was rated excellent. Reports from Navajo and Apache Counties have stated that rangeland vegetative conditions continue to deteriorate as a result of inconsistent moisture. As of November 17, the National Drought Mitigation Center’s Vegetation Drought Response Index (VegDRI) showed that the vegetative conditions of rangelands deteriorated when compared to that of the conditions reported on November 10. Excluding the Painted Desert, southeastern Apache County, the Defiance Plateau, the Chinle Valley, 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 extreme drought to very moist with the worst conditions concentrated in the Juniper Mountains, northern Mohave County, and the San Francisco Plateau in Coconino, Navajo, and Apache Counties. The vegetative conditions of southwestern rangelands deteriorated slightly and was rated from near-normal to extreme drought with the worst conditions reported in areas south of the Gila River in Maricopa and Yuma Counties. Rangeland vegetative conditions throughout southeastern counties also deteriorated and was rated from near-normal to severe drought with the worst conditions concentrated in west-central Cochise and south-central Pima Counties. Topsoil moisture levels remained mostly adequate, with 7 percent rated very short, 14 percent rated short, 78 percent rated adequate, and 1 percent rated surplus. Subsoil moisture levels followed a similar trend.

Over the past week, measurable precipitation was lacking across much of the State; however, according to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) data, isolated areas along the Mogollon Rim as well as the San Francisco Mountains accumulated anywhere from trace amounts to 0.25 inch of total precipitation. The drought information statement for south-central Arizona, southwest Arizona, and southeast California remained in effect in response to the driest monsoon on record. The seasonal mean temperature and total precipitation outlooks for December, January, and February 2024-2025 were issued by the National Weather Service on November 21. The seasonal mean temperature outlook continues to show that temperatures will likely be above normal for the entirety of the State, with the eastern three-quarters of Arizona having a higher probability of experiencing warmer temperatures than the remaining quarter 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 November 21. 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 November 19. Drought is now expected to develop across south-central Arizona. Streamflow conditions throughout the State remained relatively static when compared to that of the previous report. As of November 19, the U.S. Drought Monitor showed no change when compared to that of the previous report. Abnormally dry conditions (D0) bounded 30 percent of the State, moderate drought (D1) enveloped 27 percent, severe drought (D2) encompassed 21 percent, and extreme drought (D3) spanned 8 percent of the State’s total land area. Arizona once again remained free of exceptional (D4) drought. Excluding Apache and southern Navajo Counties, temperatures were at or below normal according to the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). Daytime highs throughout Arizona ranged from 4 degrees below to 10 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 10 degrees below to 2 degrees above normal and ranged from 5 to 35 degrees across northern and eastern counties, whereas southwestern counties experienced lows of 40 to 55 degrees Fahrenheit.

Note: This release concludes the weekly crop progress report for 2024. Next year’s Arizona weekly report will begin in March 2025. Monthly reports will be released for December on January 6, 2025; for January on February 3, 2025; and for February on March 3, 2025. Our thanks to the weekly reporters for providing crop progress observations during the 2024 season.

CROP PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Cotton Harvested.....	78	74	68	69

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	6.6
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	7	9	16	5
Short	14	13	2	10
Adequate.....	78	75	82	83
Surplus.....	1	3	--	2
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	7	9	15	5
Short	13	13	3	10
Adequate.....	79	76	82	83
Surplus.....	1	2	--	2

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.....	--	--	--	2
Poor.....	--	--	--	2
Fair	7	--	4	12
Good	32	23	37	41
Excellent.....	61	77	59	43
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	42	33	28	28
Poor.....	33	31	30	21
Fair	13	18	36	28
Good	10	16	6	20
Excellent.....	2	2	--	3

NA – not available
 (--) – zero