

ARIZONA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING MARCH 2, 2025

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: By week's end, 69 percent of Arizona barley had been planted, of which 60 percent had emerged, down 15 and 14 percentage points, respectively, from the State's 5-year average, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Arizona barley was rated in mostly good to excellent condition, with only 4 percent of the crop rated fair. Seventy percent of Arizona's Durum wheat had been planted, of which 63 percent has emerged, down 17 and 5 percentage points, respectively, from the State's 5-year average. Durum wheat was rated in mostly good to excellent condition, with only 1 percent of the crop rated fair. Alfalfa hay harvest continued to take place on about 60 percent of the crop's acreage throughout the State. Arizona's alfalfa crop was rated in mostly good to excellent condition, with only 10 percent of the crop rated fair. Pasture and range conditions throughout the State deteriorated slightly when compared to that of the previous report. Forty-one percent of the State's pasture and rangeland was rated very poor, 32 percent was rated poor, 19 percent was rated fair, and 8 percent was rated good. Navajo and Apache County reporters have stated that some rangelands are now barren and that ranchers continue to transport feed and water to rangeland livestock. Topsoil moisture levels remained mostly adequate, with 25 percent rated very short, 6 percent rated short, 66 percent rated adequate, and 3 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, southern areas of the Avra Valley accumulated anywhere from 0.50 to 1.00 inch of total precipitation. All remaining areas of the State received anywhere from trace amounts to 0.25 inch of total precipitation. Corroborating reports from south-central and eastern counties have stated that conditions have been unseasonably dry, windy, and warm. The drought information statement for south-central Arizona, southwest Arizona, and southeast California remained in effect and was updated on February 21 in response to enduring above average temperatures and below average precipitation. Additionally, the National Weather Service issued drought information statements for southeast and northern Arizona on February 21 and 22 respectively, in response to 120-day precipitation being less than 25% of normal. The seasonal mean temperature and total precipitation outlooks for March, April, and May were issued by the National Weather Service on February 20. The seasonal mean temperature outlook continues to show that temperatures will likely be above normal for the entirety of the State, with the eastern third of Arizona having a higher probability of experiencing warmer temperatures than the remainder 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 the eastern third of Arizona having a higher probability of experiencing below average precipitation than the western two-thirds of the State. Arizona's seasonal drought outlook was updated on February 28. 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 February 25. Drought is expected to develop across all remaining areas of the State. Streamflow conditions throughout Arizona deteriorated slightly when compared to that of the previous report and are currently flowing at below normal to historically low levels. As of February 25, the U.S. Drought Monitor showed a significant deterioration in conditions when compared to that of the previous report. Abnormally dry conditions (D0) bounded 1 percent of the State, moderate drought (D1) enveloped 12 percent, severe drought (D2) encompassed 34 percent, extreme drought (D3) spanned 52 percent, and for the first time since August 9, 2022, exceptional drought (D4) was recorded and covered 1 percent of the State's total land area. 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 4 to 13 degrees above normal and ranged from the low-50's in north-central Coconino County to the high 80's across southwestern regions of the State. Overnight lows ranged from 8 degrees below to 9 degrees above normal and ranged from 12 to 40 degrees across northern and eastern counties, whereas southwestern counties experienced lows of 45 to 60 degrees Fahrenheit.

CROP PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Barley				
Planted	69	43	96	84
Emerged	60	36	95	74
Durum wheat				
Planted	70	41	91	87
Emerged	63	35	81	68

NA – not available

(--) – zero

DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

	Current week	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
Days suitable for fieldwork	7.0	NA	6.8	6.9
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	25	36	12	8
Short	6	11	10	11
Adequate.....	66	52	70	78
Surplus.....	3	1	8	3
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	19	35	11	8
Short	10	11	10	8
Adequate.....	70	53	78	83
Surplus.....	1	1	1	1

NA – not available
 (--) – zero

CROP, PASTURE, AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	--
Poor.....	--	--	1	--
Fair.....	10	4	14	11
Good	57	65	37	46
Excellent.....	33	31	48	43
Barley				
Very poor.....	--	NA	--	--
Poor.....	--	NA	--	3
Fair.....	4	NA	30	16
Good	86	NA	43	55
Excellent.....	10	NA	27	26
Durum wheat				
Very poor.....	--	NA	--	--
Poor.....	--	NA	--	--
Fair.....	1	NA	7	3
Good	32	NA	33	48
Excellent.....	67	NA	60	49
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	41	28	38	25
Poor.....	32	37	11	28
Fair.....	19	22	30	28
Good	8	12	18	16
Excellent.....	--	1	3	3

NA – not available
 (--) – zero