

# MONTANA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture  
**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE**  
**MONTANA FIELD OFFICE**  
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 Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING AUGUST 22, 2021

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** Warm temperatures and rain showers were observed across Montana during the past week, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 100 percent of the state is under drought conditions, with 99 percent in severe to exceptional drought, unchanged from last week. Reporters across the state noted moisture was received throughout the state last week, which has provided some drought relief and improved soil conditions slightly. The rainfall and cooler temperatures last week brought some much-needed reprieve to several fires that continue to burn in western Montana. Topsoil moisture conditions for the state were 11 percent adequate to surplus, compared to 2 percent in the previous week and 32 percent the previous year. Subsoil moisture conditions were rated 9 percent adequate to surplus compared to 39 percent the previous year. Barley harvest continues to progress quickly, with an estimated 64 percent of the crop harvested, ahead of the previous year and 5-year average of 50 percent and 59 percent, respectively. Corn harvested for silage began last week, with an estimated 1 percent of the crop harvested. Harvest of the dry edible pea crop is starting to wrap up, with an estimated 90 percent of the crop harvested, ahead of the 5-year average of 81 percent. Lentil harvest made good progress last week, with an estimated 81 percent of lentils harvested, ahead of the previous year of 75 percent. Durum wheat harvest progressed rapidly last week, with an estimated 51 percent of the crop harvested, significantly ahead of the previous year at 31 percent and the 5-year average of 42 percent. Oilseed harvest continues to advance ahead of normal, with an estimated 45 percent of canola, 43 percent of flaxseed, and 40 percent of mustard seed harvested, all ahead of the 5-year averages. Safflower harvest continues into the second week, with an estimated 10 percent of the crop harvested, ahead of the 5-year average of 4 percent. Second cutting for alfalfa and other hay continues, with an estimated 77 percent of alfalfa and 53 percent of other hay harvested. Small grain harvest continues to progress rapidly, with an estimated 58 percent of oats and 69 percent of spring wheat harvested, both significantly ahead of the previous year at 46 percent and 52 percent, respectively. Winter wheat harvest is almost complete, with an estimated 95 percent of the crop harvested, ahead of the 5-year average of 87 percent. Reporters noted the moisture received last week didn't have an immediate effect on pasture conditions, but it has the potential to improve the fall and winter grazing outlook. An estimated 15 percent of cattle and calves and 9 percent of sheep and lambs have been moved from summer pasture, both ahead of the previous year of 5 percent.

### CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
2 <sup>nd</sup> cutting harvested .....	77	66	63	76
Barley				
Harvested .....	64	45	50	59
Canola				
Turning color .....	99	90	97	NA
Harvested .....	45	32	40	36
Corn				
Harvested for silage .....	1	NA	NA	NA
Dry edible beans (includes Chickpeas)				
Harvested .....	42	25	37	44
Dry edible peas				
Harvested .....	90	82	78	81
Durum wheat				
Harvested .....	51	31	31	42
Flaxseed				
Turning color .....	95	85	77	NA
Harvested .....	43	26	29	28
Lentils				
Harvested .....	81	66	75	NA
Mustard seed				
Harvested .....	40	25	26	35
Oats				
Harvested .....	58	41	46	53
Other hay				
2 <sup>nd</sup> cutting harvested .....	53	40	50	62
Safflower				
Turning color .....	70	53	63	56
Harvested .....	10	1	8	4
Spring wheat				
Harvested .....	69	54	52	52
Winter wheat				
Harvested .....	95	85	79	87
Cattle and calves				
Moved from pasture .....	15	10	5	NA
Sheep & Lambs				
Moved from pasture .....	9	6	5	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

**DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION**

	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
Days suitable for field work.....	4.4	6.0	6.9	6.2
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	57	67	17	25
Short.....	32	31	51	35
Adequate.....	11	2	30	37
Surplus.....	--	--	2	3
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	68	75	9	19
Short.....	23	21	52	37
Adequate.....	9	4	37	42
Surplus.....	--	--	2	2

NA – not available

(--)- zero

**CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION<sup>1</sup>**

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Barley				
Very poor.....	39	39	2	NA
Poor.....	33	28	2	NA
Fair.....	15	22	13	NA
Good.....	13	11	47	NA
Excellent.....	--	--	36	NA
Canola				
Very poor.....	27	27	--	NA
Poor.....	14	20	--	NA
Fair.....	25	24	13	NA
Good.....	26	21	53	NA
Excellent.....	8	8	34	NA
Corn				
Very poor.....	29	31	--	2
Poor.....	21	20	--	5
Fair.....	32	33	8	26
Good.....	18	15	73	55
Excellent.....	--	1	19	12
Dry edible beans (includes Chickpeas)				
Very poor.....	22	21	--	NA
Poor.....	34	35	--	NA
Fair.....	44	44	53	NA
Good.....	--	--	43	NA
Excellent.....	--	--	4	NA
Durum wheat				
Very poor.....	41	44	--	NA
Poor.....	38	38	1	NA
Fair.....	17	15	50	NA
Good.....	4	3	42	NA
Excellent.....	--	--	7	NA
Flaxseed				
Very poor.....	31	40	--	NA
Poor.....	31	25	--	NA
Fair.....	30	27	25	NA
Good.....	8	7	50	NA
Excellent.....	--	1	25	NA
Mustard seed				
Very poor.....	11	8	--	NA
Poor.....	28	29	--	NA
Fair.....	55	59	29	NA
Good.....	4	3	66	NA
Excellent.....	2	1	5	NA
Oats				
Very poor.....	32	29	2	NA
Poor.....	42	41	4	NA
Fair.....	23	26	53	NA
Good.....	3	3	35	NA
Excellent.....	--	1	6	NA
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	63	64	11	15
Poor.....	34	34	16	16
Fair.....	3	2	47	33
Good.....	--	--	19	29
Excellent.....	--	--	7	7
Sugarbeets				
Very poor.....	11	11	--	3
Poor.....	13	12	--	6
Fair.....	32	30	17	25
Good.....	44	47	72	53
Excellent.....	--	--	11	13

<sup>1</sup>Current conditions for Safflower are available using the QuickStats on-line database at: [https://www.nass.usda.gov/Quick\\_Stats/](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Quick_Stats/)

NA – not available

(--)- zero