

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 JULY 17, 2022

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Montana continued to experience scattered rain showers and isolated afternoon storms this week, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Precipitation totals were under 1 inch for the State. Some areas in the central portion of the State received 0.8 inches while other areas – mostly along the northern border – received only trace amounts of precipitation. Average daily temperatures were 2 to 5 degrees warmer than normal this week. Deerlodge and Beaverhead Counties reported warm temperatures with consistent thunderstorms bringing minimal precipitation. Temperatures in Wibaux County were reported in the upper 90's, and high temperatures are forecasted for the upcoming week. Blaine County reported high temperatures and scarce moisture, with comments indicating high winds in the forecast have the potential to cause crop damage. The moisture received the past few weeks has improved drought conditions; however, the hot, dry conditions forecasted are expected to halt improvements to drought conditions. According to the United States Drought Monitor for July 14, 2022, 39.8 percent of the State is experiencing drought conditions – an 11.0 percentage point decrease from 50.8 percent last week. The amount of land rated as abnormally dry decreased to cover 13.3 percent of the State, compared to 17.8 percent last week. Moderate drought was present across 11.1 percent of the State and severe drought was present across 8.9 percent of the State. Extreme drought conditions decreased slightly to cover 3.5 percent of the State, compared to 5.6 percent last week. Exceptional drought conditions remained unchanged at 3.0 percent of the state.

Storms in Mineral, Missoula, and Ravalli Counties brought hail that damaged oat crops, causing producers to harvest the oats for hay. Comments indicated non-irrigated land is drying out and some areas are beginning to run low on irrigation water supplies. Blaine, Roosevelt, and Richland Counties reported grasshopper damage. In Prairie County, crop damage from the severe storms last week was reported. Harvest of many crops is progressing similarly to last year. Harvest of the first cutting of alfalfa hay was reported at 72 percent complete, compared to 75 percent complete this time last year. Harvest of the first cutting of other hay was reported at 75 percent complete, compared to 79 percent this time last year. Winter wheat harvest was reported at 8 percent complete this week, compared to 9 percent complete this time last year, and lentil harvest was reported at 5 percent complete, compared to 7 percent this time last year.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
1 st cutting harvested	72	63	75	75
Barley				
Booted	97	90	94	NA
Headed	75	59	83	82
Turning color	20	8	29	26
Canola				
Blooming	87	75	83	79
Turning color	29	20	33	29
Dry edible beans (includes Chickpeas)				
Blooming	78	60	65	70
Dry edible peas				
Blooming	93	75	92	NA
Durum wheat				
Booted	94	78	93	90
Headed	62	40	63	69
Turning color	8	NA	NA	NA
Flaxseed				
Blooming	70	47	78	NA
Turning color	7	NA	NA	NA
Lentils				
Blooming	95	87	92	NA
Harvested	5	2	7	3
Mustard seed				
Blooming	95	78	78	82
Turning color	20	8	27	23
Oats				
Booted	97	88	93	NA
Headed	61	40	68	69
Turning color	9	NA	14	NA
Other hay				
1 st cutting harvested	75	61	79	74
Safflower				
Blooming	32	23	43	35
Spring wheat				
Headed	63	40	79	79
Turning color	6	NA	27	NA
Winter wheat				
Headed	99	90	98	98
Turning color	45	17	79	77
Harvested	8	1	9	5

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	6.6	5.7	6.4	6.6
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	20	13	68	26
Short	27	36	29	31
Adequate	53	50	2	41
Surplus	--	1	1	2
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	31	28	62	22
Short	35	34	34	33
Adequate	34	37	4	43
Surplus	--	1	--	2

NA – not available
 (--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Barley				
Very poor	5	5	21	5
Poor	24	30	29	11
Fair	32	33	28	29
Good	37	31	18	36
Excellent	2	1	4	19
Canola				
Very poor	--	--	6	6
Poor	2	2	20	12
Fair	34	43	40	26
Good	54	52	24	39
Excellent	10	3	10	17
Corn				
Very poor	3	3	16	4
Poor	5	6	26	9
Fair	40	47	41	25
Good	51	43	16	51
Excellent	1	1	1	11
Dry edible peas				
Very poor	4	4	18	10
Poor	12	14	41	17
Fair	35	43	37	30
Good	41	39	4	35
Excellent	8	--	--	8
Durum wheat				
Very poor	1	1	28	10
Poor	3	6	48	19
Fair	37	37	8	35
Good	54	56	15	29
Excellent	5	--	1	7
Lentils				
Very poor	2	2	14	6
Poor	5	5	23	13
Fair	48	57	42	37
Good	38	35	20	36
Excellent	7	1	1	8
Pasture and range				
Very poor	17	11	55	19
Poor	19	19	34	16
Fair	25	25	9	18
Good	36	42	2	35
Excellent	3	3	--	12
Spring wheat				
Very poor	3	2	35	14
Poor	13	11	34	16
Fair	34	43	19	23
Good	47	41	11	37
Excellent	3	3	1	10
Sugarbeets				
Very poor	--	--	8	2
Poor	--	--	14	6
Fair	60	68	45	29
Good	40	32	33	52
Excellent	--	--	--	11
Winter wheat				
Very poor	7	10	18	6
Poor	25	30	33	13
Fair	38	38	36	27
Good	22	15	10	28
Excellent	8	7	3	26

¹Current conditions for Dry Edible Beans, Flaxseed, Mustard Seed, Oats, and Safflower are available using the QuickStats on-line database at: https://www.nass.usda.gov/Quick_Stats/

NA – not available
 (--) – zero