

# 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 APRIL 30, 2023

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** The past week brought warmer temperatures and slight snowfall to some areas of Montana, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. According to the National Weather Service Forecast Office, temperatures ranged from 60 degrees to 36 degrees across the State, while there was 0.01 to 0.85 inches of precipitation observed in the State for the week ending April 30, 2023. Drought conditions improved in areas experiencing moderate and severe drought. However, overall drought conditions continued to persist. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor published on April 25, 2023, 68.4 percent of the State was experiencing dry or drought conditions, up from 66.7 percent the previous week. Twenty-seven-and-nine-tenths percent of the State was rated as abnormally dry. Forty-and-a-half percent of the State was rated as being in moderate drought, up five percentage points from the previous week. Zero percent of the State was rated as experiencing severe drought conditions, down from 5.3 percent the previous week. Mineral, Missoula, and Ravalli Counties reported daytime temperatures in the seventies, but nighttime temperatures stayed above freezing causing the grass to start greening up. The warmer daytime temperatures allowed some livestock to be moved to pasture early due to ranchers running short on hay. Ravalli County reported some low elevation snow that had already started to melt. Broadwater County reported that their field work was starting to get caught up due to better weather from a late spring arrival.

### CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Barley				
Planted .....	14	6	41	30
Corn				
Planted .....	8	--	3	8
Dry edible beans (includes Chickpeas)				
Planted .....	4	3	8	8
Dry peas				
Planted .....	17	7	37	29
Durum wheat				
Planted .....	7	4	20	11
Flaxseed				
Planted .....	8	7	10	13
Lentils				
Planted .....	9	4	29	21
Mustard seed				
Planted .....	3	3	20	11
Oats				
Planted .....	8	3	15	11
Safflower				
Planted .....	5	5	6	4
Spring wheat				
Planted .....	12	5	29	23
Sugar beets				
Planted .....	7	NA	1	21
Winter wheat				
Breaking Dormancy .....	86	72	85	89
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved .....	80	72	81	83
Receiving supplemental feed .....	73	91	84	64
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambled .....	63	49	69	74
Receiving supplemental feed .....	71	96	91	68

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 .....	4.9	1.6	5.1	5.6
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short .....	1	--	40	16
Short .....	21	12	33	20
Adequate .....	78	80	27	57
Surplus .....	--	8	--	7
Subsoil moisture				
Very short .....	3	2	43	17
Short .....	30	21	41	24
Adequate .....	66	73	16	53
Surplus .....	1	4	--	6

NA – not available

(--) – zero

**CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION**

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Grazing accessibility				
Open .....	61	67	72	82
Difficult .....	15	12	17	11
Closed .....	24	21	11	7
Pasture and range				
Very poor .....	15	14	69	21
Poor .....	25	24	20	15
Fair .....	31	27	9	34
Good .....	28	35	2	24
Excellent .....	1	--	--	6
Winter wheat				
Very poor .....	1	--	25	7
Poor .....	3	4	24	13
Fair .....	50	58	39	29
Good .....	46	37	11	37
Excellent .....	--	1	1	14

NA – not available

(--) – zero