

# 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 MAY 7, 2023

### AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:

The past week brought moderate temperatures and slower snow melt to many areas in the State of Montana, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. According to the National Weather Service Forecast Office most areas of the state saw little precipitation for the week ending May 7, 2023. However, 3.5 inches of hail were reported in “a swath that went from north of Roundup to Melstone.” Temperatures ranged from 77 degrees to 35 degrees across the State. Drought conditions continued to persist. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor published on May 2, 2023, 71.4 percent of the State was experiencing dry or drought conditions, up from 68.4 percent the previous week. Twenty-five percent of the State was rated as abnormally dry. Forty-three percent of the State was rated as being in moderate drought, up 2 percent from the previous week. Four percent of the State was rated as experiencing severe drought conditions, up from 0 percent the previous week. None of the state was reported as experiencing extreme or exceptional drought conditions.

Broadwater county reported winter damage to the alfalfa crop in addition to winter damage to the winter wheat crop. Ravalli county noted that high winds and moderate temperatures were slowing crop planting and growth. Blaine county reported several days of sustained winds at greater than 15 mph leading to drier soils, with the northeast portion of the county, “in need of moisture.”

### CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Barley				
Planted.....	43	14	58	48
Emerged .....	--	--	22	13
Canola				
Planted.....	2	NA	28	25
Corn				
Planted.....	14	8	6	16
Dry edible beans (includes Chickpeas)				
Planted.....	5	4	21	20
Dry edible peas				
Planted.....	42	17	53	48
Emerged .....	--	NA	14	8
Durum wheat				
Planted.....	16	7	29	22
Flaxseed				
Planted.....	8	8	19	21
Lentils				
Planted.....	31	9	41	36
Emerged .....	--	NA	13	NA
Mustard seed				
Planted.....	6	3	35	23
Emerged .....	--	NA	4	NA
Oats				
Planted.....	15	8	22	24
Emerged .....	--	--	4	4
Safflower				
Planted.....	14	5	14	10
Spring wheat				
Planted.....	32	12	47	41
Emerged .....	1	--	15	11
Sugarbeets				
Planted.....	7	7	4	39
Winter wheat				
Breaking dormancy .....	93	86	94	NA
Jointing.....	10	NA	NA	NA
Booted.....	--	NA	9	3
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved.....	92	80	88	89
Moved to pasture .....	4	NA	NA	NA
Receiving supplemental feed .....	62	73	80	57
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambbed .....	75	63	83	82
Moved to pasture .....	5	NA	NA	NA
Receiving supplemental feed .....	58	71	71	59

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 .....	5.6	4.9	5.8	5.5
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	1	1	35	14
Short .....	23	21	42	21
Adequate.....	73	78	23	59
Surplus.....	3	--	--	6
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	3	3	52	19
Short .....	46	30	34	21
Adequate.....	48	66	14	53
Surplus.....	3	1	--	7

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 .....	78	61	72	85
Difficult .....	15	15	10	7
Closed.....	7	24	18	8
Pasture and range				
Very poor .....	17	15	61	18
Poor .....	21	25	25	14
Fair.....	33	31	10	36
Good .....	25	28	4	27
Excellent .....	4	1	--	5
Winter wheat				
Very poor .....	1	1	21	6
Poor .....	1	3	18	11
Fair.....	44	50	48	31
Good .....	49	46	12	38
Excellent .....	5	--	1	14

NA – not available

(--)- zero