

MONTANA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
MONTANA FIELD OFFICE
 P.O. BOX 150969 · Lakewood, CO 80215-0969
 Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 May 30, 2023

Contact: Eric Sommer
 (800) 392-3202

CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING MAY 28, 2023

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: The past week brought scattered precipitation to 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 precipitation for the week ending May 28, 2023, ranging from 0.10 inches in Medicine Lake to 8 inches in Rosebud. Temperatures ranged from 34 degrees to 89 degrees across the State. Drought conditions continued to persist. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor published on May 23, 2023, 68.0 percent of the State was experiencing dry or drought conditions, up 3.1 percentage points from the previous week. Thirty-nine percent of the State was rated as abnormally dry, no change from the previous week. Twenty-five percent of the State was rated as being in moderate drought, up 3 percentage points from the previous week. Four percent of the State was rated as experiencing severe drought conditions, the same as the previous week. None of the state was reported as experiencing extreme or exceptional drought conditions.

Statewide, there were fewer days for field work compared to the previous week. Chouteau County which had been behind in precipitation, reported 5 inches of rain. This will be beneficial for the winter wheat crop. Roosevelt and Powder River counties reported that grasshoppers are emerging. Powder River also reported that Black Grass Bug has been causing damage to crested wheat grass. Ravalli County reported that most crops were thriving with the recent precipitation.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Barley				
Planted.....	85	78	93	90
Emerged	53	27	78	67
Canola				
Planted.....	69	44	72	66
Emerged	28	13	37	30
Corn				
Planted.....	63	53	51	66
Emerged	24	21	18	26
Dry edible beans (includes Chickpeas)				
Planted.....	87	75	73	75
Emerged	55	28	32	25
Dry edible peas				
Planted.....	85	70	95	90
Emerged	53	32	63	61
Durum wheat				
Planted.....	78	50	80	81
Emerged	48	20	40	38
Flaxseed				
Planted.....	70	60	59	65
Emerged	46	26	24	28
Lentils				
Planted.....	82	62	93	88
Emerged	46	29	61	54
Mustard seed				
Planted.....	91	79	84	79
Emerged	56	29	39	36
Oats				
Planted.....	80	59	82	82
Emerged	51	24	52	46
Safflower				
Planted.....	61	50	59	47
Emerged	18	10	19	14
Spring wheat				
Planted.....	81	72	93	91
Emerged	63	42	71	63
Sugarbeets				
Planted.....	39	39	47	NA
Winter wheat				
Booted.....	56	30	39	30
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved.....	100	95	NA	NA
Moved to pasture	61	41	60	78
Receiving supplemental feed.....	7	30	NA	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambled	87	86	NA	NA
Moved to pasture	57	49	71	80
Receiving supplemental feed.....	3	30	NA	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	4.7	6.4	6.2	5.5
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	2	6	20	10
Short	16	19	50	21
Adequate.....	81	74	29	64
Surplus.....	1	1	1	5
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	4	4	44	15
Short	31	37	34	23
Adequate.....	65	58	21	60
Surplus.....	--	1	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)
Grazing accessibility				
Open	90	84	NA	NA
Difficult	10	14	NA	NA
Closed.....	--	2	NA	NA
Pasture and range				
Very poor	4	6	25	11
Poor	12	17	30	15
Fair.....	55	48	34	28
Good	27	28	11	35
Excellent	2	1	--	11
Winter wheat				
Very poor	1	1	16	5
Poor	1	2	10	8
Fair.....	40	48	60	28
Good	56	47	14	38
Excellent	2	2	--	21

NA – not available

(--) – zero