

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 2, 2023

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Montana experienced a week of varied temperatures and isolated rain according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service. Temperatures ran well above normal in northern Montana with some areas seeing temperatures reach as much as 8 degrees above average according to data from the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). Average temperatures were lower across much of the south, with the most southern portions of the State experiencing temperatures about 2 degrees below normal. Precipitation levels were at or below normal for the majority of Montana, also according to the HPRCC. Moisture levels were above normal, however, in portions of the southern half of the State, and in a portion of northern Montana. Isolated areas of Musselshell and Carter Counties received moisture levels as much as 2 inches above normal. Drought conditions improved once again according to the United States Drought Monitor report published on June 29, 2023. The amount of land rated drought free increased to 75.1 percent, compared with 70.3 percent the previous week. Abnormal dryness was found in 13.2 percent of Montana, an increase of 0.4 percentage points. Moderate drought fell to 8.2 percent, compared with 13.4 percent last week. Severe drought conditions sat still at 3.5 percent. There were large thunderstorms, including some hail, in Mineral, Missoula, and Ravalli Counties. Mountain irrigation sites in the area reported a shortage in runoff water compared with previous years. Farmers expected to harvest hay in the new week as long as conditions remained dry. Rain showers were few in Valley County. Hay was cut and crops looked good. Grasshopper infestations were found throughout Powder River County.

CROP PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
1 st cutting harvested.....	32	18	40	39
Barley				
Booted.....	63	38	67	66
Headed.....	17	12	36	36
Canola				
Planted.....	95	93	NA	NA
Emerged.....	79	77	NA	NA
Blooming.....	59	31	44	43
Corn				
Emerged.....	91	89	97	NA
Dry edible beans (includes Chickpeas)				
Blooming.....	32	15	36	NA
Dry edible peas				
Blooming.....	52	48	57	54
Durum wheat				
Booted.....	36	7	48	45
Headed.....	7	NA	20	21
Flaxseed				
Emerged.....	96	87	90	NA
Blooming.....	26	4	26	32
Lentils				
Emerged.....	96	92	NA	NA
Blooming.....	45	20	63	50
Mustard seed				
Blooming.....	46	39	53	47
Turning color.....	1	NA	NA	NA
Oats				
Booted.....	42	13	69	53
Other hay				
1 st cutting harvested.....	34	16	39	39
Safflower				
Planted.....	95	89	NA	NA
Emerged.....	76	75	78	72
Blooming.....	9	8	4	10
Spring wheat				
Booted.....	91	62	87	68
Headed.....	33	28	18	32
Sugarbeets				
Planted.....	76	73	NA	NA
Emerged.....	65	59	NA	NA
Winter wheat				
Booted.....	95	93	NA	NA
Headed.....	80	72	76	81
Turning color.....	12	NA	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	6.6	5.3	5.9	6.0
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	3	1	21	16
Short	24	15	36	23
Adequate.....	72	81	41	56
Surplus.....	1	3	2	5
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	2	1	34	18
Short	27	18	32	25
Adequate.....	71	75	33	54
Surplus.....	--	6	1	3

NA – not available
 (--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Barely				
Very poor	1	--	9	5
Poor	6	6	24	14
Fair.....	59	68	32	23
Good.....	33	24	30	42
Excellent	1	2	5	16
Canola				
Very poor	2	4	2	3
Poor	2	4	4	4
Fair.....	37	28	50	26
Good.....	55	58	44	55
Excellent	4	6	--	12
Corn				
Very poor	1	--	2	2
Poor	9	9	5	11
Fair.....	32	32	55	31
Good.....	56	57	34	49
Excellent	2	2	4	7
Dry edible peas				
Very poor	1	1	10	6
Poor	2	3	16	12
Fair.....	42	51	44	30
Good.....	54	45	30	46
Excellent	1	--	--	6
Durum Wheat				
Very poor	1	1	1	3
Poor	4	4	5	9
Fair.....	67	58	28	38
Good.....	28	37	65	47
Excellent	--	--	1	3
Lentils				
Very poor	--	--	8	4
Poor	--	3	11	8
Fair.....	48	50	49	37
Good.....	52	47	31	47
Excellent	--	--	1	4
Mustard seed				
Very poor	--	--	4	1
Poor	1	1	2	9
Fair.....	59	68	82	44
Good.....	40	31	11	41
Excellent	--	--	1	5
Pasture and range				
Very poor	1	1	15	13
Poor	4	4	15	14
Fair.....	28	35	22	21
Good.....	55	46	44	38
Excellent	12	14	4	14
Spring wheat				
Very poor	--	--	8	5
Poor	2	2	18	16
Fair.....	40	49	38	23
Good.....	57	48	34	50
Excellent	1	1	2	6
Winter wheat				
Very poor	--	--	14	6
Poor	1	2	25	13
Fair.....	50	59	29	21
Good.....	39	30	19	32
Excellent	10	9	13	28

¹Current conditions for Dry Edible Beans, Flaxseed, and Oats are available using the QuickStats on-line database at:

https://www.nass.usda.gov/Quick_Stats/

NA – not available
 (--) – zero