

# 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  
 May 28, 2024

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## CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING MAY 26, 2024

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** Temperatures were cooler, and precipitation levels were mostly at or above normal for much of Montana, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Temperatures ran, on average, in a range from about 2 to 8 degrees below normal, according to data from the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). In a few areas, temperatures were, on average, 10 degrees below normal. Some areas of the State received heavy rain towards the end of the week. Portions of Stillwater and Yellowstone Counties received moisture levels measuring 2 inches and higher. In other areas of Montana, moisture levels were at or slightly below normal. Changes in drought conditions were minimal. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor report released on May 23, the amount of land rated drought free was 40 percent. This compares to 39 percent the previous week. Abnormal dryness was found in 25 percent of the State, up from 23 percent last week. Moderate drought conditions fell to 26 percent, a decline of 3 percentage points. Severe drought was unchanged at 8 percent. Extreme conditions were rated 1 percent, down from almost 2 percent the previous week. A reporter in Big Horn County stated good amounts of rainfall were received, and showers prevented field work for much of the week. Pastures were in excellent condition. Rains brought slight improvement to pastures and fields throughout Prairie County. Rains began falling in Wibaux County on Thursday, which provided some much-needed precipitation.

### CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Barley				
Planted.....	88	79	83	87
Emerged .....	64	44	46	61
Booted .....	2	NA	NA	NA
Canola				
Planted.....	75	54	62	64
Emerged .....	25	5	24	24
Corn				
Planted.....	30	21	60	61
Emerged .....	14	5	23	22
Dry edible beans				
Planted.....	73	58	84	74
Emerged .....	28	13	47	27
Dry peas				
Planted.....	90	80	81	87
Emerged .....	41	29	47	54
Durum wheat				
Planted.....	93	71	70	73
Emerged .....	63	37	40	34
Flaxseed				
Planted.....	63	48	67	62
Emerged .....	28	1	40	25
Lentils				
Planted.....	95	86	76	83
Emerged .....	22	NA	41	45
Mustard seed				
Planted.....	94	66	88	78
Emerged .....	48	23	48	36
Oats				
Planted.....	72	59	74	77
Emerged .....	42	32	43	44
Safflower				
Planted.....	33	24	58	47
Emerged .....	13	1	16	15
Spring wheat				
Planted.....	88	81	78	87
Emerged .....	63	38	57	61
Sugarbeets				
Planted.....	35	17	39	NA
Emerged .....	2	--	--	33
Winter wheat				
Booted .....	45	20	49	28
Headed .....	1	--	--	1
Cattle and calves				
Moved to pasture .....	67	59	55	70
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambled .....	95	92	87	NA
Moved to pasture .....	62	54	55	72

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 .....	4.8	5.6	4.7	5.4
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	4	9	2	9
Short .....	36	42	16	21
Adequate.....	55	46	81	68
Surplus.....	5	3	1	2
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	8	10	4	15
Short .....	39	46	31	25
Adequate.....	50	41	65	59
Surplus.....	3	3	--	1

NA – not available

(--) – zero

**CROP, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION**

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Barley				
Very poor .....	1	NA	NA	NA
Poor .....	7	NA	NA	NA
Fair.....	30	NA	NA	NA
Good .....	53	NA	NA	NA
Excellent .....	9	NA	NA	NA
Pasture and range				
Very poor .....	5	7	4	11
Poor .....	13	14	12	16
Fair.....	42	49	55	35
Good .....	34	28	27	31
Excellent .....	6	2	2	7
Winter wheat				
Very poor .....	--	1	1	5
Poor .....	5	6	1	7
Fair.....	33	40	40	34
Good .....	37	37	56	40
Excellent .....	25	16	2	14

NA – not available

(--) – zero