

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 7, 2024

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Temperatures were mostly below normal, and precipitation was once again mixed, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Temperatures averaged 2 – 8 degrees below normal for most of the State. Temperatures were lowest in the southeast, and in portions of the north in Philips County. Temperatures were closer to normal, or slightly higher, in the northwest. With some exceptions, precipitation levels were mostly normal to as much as 0.9 inch above normal in the eastern two-thirds of Montana. Moisture received was also above normal in the northwest. Portions of Flathead and Lake Counties received as much as 1.5 inches above average moisture. Other areas were predominantly dry. The amount of land rated drought free fell 5 percentage points to 3 percent according to the U.S. Drought Monitor released July 3. Abnormal dryness increased by the same amount to 57 percent. Moderate drought was found in 36 percent of Montana, up slightly from 35 percent the previous week. Severe conditions were again unchanged at almost 5 percent. Intermittent rain of varying amounts was received in Big Horn County. The moisture delayed some hay production, primarily grass hay. Haying was also difficult for some farmers in Blaine County following the scattered storms. Hail damaged crops, and grasshoppers impacted both crops and rangelands. Further damage to fields and ranges was expected with the forecasted heat the following week. The hot, dry, and windy conditions were good for hay production in Mineral, Missoula, and Ravalli Counties. Hay yields looked good in fields that were irrigated and fertilized. Non-irrigated fields in the lower and mid-valley areas, however, were turning brown. High mountain pastures remained lush and green. Hot temperatures were in the forecast. Minimal rain events kept soils dry in Roosevelt County. Grasshoppers were present in fields. An average amount of scattered rains and thunderstorms went throughout Valley County. Totals were about one half of an inch. Temperatures were cool, but windy. Warm and dry conditions were forecasted, and haying was expected to increase.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

| Commodity | Current week | Previous week | Previous year | 5-year average |
|--|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) |
| Alfalfa hay | | | | |
| 1 st cutting harvested..... | 55 | 27 | 49 | 49 |
| Barley | | | | |
| Booted | 86 | 73 | 81 | 78 |
| Headed | 47 | 32 | 41 | 49 |
| Coloring | 2 | -- | 1 | 2 |
| Canola | | | | |
| Emerged | 95 | 82 | 81 | NA |
| Blooming..... | 39 | 11 | 67 | 60 |
| Coloring | 6 | 2 | NA | NA |
| Corn | | | | |
| Emerged | 96 | 90 | 94 | NA |
| Dry edible beans | | | | |
| Blooming..... | 24 | 3 | 57 | NA |
| Dry peas | | | | |
| Blooming..... | 88 | 61 | 77 | 70 |
| Durum wheat | | | | |
| Booted | 59 | 36 | 60 | 61 |
| Headed | 35 | 8 | 31 | 33 |
| Flaxseed | | | | |
| Blooming..... | 8 | NA | 42 | 45 |
| Lentils | | | | |
| Blooming..... | 87 | 78 | 67 | 66 |
| Mustard seed | | | | |
| Blooming..... | 72 | 46 | 77 | 61 |
| Oats | | | | |
| Booted | 67 | 62 | 65 | 67 |
| Headed | 35 | 11 | NA | NA |
| Coloring | 1 | NA | NA | NA |
| Other hay | | | | |
| 1 st cutting harvested..... | 52 | 35 | 54 | 51 |
| Safflower | | | | |
| Planted..... | 96 | 92 | NA | NA |
| Emerged | 79 | 56 | 86 | 85 |
| Blooming..... | 15 | 14 | 15 | 15 |
| Spring wheat | | | | |
| Booted | 87 | 78 | 94 | 82 |
| Headed | 58 | 33 | 56 | 47 |
| Coloring | 1 | NA | NA | NA |
| Sugarbeets | | | | |
| Emerged | 95 | 72 | 81 | NA |
| Winter wheat | | | | |
| Headed..... | 95 | 75 | 91 | 91 |
| Coloring..... | 64 | 36 | 32 | 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 | 5.3 | 5.7 | 6.6 | 6.0 |
| Topsoil moisture | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) |
| Very short..... | 4 | 3 | 8 | 17 |
| Short | 27 | 31 | 29 | 26 |
| Adequate..... | 68 | 65 | 62 | 54 |
| Surplus..... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Subsoil moisture | | | | |
| Very short..... | 5 | 4 | 7 | 19 |
| Short | 29 | 32 | 32 | 29 |
| Adequate..... | 65 | 63 | 61 | 50 |
| Surplus..... | 1 | 1 | -- | 2 |

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 | 1 | 6 |
| Poor | 5 | 5 | 6 | 15 |
| Fair..... | 37 | 43 | 50 | 31 |
| Good..... | 56 | 50 | 35 | 36 |
| Excellent | 2 | 1 | 8 | 12 |
| Canola | | | | |
| Very poor | -- | -- | 3 | 1 |
| Poor | 1 | -- | 7 | 6 |
| Fair..... | 33 | 40 | 40 | 31 |
| Good..... | 61 | 53 | 45 | 49 |
| Excellent | 5 | 7 | 5 | 13 |
| Corn | | | | |
| Very poor | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Poor | 5 | 3 | 18 | 10 |
| Fair..... | 28 | 30 | 28 | 30 |
| Good..... | 64 | 63 | 50 | 51 |
| Excellent | 2 | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| Dry peas | | | | |
| Very poor | -- | -- | 1 | 4 |
| Poor | 1 | 2 | 2 | 13 |
| Fair..... | 28 | 33 | 51 | 39 |
| Good..... | 68 | 63 | 45 | 40 |
| Excellent | 3 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| Durum wheat | | | | |
| Very poor | -- | -- | 1 | 3 |
| Poor | 6 | 5 | 6 | 12 |
| Fair..... | 34 | 39 | 72 | 46 |
| Good..... | 57 | 53 | 20 | 37 |
| Excellent | 3 | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| Lentils | | | | |
| Very poor | -- | -- | 1 | 1 |
| Poor | 1 | 1 | 9 | 8 |
| Fair..... | 23 | 32 | 41 | 41 |
| Good..... | 70 | 62 | 47 | 47 |
| Excellent | 6 | 5 | 2 | 3 |
| Mustard seed | | | | |
| Very poor | -- | -- | -- | 1 |
| Poor | 3 | -- | 4 | 8 |
| Fair..... | 8 | 2 | 50 | 47 |
| Good..... | 88 | 97 | 45 | 41 |
| Excellent | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Pasture and range | | | | |
| Very poor | 4 | 4 | 1 | 13 |
| Poor | 14 | 10 | 8 | 16 |
| Fair..... | 28 | 23 | 32 | 24 |
| Good..... | 46 | 55 | 49 | 37 |
| Excellent | 8 | 8 | 10 | 10 |
| Safflower | | | | |
| Very poor | 4 | 4 | NA | NA |
| Poor | 23 | 32 | NA | NA |
| Fair..... | 52 | 46 | NA | NA |
| Good..... | 17 | 15 | NA | NA |
| Excellent | 4 | 3 | NA | NA |
| Spring wheat | | | | |
| Very poor | -- | -- | 1 | 5 |
| Poor | 5 | 4 | 7 | 15 |
| Fair..... | 30 | 39 | 42 | 29 |
| Good..... | 59 | 53 | 47 | 46 |
| Excellent | 6 | 4 | 3 | 5 |
| Winter wheat | | | | |
| Very poor | 1 | -- | 1 | 7 |
| Poor | 2 | 2 | 2 | 16 |
| Fair..... | 29 | 38 | 45 | 27 |
| Good..... | 38 | 35 | 35 | 28 |
| Excellent | 30 | 25 | 17 | 22 |

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