

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 14, 2024

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: The week was marked by extreme heat and dry conditions, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Temperatures ran about 3 – 12 degrees above normal, according to data from the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). Average temperatures ran higher moving west. Precipitation levels were in a range of about 0.2 - 0.8 inch below normal for most of the State. Changes in drought conditions, however, were minimal according to the U.S. Drought Monitor report released July 11. The amount of land rated drought free, as well as abnormally dry conditions, were both unchanged at 3 and 57 percent, respectively. Moderate dryness was found in 37 percent of the State, down one percentage point from the previous week. Severe drought conditions increased by the same amount to almost 4 percent. Temperatures climbed above 100 degrees in Big Horn County with little to no moisture. Crops matured more quickly, and pastures dried out. Temperatures similarly reached the 100-degree mark in Hill County. Reporters in Deer Lodge and Beaverhead Counties also reported dry conditions. Winds were high with no precipitation, which further reduced moisture levels in soils. Irrigated crops did well in Mineral, Missoula, and Ravalli Counties, but conditions were very hot and dry. Without additional moisture, crops in non-irrigated fields suffered. Winds further contributed to deteriorating conditions. Wildfires were reported on public lands in Missoula County. A reporter in Roosevelt County commented on the extreme heat. Conditions were similar in Wibaux County, with no rain.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
1 st cutting harvested.....	63	55	71	65
2 nd cutting harvested.....	2	NA	NA	NA
Barley				
Booted	90	86	92	92
Headed	73	47	56	67
Coloring.....	3	2	7	12
Canola				
Blooming.....	66	39	76	76
Coloring.....	15	6	18	20
Dry edible beans				
Blooming.....	53	24	84	58
Dry peas				
Blooming.....	92	88	90	87
Durum wheat				
Booted	86	59	85	83
Headed	59	35	55	55
Coloring.....	3	NA	NA	NA
Flaxseed				
Blooming.....	37	8	66	66
Coloring.....	2	--	NA	NA
Lentils				
Blooming.....	93	87	85	85
Mustard seed				
Blooming.....	96	72	93	80
Coloring.....	10	--	21	16
Oats				
Booted	81	67	85	83
Headed	57	35	52	53
Coloring.....	23	1	NA	NA
Other hay				
1 st cutting harvested.....	64	52	75	66
Safflower				
Emerged	95	79	94	NA
Blooming.....	30	15	28	28
Spring wheat				
Booted	93	87	NA	NA
Headed	72	58	83	68
Coloring.....	19	1	NA	NA
Winter wheat				
Coloring.....	75	64	59	55

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	6.8	5.3	6.9	6.4
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	6	4	10	20
Short	35	27	36	27
Adequate.....	59	68	53	50
Surplus.....	--	1	1	3
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	6	5	7	21
Short	38	29	41	30
Adequate.....	56	65	52	48
Surplus.....	--	1	--	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	--	--	2	6
Poor	5	5	12	16
Fair.....	29	37	42	27
Good.....	65	56	30	34
Excellent	1	2	14	17
Canola				
Very poor	--	--	3	2
Poor	1	1	7	7
Fair.....	31	33	31	31
Good.....	63	61	54	46
Excellent	5	5	5	14
Corn				
Very poor	--	1	2	4
Poor	4	5	20	11
Fair.....	37	28	23	27
Good.....	57	64	50	50
Excellent	2	2	5	8
Dry peas				
Very poor	--	--	1	5
Poor	1	1	5	13
Fair.....	20	28	42	34
Good.....	76	68	51	41
Excellent	3	3	1	7
Durum wheat				
Very poor	--	--	1	6
Poor	6	6	15	14
Fair.....	33	34	67	43
Good.....	59	57	15	32
Excellent	2	3	2	5
Lentils				
Very poor	--	--	1	3
Poor	1	1	18	10
Fair.....	22	23	42	40
Good.....	72	70	38	41
Excellent	5	6	1	6
Mustard seed				
Very poor	--	--	--	1
Poor	--	3	13	10
Fair.....	2	8	45	48
Good.....	97	88	41	38
Excellent	1	1	1	3
Pasture and range				
Very poor	5	4	2	16
Poor	17	14	13	15
Fair.....	35	28	35	21
Good.....	37	46	45	38
Excellent	6	8	5	10
Safflower				
Very poor	1	4	--	4
Poor	14	23	--	12
Fair.....	59	52	45	35
Good.....	25	17	55	46
Excellent	1	4	--	3
Spring wheat				
Very poor	--	--	1	8
Poor	6	5	12	15
Fair.....	21	30	45	27
Good.....	68	59	38	42
Excellent	5	6	4	8
Winter wheat				
Very poor	1	1	1	6
Poor	8	2	5	16
Fair.....	38	29	36	28
Good.....	32	38	38	25
Excellent	21	30	20	25

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

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

NA – not available
 (--) – zero