

# MONTANA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture  
**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE**  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 13, 2024

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** It was another week of above normal temperatures and minimal precipitation, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Temperatures ran above normal across the State, ranging from about 3 to 12 degrees above average, according to data from the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). The highest average temperatures were found in southern portions of the State. Precipitation levels were once again zero, or near zero, for the majority of Montana. The amount of land rated drought free held stable at 15 percent, according to data from the U.S. Drought Monitor released October 10. Abnormal dryness was found in 34 percent of the State, down 9 percentage points from last week. Moderate drought increased to 28 percent, up from 21 percent last week. Severe drought conditions were unchanged at 12 percent. Extreme drought conditions increased to 10 percent, up 2 percentage points. Exceptional drought conditions stood still at 1 percent. An agent in Dawson County reported that current conditions were exceptionally dry. The dryness has been unrelenting for the past three months, and pastures and ranges were in very bad order. The heat and dry conditions also persevered in Mineral, Missoula, and Ravalli Counties. Wildfires were still burning. The presence of smoke in the air was heavy. The heat and lack of rain have negatively affected all fall plantings in Prairie County, as well as crops still unharvested. A reporter for Roosevelt County also stated that dry conditions were ongoing.

### CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Canola				
Harvested.....	97	93	93	NA
Corn				
Harvested for grain .....	29	18	40	30
Harvested for silage .....	62	46	82	82
Flaxseed				
Harvested.....	96	88	NA	NA
Safflower				
Harvested.....	72	60	74	NA
Sugar beets				
Harvested.....	21	9	26	24
Winter wheat				
Planted.....	68	64	75	72
Emerged .....	58	50	50	44
Cattle and calves				
Moved from pasture .....	41	36	49	45
Receiving supplemental feed.....	23	11	18	23
Sheep and lambs				
Moved from pasture .....	38	25	42	44
Receiving supplemental feed.....	29	14	10	20

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.....	7.0	6.5	6.6	5.5
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short .....	25	20	33	29
Short .....	45	45	37	34
Adequate .....	30	35	30	30
Surplus .....	--	--	--	7
Subsoil moisture				
Very short .....	29	26	49	34
Short .....	43	44	31	34
Adequate .....	28	30	20	27
Surplus .....	--	--	--	5

NA – not available  
 (–) – zero

**CROP, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION <sup>1</sup>**

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
<b>Corn</b>				
Very poor.....	2	1	1	4
Poor.....	7	6	3	8
Fair.....	38	30	17	23
Good.....	50	57	70	59
Excellent.....	3	6	9	6
<b>Pasture and range</b>				
Very poor.....	34	27	12	25
Poor.....	26	27	14	18
Fair.....	34	39	26	26
Good.....	6	7	41	24
Excellent.....	--	--	7	7
<b>Winter wheat</b>				
Very poor.....	1	NA	NA	NA
Poor.....	7	NA	NA	NA
Fair.....	56	NA	NA	NA
Good.....	35	NA	NA	NA
Excellent.....	1	NA	NA	NA

<sup>1</sup>Current conditions for Sugarbeets are available using the QuickStats on-line database at: [https://www.nass.usda.gov/Quick\\_Stats/](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Quick_Stats/)

NA – not available

(--) – zero