

# 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 OCTOBER 20, 2024

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** Temperatures ran above normal, and precipitation varied, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Temperatures were in a range of about 3-12 degrees above normal for the majority of the State, according to data from the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). Average temperatures ran highest in central portions of Montana, and in a few areas across the east. Precipitation levels were zero or near zero in most northern parts of the State. Moving south, precipitation levels increased in some areas. Parts of southwestern Montana received up to 0.8 inch of moisture, according to the HPRCC. According to data from the U.S. Drought Monitor Report released October 17, the amount of land rated drought free increased to 16 percent, up from 15 percent the previous week. Abnormal dryness fell to 30 percent, down 4 percentage points. Moderate drought was found in 22 percent of the State, down from 28 percent last week. Severe drought conditions increased to 19 percent, up 7 percentage points. Extreme conditions increased to 12 percent, up 2 percentage points. Exceptional drought conditions were unchanged, at 1 percent. With an average of 6.9 days available for field work, harvest continued for any remaining crops. Though precipitation was received in some areas, more moisture was needed. A reporter for Mineral, Missoula, and Ravalli Counties stated that a rainstorm went through the counties early in the week, but conditions remained very dry. The storm did clear smoke from skies, and helped diminish the spread of wildfire. The dryness also lingered on in Roosevelt County. An agent in Sweet Grass County reported that spotty rains fell on Thursday. Some light snow was also received in the high mountain elevations.

### CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Corn				
Harvested for grain .....	48	29	61	40
Harvested for silage .....	81	62	85	NA
Safflower				
Harvested.....	88	72	80	NA
Sugar beets				
Harvested.....	37	21	41	40
Winter wheat				
Planted.....	75	68	77	82
Emerged.....	67	58	61	57
Cattle and calves				
Moved from pasture .....	47	41	51	52
Receiving supplemental feed.....	35	23	23	31
Sheep and lambs				
Moved from pasture .....	43	38	44	51
Receiving supplemental feed.....	31	29	11	27

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.....	6.9	7.0	6.8	5.1
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short .....	26	25	24	26
Short.....	36	45	37	33
Adequate .....	38	30	39	34
Surplus .....	--	--	--	7
Subsoil moisture				
Very short .....	27	29	40	32
Short.....	37	43	31	33
Adequate .....	36	28	29	30
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	2	1	4
Poor.....	15	7	3	8
Fair.....	41	38	18	27
Good.....	41	50	70	54
Excellent.....	1	3	8	7
<b>Pasture and range</b>				
Very poor.....	36	34	18	26
Poor.....	23	26	19	17
Fair.....	37	34	27	24
Good.....	4	6	34	28
Excellent.....	--	--	2	5
<b>Winter wheat</b>				
Very poor.....	1	1	1	7
Poor.....	8	7	7	8
Fair.....	64	56	31	34
Good.....	26	35	20	36
Excellent.....	1	1	41	15

<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