



Colorado Crop Progress

NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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Agricultural Summary: Last week Colorado experienced scattered showers on the Eastern Plains but the State, overall, still received below average precipitation with above average temperatures. Early and continued warm temperatures have pushed wheat and grass growth ahead of normal. The San Luis Valley reported that due to extreme dry conditions there is the potential for prevented planting claims. Overall, the mountain snowpack is 20 percent of average raising concerns about the availability of irrigation water this growing season. Farmers were allowed 6.6 days in the field for spring operations.

TOP SOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	14	29	56	1
Last Week	7	26	64	3
Last Year	30	31	36	3

SUBSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	12	35	53	0
Last Week	12	34	54	0
Last Year	31	32	34	3

Small Grains: Winter wheat progress increased to 87 percent jointed and 25 percent headed, compared with the 5-year averages of 68 percent and 7 percent, respectively. The crop was rated in mostly good to fair condition despite some reports of Stripe Rust showing on vulnerable varieties and the presence of Russian Wheat Aphids. Spring barley was 83 percent seeded with 53 percent emerged by the end of the week compared with the 5-year average of 84 percent and 49 percent, respectively. The crop was rated in mostly good to fair condition. Spring wheat was reported 78 percent seeded and 45 percent emerged at week's end.

Row Crops: Corn progress increased to 58 percent planted with 11 percent emerged. Onion growers reported 96 percent of the acreage planted, with the crop rated in mostly good condition. Summer potato plantings increased to 75 percent last week with 33 percent emerged. Fall potato plantings last week increased to 34

percent planted. Sugarbeet planting reached 84 percent planted with 34 percent up to stand. Sorghum progress increased to 11 percent planted while dry bean progress increased to 3 percent planted. Producers started planting sunflowers last week with 2 percent planted by the end of the week.

SMALL GRAIN CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week ending May 6, 2012

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Spring Barley					
This Week	0	0	45	55	0
Last Year	0	0	25	75	0
Winter Wheat					
This Week	2	10	34	46	8
Last Year	18	25	36	20	1

Pasture and Range: Pasture and range feed conditions decreased last week to mostly fair to poor condition across the State, as a result of the dry weather. Producers have reported early stocking of cattle on pastures due to the warmer temperatures and shortage of feed stores in certain areas. Alfalfa was reported in mostly good to fair condition last week.

PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week ending May 6, 2012

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture & Range-2012	4	33	45	18	0
Prev. Year - 2011	14	32	36	15	3
5-Year Avg.	5	21	37	33	4

Livestock: Ninety-two percent of cows have calved since January 1st while 95 percent of the ewes have lambled during the same time frame. Livestock condition remains in mostly good condition. Death losses for cattle and sheep were average. Stored feed supplies were rated average to short for this time of year.

Spring 2012 Calving and Lambing

	2012	5-Yr Avg.
Cows Calved since Jan 1	92	91
Ewes Lambled since Jan 1	95	91

COLORADO CROP PROGRESS

Development Ratings for Week Ending May 6, 2012

Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg.
Corn				
Planted	58	22	42	40
Emerged	11	2	-	4
Dry Beans				
Planted	3	1	-	-
Dry Onions				
Planted	96	92	92	90
Fall Potatoes				
Planted	34	5	14	15
Sorghum				
Planted	11	2	1	5
Spring Barley				
Seeded	83	69	84	84
Emerged	53	40	42	49
Spring Wheat				
Seeded	78	68	65	65
Emerged	45	22	20	30
Sugarbeets				
Planted	84	62	46	69
Up to Stand	34	10	-	8
Summer Potatoes				
Planted	75	55	34	37
Emerged	33	13	-	2
Sunflowers				
Planted	2	N/A	-	1
Winter Wheat				
Jointed	87	67	62	68
Headed	25	3	6	7

- Represents zero.

N/A Not available.

COLORADO CONDITION RATINGS ^{1/}

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Alfalfa	1	6	34	57	2
Dry Onions	0	0	23	59	18
Sugarbeets	0	0	27	69	4
Livestock	1	3	26	61	9

^{1/} Crop condition ratings pertain to emerged plants early in the growing season through plants remaining to be harvested late in the season.