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Crop Report for Colorado

U. S. Department of Agriculture

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Preliminary Acreage Estimates—The estimates of the acreages for 1924 crops in Colorado given in this bulletin, are preliminary estimates of acreages left for harvest and not necessarily the same as the acreage planted, and are subject to revision later in December.

United States Figures are not generally reproduced in the text on account of lack of space, but will be found in the table on page 4.

General Conditions—Marked declines in condition for corn, small grains and beans during July, condition of all grain crops of the state, and potatoes materially below the 10-year average, and hay holding steady, are the salient features of the August 1 crop report for Colorado. The principal declines were in crops of which large percentages are grown upon non-irrigated farms where the effects of the two months' drought period since June 1 were most marked.

Compared with the 10-year average, the combined condition of all important crops in Colorado declined 3.3 points during July and was 93 per cent of average compared with 96.3 on July 1 and 100.2 August 1 last year and 90.8 per cent of average on August 1, 1922.

Corn—Due to the effects of the continued dry weather over the most important corn sections of the state, except the east central, corn declined 6 points during July and came to August 1 with a condition of 70 per cent. Assuming that the entire 1,565,000 acres devoted to corn in the state this year will be harvested as grain, the forecast of production at this time is 25,180,000 bushels, compared with 37,250,000 bushels, the final estimate of last year, and 18,320,000 bushels in 1922. The present condition of corn is largely due to having been planted nearly three weeks later than usual and continued dry weather since June 1, resulting in poor and uneven stands. In Colorado about 90 per cent of the corn acreage is non-irrigated. This portion of the crop is tasseling and earing short in most parts of the state so that a large yield cannot be expected. The results of special inquiries for a number of years indicates that only about 70 to 80 per cent of the total acreage of corn is harvested for grain. If this ratio prevails this year, the total production for grain will be reduced proportionately.

Winter Wheat—Winter wheat declined 2 points during July and had a harvest time condition of 78 per cent, compared with 77 last year. Based upon the estimated average yield of 15 bushels per acre, the production is placed at 20,625,000 bushels, compared with 12,720,000 bushels last year and 16,406,000 bushels in 1922. The crop is more or less spotted and headed short in some sections, particularly the stubble wheat. Most of the crop, however, came out better than expected from conditions indicated on July 1, considering the continued dry weather during July. It is now believed the final estimate will hold up closely to the present figures.

Spring Wheat—Spring wheat is placed at 75, a decline of 2 points during July, compared with 87 a year ago. The dry weather during June and July materially reduced this crop, especially upon the non-irrigated acreages, much of which headed short and some cut for hay. The present estimate is 5,569,000 bushels compared with the final estimate of last year of 5,280,000 bushels. The final outturn is likely to be considerably less than the present figures indicate. In Colorado about 44 per cent of the spring wheat acreage is upon irrigated farms.

Oats, Barley, Rye—These small grains suffered similarly to spring and winter wheat. Of the acreages devoted to these crops, about 44 per cent of the oats and 30 per cent of the barley are upon irrigated farms, while rye is practically all non-irrigated.

Potatoes—There was a decline during July of 7 points in the condition of potatoes, which had a condition of 81 per cent on August 1, compared with 88 per cent a year ago and 87 per cent the 10-year average for this date. Temperatures were generally favorable, but the potatoes were planted late and the dry weather materially effected the crop. The forecast of production at this time is 11,314,000 bushels, compared with 13,530,000 bushels last year and 18,460,000 bushels, the large crop of 1922. Colorado ranks eighth among the 17 leading surplus and other near-by competing late potato producing states, and is now marketing her early crop. This early crop is now coming principally from the western slope and up to August 8 there had been 280 cars shipped, compared with 294 cars to August 4 last year. Usually about 70 to 80 per cent of the total production of Colorado is considered as commercial. Of the entire acreage of the state about 80 per cent is upon irrigated farms. The dry land crop is in especially poor condition at this time.

Field Beans—The field bean crop of the state is from 85 to 90 per cent non-irrigated, and this portion of the crop has practically stood still since July 1 with declining prospects, the condition being reported at 73, compared with 85 a month ago and 94 last year at this time. The production is now placed at 2,020,000 bushels, compared with 1,360,000 bushels a year ago. However, unless rains come soon the crop must further materially decline and the production be much less than indicated, in some sections and in many fields there will practically be a failure. The largest acreage in the history of the state was planted this year, being 306,000 acres, compared to 170,000 acres last year and 250,000 acres in 1917 and 1918.

Fruits—Prospects in the state for good crops for all kinds of fruits, with the exception of cherries, are still regarded as excellent, generally promising greater production than the crop of last year, more apples and pears, and a few less peaches. Detailed figures will be found on the last page.

Cherries—The cherry crop of the state varies in different sections and is commercially a failure, being rated as only 20 per cent of normal, compared with 80 per cent last year and 92 per cent in 1922, 50 in 1921, and 75 in 1919. Due to the sparse crop, the cost of picking is excessive. The crop this year, if all gathered, would not exceed 1,100 tons. In 1919, the census reported 5,500 tons harvested. The principal cherry counties are Larimer, Fremont, Jefferson, Otero and Crowley.

Miscellaneous Crops—On August 1, condition figures for other crops of the state for 1924, 1923 and 1922 in the order named for the years are as follows: Alfalfa, 84-90-80; grain sorghums, 70-95-78; millet, 73-92-76; pastures, 73-93-70; sugar beets, 88-94-88; broom corn, 65-91-85; tomatoes, 91-92-85; cabbage, 90-83-85; onions, 90-92-85; watermelons, 80-89-80; cantaloupes, 82-88-80; grapes, 90-95-86; blackberries (production), 81-88-85.

Agricultural Outlook is based upon reports from all sections of the state, indicating the estimated amount of moisture in the soil compared with normal. On August 1, the moisture supply was rated as only 76, compared with 86 on July 1, 101 on August 1 last year and 96 for August 1, 1920. During the last week of each April and May, there were heavy rains over most of the state except in the southeastern portion. Since June 1 there has been much less than the normal amount of precipitation except in the form of local showers and a good rain covering a considerable area in the east central part of the state. All parts of the state are needing rain at this time.

Condition figures for the irrigated and non-irrigated crops are not given separately, only the composite condition figures by counties and for the state are used as shown in the table on page 3 and elsewhere.

General Review of United States Crop Conditions, August 1, 1924—The composite condition of all crops of the United States on August 1 was about 4.1 per cent below their 10-year average on that date, 1.9 per cent higher than on July 1, and 0.2 per cent lower than final per acre yields last year. This year's total acreage in 20 cultivated crops is about 0.1 per cent more than last year.

The condition figures for August 1, and the 10-year averages in order for United States crops not mentioned elsewhere, are: Alfalfa hay, 81.3-87.0; broom corn, 78.8-75.1; buckwheat, 87.7-88.8; grain sorghums, 76.5-79.1; flax, 86.4-75.8; sorghum for syrup, 75.5-81-0; blackberries, etc. (production), 84.8-80.3; grapes, 72.7-84.9; melons, 72.6-76.6; peanuts, 75.6-82.8; rice, 83.4-87.8; sugar cane (La.), 66.9-80.0; sweet potatoes, 70.2-83.5; pasture, 84.0-83.0. (California and Florida): grapefruit, 88.0-78.7; oranges, 85.0-77.4; prunes, 65.0-77.7.

The total production of important products this year compared with last year, expressed in percentages, is estimated as follows: Corn, 84.6; wheat, 103.6; oats, 110.7; barley, 92.9; rye, 104.5; buckwheat, 108.6; white potatoes, 96.8; sweet potatoes, 83.1; tobacco, 80.6; flaxseed, 163.2; rice, 98.8; hay (tame), 99.9; sugar beets, 106.2; appes, 93.3; peaches, 114.2; pears, 101.1; grain sorghums, 106.0; broom corn, 109.5; beans, 87.3; peanuts, 100.0; hops, 98.3; sorghum (syrup), 96.6.

CONDITION OF CROPS AND SOIL MOISTURE ON AUGUST 1, 1924, PER CENT, COMPARED WITH NORMAL

District and Counties	Corn	Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat	Oats	Barley	Field Beans	Potatoes	All Hay	Alfalfa	Pasture	Soil Moisture
1. Northwest—											
Grand	.....	.....	75	90	82	.....	85	85	85	95	75
Jackson	.....	.....	.....	95	93	.....	50	90	.....	75	87
Moffat	50	75	50	51	30	.....	20	65	.....	80	.....
Rio Blanco	58	80	89	72	60	.....	60	60	75	95	85
Routt	.....	70	75	72	70	.....	71	81	90	79	70
2. North Central—											
Adams	56	85	83	80	82	51	82	76	68	80	63
Boulder	73	100	86	90	93	100	90	77	87	75	90
Denver	80	87	85	89	90	.....	.....	88	88	89	81
Larimer	75	88	88	91	90	80	75	81	88	81	85
Weld	70	83	85	89	87	70	81	84	80	65	77
3. Northeast—											
Logan	93	94	83	97	92	93	94	88	93	92	90
Morgan	86	74	67	87	91	85	92	70	77	69	90
Phillips	50	90	75	80	75	96	.....	75	75	100	85
Sedgwick	66	92	81	85	90	.....	98	83	95	67	66
Washington	82	65	65	67	72	.....	75	.....	75	60	70
Yuma	66	89	65	64	71	85	65	91	55	78	74
4. West Central—											
Delta	82	90	85	83	95	.....	80	82	75	69	72
Eagle	.....	.....	98	100	100	.....	85	90	85	80	75
Garfield	69	89	91	90	90	.....	84	82	76	63	86
Gunnison	.....	.....	80	65	60	.....	55	84	70	70	70
Mesa	96	94	92	97	80	.....	95	100	97	92	97
Montrose	93	89	91	91	92	.....	95	81	72	84	75
Ouray	.....	89	82	89	92	.....	73	90	90	92	95
Pitkin	.....	96	100	95	98	.....	75	75	75	75	40
5. Central—											
Chaffee	.....	.....	.....	85	85	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Clear Creek	.....	.....	.....	50	.....	.....	75	75	.....	.....	.....
Fremont	70	88	90	57	.....	.....	70	80	90	55	62
Gilpin	.....	.....	.....	56	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Jefferson	78	88	84	83	83	70	75	88	80	79	75
Lake	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	85	.....
Park	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Summit	.....	.....	.....	85	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Teller	.....	.....	.....	90	92	.....	90	96	100	97	83
6. East Central—											
Arapahoe	75	83	80	76	79	88	.....	73	64	65	77
Cheyenne	60	50	.....	50	55	.....	.....	.....	.....	70	40
Douglas	.....	.....	.....	80	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	80	70
Elbert	75	97	90	90	75	75	80	90	50	80	75
El Paso	70	82	83	80	73	75	40	70	70	72	70
Kit Carson	72	65	53	72	76	73	83	70	50	72	78
Lincoln	77	80	81	89	81	87	80	67	72	78	82
7. Southwest—											
Archuleta	.....	85	60	65	75	.....	80	75	60	75	50
Dolores	.....	70	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	80	65
Hinsdale	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
La Plata	80	68	76	79	62	75	72	68	65	72	58
Mineral	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Montezuma	75	88	91	78	91	90	86	87	90	77	82
San Juan	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	72	74	74
San Miguel	.....	77	79	76	81	.....	77	81	75	80	65
8. South Central—											
Alamosa	.....	.....	.....	80	90	.....	82	96	95	95	98
Conejos	.....	.....	.....	85	85	.....	90	100	90	80	90
Costilla	.....	100	.....	75	75	100	90	97	100	95	90
Custer	82	70	56	68	35	.....	60	90	65	75	90
Huerfano	85	86	82	82	70	95	.....	91	72	80	80
Rio Grande	.....	.....	89	89	89	.....	81	89	88	80	75
Saguache	.....	.....	95	90	97	.....	87	95	97	85	75
9. Southeast—											
Baca	71	53	48	70	68	55	.....	.....	95	66	56
Bent	77	82	87	92	81	25	.....	80	85	62	50
Crowley	80	77	81	93	90	.....	.....	.....	94	.....	.....
Kiowa	60	58	62	60	65	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Las Animas	58	44	65	56	52	35	60	65	90	40	35
Otero	84	97	80	94	100	.....	.....	.....	94	65	97
Prowers	93	87	98	99	92	.....	.....	100	102	92	91
Pueblo	85	92	80	85	92	67	.....	100	83	50	72
State Total	70	78	75	78	74	73	81	84	84	73	76

SUMMARY OF THE AUGUST 1, 1924, CROP AND LIVESTOCK REPORT FOR COLORADO AND THE UNITED STATES

Subject	COLORADO 1924	COLORADO 1923	COLORADO Average	UNITED STATES 1924	UNITED STATES 1923	UNITED STATES Average
CORN—						
Acres	1,565	1,490	1,145‡	104,604	104,158	101,984†
Condition, per cent	70	95	83	70.7	84.0	80.9
Production, bushels grain	25,180	37,250	18,320‡	2,576,000	3,046,000	2,899,000†
ALL WHEAT ACRES—						
Acres for harvest	1,705	1,390	1,620‡	53,818	58,308	64,403†
Production, bushels	26,194	18,000	21,776‡	814,000	786,000	881,900†
WINTER WHEAT—						
Acres for harvest	1,375	1,060	1,262‡	36,898	39,522	42,682†
Average yield, bushels	15	12.0	18.1	16.0	14.3	15.4
Production, bushels	20,625	12,720	16,406‡	589,000	572,000	624,653†
SPRING WHEAT—						
Acres for harvest	330	330	358‡	16,920	18,786	21,724†
Condition, per cent	75	87	83	79.7	69.6	72.4
Production, bushels	5,569	5,280	5,370‡	225,000	213,000	256,336†
OATS—						
Acres for harvest	228	198	185†	41,625	40,768	42,697‡
Condition, per cent	78	92	85	88.2	81.9	80.8
Production, bushels	6,491	6,336	4,625‡	1,439,000	1,300,000	1,302,516†
BARLEY—						
Acres for harvest	265	221	186‡	7,558	7,905	7,758†
Condition, per cent	74	92	85	80.7	82.6	81.4
Production, bushels	6,079	6,409	3,534‡	184,000	198,000	186,036†
RYE—						
Acres for harvest	68	73	97‡	4,337	5,157	5,661†
Average yield, bushels	10	12.0	13.0	15.2	12.4	14.9
Production, bushels	680	876	873‡	65,800	63,000	78,410†
WHITE POTATOES—						
Acres for harvest	97	110	142‡	3,753	4,307	4,948†
Condition, per cent	81	88	87	85.4	80.5	81.2
Production, bushels	11,314	13,530	18,460‡	399,000	412,000	391,000†
SUGAR BEETS—						
Acres planted	238	.....	.....	917	.....	.....
Acres harvested	.....	165	148‡	.....	657	701†
Condition, per cent	88	94	88	83.2	90.4	88.4
Production, tons	2,360	1,962	1,466‡	7,439	7,006	6,775†
Sugar production, tons	.....	240	183‡	951	881	854†
ALL HAY—						
Acres harvested	1,612	1,576	1,557‡	.....	75,884	74,095†
Condition, per cent	84	91	90	83.8	81.5	87.6
Production, tons	2,766	2,797	2,618‡	.....	106,626	102,172†
TAME HAY—						
Acres harvested	1,239	1,203	1,191‡	61,020	60,162	58,134†
Condition, per cent	84	92	90	84.6	81.0	87.6
Production, tons	2,394	2,406	2,263‡	89,017	89,098	85,800†
WILD HAY—						
Acres harvested	373	373	366‡	.....	15,722	15,961†
Condition, per cent	83	90	90	78.3	84.2	.....
Production, tons	372	391	355‡	.....	17,528	16,372†
FIELD BEANS—						
Acres for harvest	306	170	81‡	1,353	1,297	1,099†
Condition, per cent	73	94	86	79.1	87.3	83.4
Production, bushels	2,020	1,360	405‡	13,688	15,740	12,341†
APPLES—						
Condition, per cent	83	78	66	59.6	62.8	58.5
Agr'l prod'n, bushels	3,274	3,010	4,250‡	183,691	197,000	202,702‡
Commercial barrels	884	803	1,034‡	29,383	34,300	31,000‡
PEACHES—						
Condition, per cent	85	75	61	66.9	61.3	58.1
Agr'l prod'n, bushels	777	792	900‡	52,173	45,700	55,852‡
PEARS—						
Condition, per cent	95	80	70	62.1	61.8	60.8
Agr'l prod'n, bushels	506	400	519‡	17,574	17,390	20,705‡

NOTES: The figures on acreage and production enumerate thousands and require that three ciphers (000) be added to complete the numbers. *1919 revised estimates. †5-year average. Acreage and production figures for 1923 and 1922 are the last December final estimates and revisions. §1919 Federal Census. ‡1922. Averages unless otherwise designated are 10-year averages.