

NEBRASKA WHEAT CROP REPORT

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The USDA has not released a crop report for this week.

In the northern Panhandle, producers said that wheat is starting to break dormancy. Soil moisture is adequate for now, but will need moisture within the next week or two. Some areas had good winter conditions, but others experienced fluctuating temperatures. Producers in those areas are watching for winter kill damage.

In the southern Panhandle, producers said that wheat is starting to green up; however, some of the crop seems to be damaged by a combination of drought and winter kill. The wheat grew rapidly in the fall and depleted the moisture supply. The area also experienced a dry winter with little snowfall. Producers estimate that some fields have as much as 20-25% damage, while other fields were not affected.

In the northern part of southwest Nebraska, producers said wheat is breaking dormancy. In some areas soil moisture profiles are adequate, but in others soil moisture is severely lacking. There has been no significant rainfall or snowfall recently. Producers said areas affected

by low soil moisture have some fields with up to 75% damage from drought winter kill.

In the southwest corner of Nebraska, the wheat crop is greening up. Signs of winter kill are apparent, with the most severe fields having 60-80% damage and the less severe fields showing 40-50% damage. Soil moisture is short due to warm temperatures in November that lead to rapid growth, depleting the soil profile. Producers in this area are also watching for army cutworms.

In the southeast corner of Nebraska, the wheat is greening up and looks good. In some areas there are a few spots where the wheat was drowned out from large rainfalls in the fall, but overall producers said the crop wintered fine. Soil moisture levels are very low and rainfall will be needed within the next two weeks. The wheat had a nice start last fall with adequate rainfall, but the topsoil is dry now.

Overall, producers said the winter hardiness of varieties will be apparent this year due to fluctuating temperatures and a lack of snow cover for the majority of winter.



Wheat in this field near Chappell, is suffering from both drought and winter kill. Producers said fields in this area may have as much as 75% damage.



This photo shows the difference in wheat plants suffering from winter kill and those that are better off near Elsie.



This is a close up look at wheat near Elsie that has winter kill damage. Producers said fields in this area may have as much as 25% damage.