

# Sunflower

## Highlights

July 20, 2015



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### Markets

The past week has seen increased pressure build from a continued rally in the U.S. dollar. The dollar neared a three-month high. The stronger U.S. dollar could lead to a slowdown in exports as importers look for cheaper sources of product. Traders are also anticipating unchanged to possibly higher crop condition ratings in the USDA weekly report. The weather outlook remains favorable for crops in the next two-week period. This resulted in fund selling and reduces the chance of speculative buying by traders on the CBoT. U.S. sunflower planted acreage this year increased 8%, to 1.68 million acres, 104,000 acres below farmers' March intentions. Although South Dakota producers increased sunflower acreage, North Dakota farmers did not expand planting of oil-type varieties as much as first intended. U.S. oil-type sunflower acreage is up 19% this year, to 1.4 million acres while confection-type sunflower acreage fell 27% , to 283,000 acres. Assuming a trend yield, combined U.S. sunflower production in 2015/16 may increase 7% to 2.4 billion pounds. USDA is projecting sunflower prices to trade in a range of \$18.05-\$20.55 during the 2015/16 market year. Going forward USDA reports and weather/crop conditions will continue to drive price direction.

### CROP PROGRESS

Planting is wrapping up in Texas and Kansas – Texas planting is 98 percent complete, Kansas is 97 percent finished. Sunflowers are also beginning to bloom in Kansas, with 9 percent reported blooming. 62 percent of the sunflowers in Kansas are reported in good to excellent condition. Meantime, Colorado reports 80 percent of its sunflower in good to excellent condition. North Dakota reports 79 percent good to excellent, and in South Dakota, 71 percent of the crop is in good to excellent condition.

State	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 yr Av
<b>N. Dakota</b>				
<i>Blooming</i>	8	2	1	4
<b>S. Dakota</b>				
<i>Emerged</i>	95	89	88	---
<b>Texas</b>				
<i>Planted</i>	98	97	100	99
<b>Kansas</b>				
<i>Planted</i>	97	94	99	99
<i>Emerged</i>	90	85	92	93
<i>Blooming</i>	9	1	5	10

Source: USDA NASS

### SUNFLOWER CROP CONDITIONS

State	VP	Poor	Fair	Good	Ex
<b>N. Dakota</b>	0	6	15	72	7
<b>S. Dakota</b>	0	1	28	68	3
<b>Minnesota</b>	0	1	37	56	6
<b>Colorado</b>	0	0	20	47	33
<b>Kansas</b>	0	2	28	62	8

Source: USDA NASS (not all states reporting)

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### START SCOUTING FOR RUST

Sunflowers are still young, but it's important to scout for rust in the upcoming weeks. When rust reaches approximately 1% severity on the upper four leaves at or before bloom (R5) yield loss can occur. Fortunately, rust can be managed with well-timed fungicide applications. For more about rust, visit [www.sunflowernsa.com/growers/diseases/rust-damage-and-control/](http://www.sunflowernsa.com/growers/diseases/rust-damage-and-control/)

### SUNFLOWER SURVEY UNDERWAY

It's sunflower survey time again for Max Dietrich. He's been surveying sunflower fields every year but one since 2001, looking for answers to help producers increase yield. This year, he's focused on new ways to control wireworms and also at using an in furrow fertilizer to get faster emergence. Max and his teams have surveyed 12 fields in North and South Dakota. They'll revisit those fields again in the fall. Look for more about the survey in an upcoming issue of *The Sunflower*.

### GROWER REPORT

The last seven days were good ones for Tim DeKrey's sunflower crop. DeKrey farms near Steele, ND, in the central part of the state. He says his 500 acres of oils are at least six feet tall and have a good stand. He says if the weather stays hot, they should be blooming in another week or two. DeKrey says so far he hasn't seen any disease or insect issues in his sunflower fields.