

Alberta Crop Report



Crop Conditions as of May 11, 2021 (Abbreviated Report)

The province has seen significant progress this past week with 32 per cent of acres seeded compared to last week's 14 per cent (Table 1). South region has 55 per cent of the major crops in the ground, followed by Central at 32 per cent, while the North East, North West and Peace regions are now 23 to 17 per cent complete. Peas are leading the acre race for major crops, jumping 28 points over last week. All regions are ahead of the five- and 10-year statistics for this week, as we saw excellent seeding conditions prevalent across Alberta. The crop emergence estimate is currently three per cent, which is in line with the five-year and 10-year averages.

Map 1: Soil Moisture Reserves

Table 1: Alberta Seeding Progress of Major Crops as of May 11, 2021

	% Seeded					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	60.5%	43.5%	37.8%	35.4%	19.9%	42.4%
Barley	56.0%	29.5%	13.9%	13.2%	11.9%	32.0%
Oats	47.2%	26.4%	6.2%	7.1%	9.4%	13.0%
Canola	36.1%	9.2%	5.1%	7.9%	15.4%	13.7%
Dry Peas	78.0%	75.4%	68.6%	50.3%	22.5%	62.3%
Average	55.4%	31.5%	22.8%	20.5%	17.2%	31.5%
Last Week	39.7%	11.0%	6.5%	3.9%	0.8%	13.5%
Last Year	47.1%	25.0%	8.5%	3.2%	7.2%	20.7%
5-year Average	48.4%	26.8%	16.1%	14.3%	13.8%	25.9%
10-year Average	50.4%	29.2%	15.9%	15.3%	12.2%	26.8%

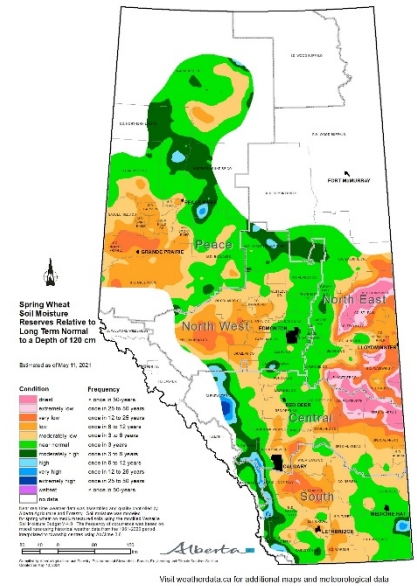
Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

The first widespread spring rains from May 5 to 11 brought 10 to 40 mm of precipitation to the majority of the growing areas of Alberta (yellow to green on Map 2). Surface soil moisture ratings moved higher on the scale from the precipitation event; provincial ratings (Table 2) are estimated at 52 per cent good and eight per cent excellent, up from last week's 50 and four per cent respectively. Overall, good ratings are well above the five-year average while excellent ratings are behind. Sub-surface soil moisture is valued at 62 per cent good with four per cent excellent, compared to 60 and four per cent last week and 37 per cent and 28 per cent respectively on the five-year average. Many parts of Alberta are still looking for moisture reserves, especially in the eastern areas (Map 1).

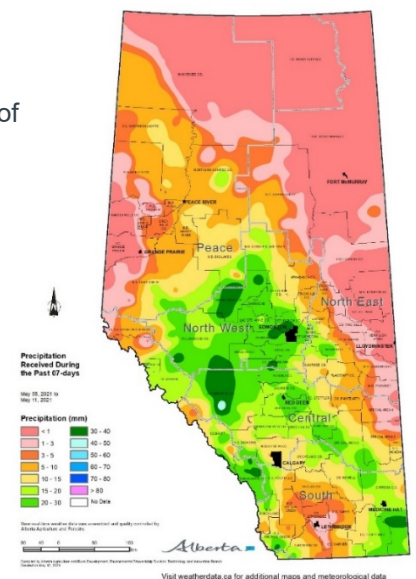
Table 2: Surface Moisture Rating as of May 11, 2021

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Excessive
South	6.1%	30.8%	49.6%	13.5%	---
Central	10.1%	31.9%	56.2%	1.8%	---
North East	6.3%	54.2%	38.6%	0.9%	---
North West	8.0%	24.1%	58.2%	9.4%	0.3%
Peace	3.0%	16.0%	65.6%	13.4%	2.0%
Average	7.0%	33.4%	51.7%	7.6%	0.3%
Last Week	10.4%	35.5%	49.7%	4.1%	0.3%
5-year Average	6.2%	22.3%	38.7%	26.5%	6.3%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey



Map 2: 7 Day Precipitation



Spring temperatures are still bringing overnight frosts and inconsistent daytime highs inhibiting forage growth. Pasture and hay fields are starting to show reasonable progress, but would profit from warmer temperatures. The recent rains have benefited perennial growth and acres are starting to green up, but more moisture is required in many areas. Compared to last week, tame hay growth (Table 3) rated good has improved 11 points while excellent has stayed static; however, growth is behind this week last year when 53 per cent of tame hay was rated good and five per cent excellent. Pasture growth has increased nine points to 43 per cent good from 34 per cent last week. The excellent rating stayed static at three per cent. For this week last year, 58 per cent of pasture was rated good and five per cent excellent.

Table 3: Tame Hay Growth as of May 11, 2021

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
South	4.9%	32.5%	55.6%	7.0%
Central	20.7%	15.1%	63.6%	0.6%
North East	59.4%	34.8%	5.8%	---
North West	15.4%	77.5%	6.5%	0.6%
Peace	42.4%	15.4%	40.5%	1.7%
Average	26.8%	33.9%	37.3%	2.0%
Last Week	40.9%	31.2%	25.8%	2.1%
Last year	11.3%	30.6%	53.1%	5.0%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Regional Assessments:

Region One: Southern (Strathmore, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Foremost)

- Most areas received much-needed precipitation in the past week with higher accumulations, up to 25 mm, occurring in the eastern part of the region. Cool nighttime temperatures have hampered crop emergence.
- Seeding of the major crops has progressed 16 points over last week with an estimated 55 per cent of acres now in the ground, compared to the five-year average of 48 per cent. Sugar beet plantings should wrap up this week followed closely by potatoes which have 95 per cent planted. Dry bean planting are expected to commence later this week.
- Soil moisture continues to be satisfactory with 63 per cent of surface moisture and 57 per cent of sub-surface moisture rated good or excellent.
- Tame hay and pasture growth remains slow this week, but will benefit from the recent precipitation and warmer temperatures. Current condition ratings are showing 63 per cent good or excellent for hay and 60 per cent for pasture.

Region Two: Central (Rimbey, Airdrie, Coronation, Oyen)

- Much-needed precipitation fell in most areas in the past week and helped support seeding and crop development. However, the Special Areas still have received very little rain this spring. Warmer temperatures are needed to promote growth.
- Seeding of the major crops has progressed 21 points over last week with an estimated 32 per cent of acres now in the ground, compared to the five-year average of 27 per cent. Reports predict that seeding may be finished by the end of May.
- Soil moisture remains in satisfactory shape with 58 per cent of surface moisture and 62 per cent of sub-surface moisture rated good or excellent.
- Tame hay and pasture have started to green up with the precipitation that fell last week. Current condition ratings are showing 64 per cent good or excellent for hay and 61 per cent for pasture.

Region Three: North East (Smoky Lake, Vermilion, Camrose, Provost)

- Precipitation fell in the western half of the region. Areas along the Saskatchewan border continue to be very dry and need a “good drink”. Warm weather is needed.
- Seeding of the major crops has progressed 16 points over last week with an estimated 23 per cent of acres now in the ground, compared to the five-year average of 16 per cent. Progress has been very good to date in many areas due to producers not having to battle excess moisture conditions of the past few years.
- Soil moisture remains in decent shape with 40 per cent of surface moisture and 78 per cent of sub-surface moisture rated good or excellent.
- Tame hay and pasture growth is delayed in most of the region due to cold dry conditions including some reports of overnight frost. Current condition ratings are showing six per cent good or excellent for hay and seven per cent for pasture.

Region Four: North West (Barrhead, Edmonton, Leduc, Drayton Valley, Athabasca)

- Much-needed precipitation fell in most areas in the past week with reports of up to 25 mm falling in the northern half of the region. Warmer temperatures are needed to promote growth.
- Seeding of the major crops has progressed 17 points over last week with an estimated 21 per cent of acres now in the ground, compared to the five-year average of 14 per cent. Progress has been very good in most area with the exception of the south part of the region where there are reports of standing water and very wet conditions on heavier soil.
- Soil moisture remains in great shape with 68 per cent of surface moisture and 65 per cent of sub-surface moisture rated good or excellent.
- Tame hay and pastures have started to green up with this week’s precipitation, but heat is required to promote development. Current condition ratings are showing seven per cent good or excellent for hay and nine per cent for pasture.

Region Five: Peace River (Fairview, Falher, Grande Prairie, Valleyview)

- Precipitation was spotty throughout the region, ranging from isolated showers with little moisture to heavier rains with up to 25 mm falling. Many producers are looking forward to next week’s forecasted warmer temperatures.
- Seeding of the major crops has progressed 16 points over last week with an estimated 17 per cent of acres now in the ground, compared to the five-year average of 14 per cent. Spring seeding is underway in most areas of the region. There are reports of fields in the extreme north part of the region being very wet.
- Soil moisture remains in reasonable shape with 79 per cent of surface moisture and 79 per cent of sub-surface moisture rated good or excellent.
- Tame hay and pasture growth have started to green up with the recent precipitation and warmer temperatures. Current condition ratings are showing 42 per cent good or excellent for hay and 45 per cent for pasture.

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May 14, 2021

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