

Alberta Crop Report



Crop Conditions as of June 22, 2021 (Abbreviated Report)

Showers over the past week maintained soil moisture through the middle third of the province and improved soil moisture for much of the Peace Region. Meanwhile, precipitation was very limited in the South Region. Currently, soil moisture levels across the province vary (See map). Soil moisture levels through much of the South Region are estimated to contain 20-40 mm of water available for plant growth. In the Central Region, soil moisture levels range from 20-40 mm of water available for plant growth in the southern parts of the region to 120-140 mm in the northern and western areas. Across the North East and North West Regions, plant available moisture is estimated at minimum 60-80 mm, with large areas containing 120-140 mm of plant available moisture. For the Peace Region, soil moisture levels are limited to 40-60 mm of plant available water in the central Peace and increase through the western and southern areas to above 120 mm.

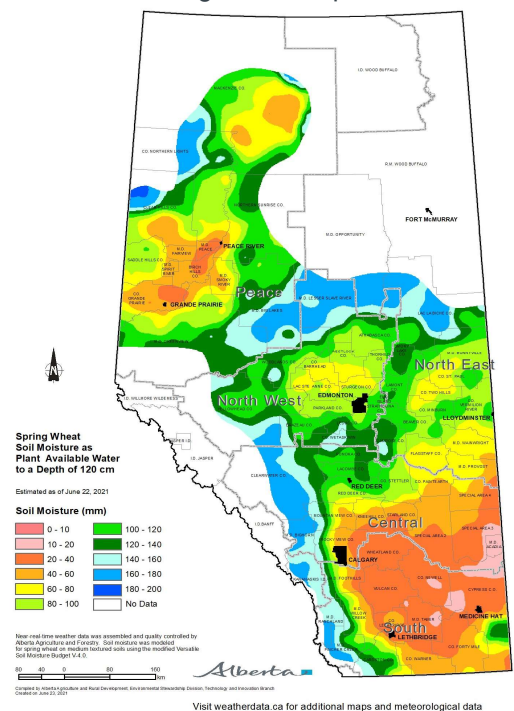
Provincial surface soil moisture (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) was rated at 12 (10) per cent poor, 28 (27) per cent fair, 47 (47) per cent good and 12 (15) per cent excellent, with 1 (1) per cent excessive. However, there is a heat wave in the forecast for the province, following by severe thunderstorm activities, with very little certainty in timing, areas affected and severity. Impending hot temperatures could use up moisture reserves and cause negative impacts on crops and forages across the province, especially in the South and Peace Regions.

Provincially, 80 per cent of crops are rated in good or excellent condition, slightly above the 5-year average of 78 per cent and the 10-year average of 75 per cent (See Table 1). Regional growing condition ratings dropped from a week ago in all regions but the North East Region, where it remained unchanged, and the Peace Region, where it improved by three per cent. Compared to the regional 5-year averages, crop conditions are better than normal in all regions, except for the South, where crops are under critical moisture stress.

Table 1: Regional Crop Condition Ratings as of June 22, 2021

	Per cent rated in Good to Excellent Condition					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	62.0%	85.4%	92.1%	93.4%	76.6%	81.4%
Barley	63.8%	85.6%	90.5%	92.9%	73.1%	79.4%
Oats	68.6%	80.9%	89.2%	92.0%	74.1%	84.2%
Canola	63.1%	86.7%	85.3%	86.2%	75.4%	80.0%
Dry Peas	67.5%	85.5%	93.4%	94.4%	77.2%	79.7%
Major Crops, June 22	63.5%	85.8%	88.7%	90.3%	75.8%	80.4%
Major Crops, June 15	66.4%	88.8%	88.6%	95.4%	73.1%	82.0%
Major Crops, Last Year	77.3%	95.6%	85.1%	48.1%	72.3%	79.3%
5-year (2016-2020) Avg	74.7%	80.3%	85.4%	75.0%	71.9%	78.4%
10-year (2011-2020) Avg	74.3%	73.0%	80.9%	71.6%	69.5%	74.7%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey



Hay and pasture growing conditions remain variable across the province. Forages are in good condition in most areas of the Central, North East and North West Regions, while in the South Region they are under stress from dry conditions. Pasture and tame hay growing conditions for the Peace Region improved from a week ago, but still are not in good shape. Lack of moisture coupled with hot temperatures in the forecast could be detrimental. Provincial pasture conditions (tame hay conditions shown in brackets) are now reported as 9 (10) per cent poor, 34 (31) per cent fair, 51 (51) per cent good and 6 (8) per cent excellent (see Table 2).

Table 2: Pasture Growth Conditions as of June 22, 2021

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
South	14.5%	50.3%	34.2%	1.0%
Central	8.0%	17.8%	61.4%	12.9%
North East	2.3%	29.5%	60.7%	7.4%
North West	0.0%	14.4%	80.2%	5.4%
Peace	14.1%	44.2%	35.8%	6.0%
Alberta	9.2%	33.8%	50.7%	6.3%
5-year (2016-2020) Avg	6.9%	20.2%	55.6%	17.2%
10-year (2011-2020) Avg	11.3%	21.3%	52.3%	15.2%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Regional Assessments:

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

- Localized showers over the past week brought 5-10 mm of precipitation to the western parts of the region, with a small area in the southwest receiving up to 20-30 mm, while the eastern half of the region didn't receive any moisture. As a result of the combination of the heat and lack of moisture, more crops are now showing moisture stress that can potentially impact yields in the region.
- About 58 per cent of crops in the region are now rated in good condition with only five per cent rated as excellent. Most spring seeded cereals are in the stem elongation stage of development, slightly behind normal.
- Surface and sub-surface soil moisture reserves depleted significantly by 17 and 20 per cent respectively from a week ago. Sub-surface soil moisture is rated at 19 per cent poor, 52 per cent fair, 28 per cent good and 1 per cent excellent.
- Pastures and dryland hay fields are under stress in the hot dry conditions. Pasture growing conditions (tame hay shown in parentheses) are reported as 15 (16) per cent poor, 50 (46) per cent fair, 34 (36) per cent good and 1 (2) per cent excellent.

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

- Crops are developing nicely in most areas, but conditions vary across the region. Counties in the north and west parts of the region received good moisture to keep crops and forages healthy and green, while dry weather persists in the southern and eastern counties. With more heat in the forecast, moisture is needed to maintain yield. Spraying is about to finish and first cut haying has started. Hail was reported in some areas with minor to heavy damage, depending on the area.
- About 71 of crops in the region are rated in good condition with 15 per cent rated as excellent. Most spring seeded cereals are at the end of the tillering stage of development, slightly behind normal.
- Soil moisture reserves are variable across the region. Sub-surface soil moisture is rated at 10 per cent poor, 15 per cent fair, 49 per cent good and 25 per cent excellent, with 1 per cent excessive.
- Pasture growing conditions (tame hay shown in parentheses) are reported as 8 (6) per cent poor, 18 (15) per cent fair, 61 (59) per cent good and 13 (20) per cent excellent.

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

- Precipitation received over the past couple of weeks followed by the warm weather this past week promoted good growth conditions for both crops and forages. Some producers have started first cut haying, trying to capitalize on the forecasted heat, while most producers are waiting for July to begin haying.
- About 79 per cent of crops in the region are rated in good condition, with another 10 per cent rated as excellent. Most spring seeded cereals are either finishing the tillering stage of development or are beginning the stem elongation stage, on par with normal.
- Surface soil moisture reserves declined by nine per cent from a week ago, while sub-surface soil moisture remained unchanged. Sub-surface soil moisture is rated at 6 per cent fair, 57 per cent good and 36 per cent excellent, with 1 per cent excessive.
- Pasture and forage fields are generally looking good. Pasture growing conditions (tame hay shown in parentheses) are reported as 2 (16) per cent poor, 30 (41) per cent fair, 61 (40) per cent good and 7 (3) per cent excellent.

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

- Growing conditions are generally good in the region, with lower lying areas and heavy soil spots showing signs of high moisture stress. Hay and pasture fields have benefited from the recent moisture, but could use more, as heat in the forecast could provide stress.
- About 68 per cent of crops in the region are rated in good condition, with another 22 per cent rated as excellent. Stages of development vary across the region, mainly due to the dry start for crops. Canola fields are in different stages, ranging from the low leaf to the rosette stages. Spring seeded crops are mostly in the tillering stage of development, behind normal.
- Both surface and sub-surface soil moisture reserves improved from last week, by six and four per cent, respectively. Sub-surface soil moisture is rated at 2 per cent fair, 87 per cent good and 10 per cent excellent, with 1 per cent excessive.
- Pasture growing conditions (tame hay shown in parentheses) are reported as 0 (1) per cent poor, 14 (17) per cent fair, 80 (77) per cent good and 6 (5) per cent excellent.

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

- Most parts of the region received at least 10-15 mm of rain over the past week, except for the southwestern areas which remained dry. However, the moisture was not enough to change the situation for the central Peace, which still needs moisture. Forecasted record-breaking high temperatures are concerning to producers, especially for those in the drier areas.
- About 68 per cent of crops in the region are rated in good condition, with another 8 per cent rated as excellent. Spring seeded cereals are in the tillering stage of development, which is on par with the regional norm.
- Moisture received in the region improved both surface and sub-surface soil moisture reserves by 19 and nine per cent respectively. Sub-surface soil moisture is rated at 11 per cent poor, 46 per cent fair, 39 per cent good and 4 per cent excellent.
- Pasture and tame hay growing conditions are reported as 14 per cent poor, 44 per cent fair, 36 per cent good and 6 per cent excellent.

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