

Alberta Crop Report



Crop Conditions as of May 18, 2021

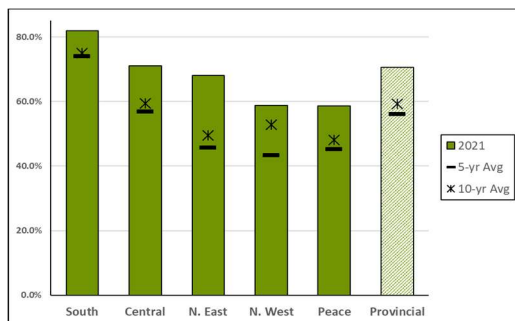
Recent wide spread rains brought moisture to a large area across the middle parts of the province, including the northern and western parts of the Central Region, North West Region, most parts of the North East Region and lower half of the Peace Region. Areas in the Southern Region, the eastern parts of the Central Region, the southeastern parts of the North East Region and the upper half of the Peace Region are still in need of moisture for active growth of crops and forages. However, the snow in the forecast for parts of the southern Alberta should bring some much needed moisture to these lands.

Over the past week, producers across the province benefited from favourable dry and warmer temperatures to advance seeding progress by 38 per cent. Provincially, as of May 18, about 71 per cent of all crops have been seeded, above the 5-year average of 56 per cent and 10-year average of 59 per cent (see Table 1). Regionally, seeding progress is ahead of the 5-year and 10-year averages for all regions (see Figure 1). The North East Region had the most progress over the past week at 45 per cent, followed by the Peace, Central and North West Regions with 41, 40 and 39 per cent progress, respectively. Seeding progress in the Southern Region advanced 27 per cent.

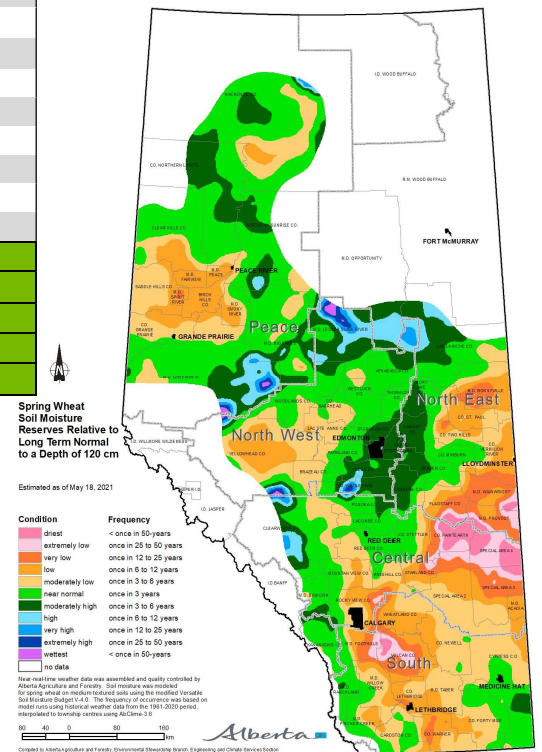
Table 1: Alberta Seeding Progress as of May 18, 2021

	% Seeded					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat*	85.7%	88.5%	84.1%	73.3%	61.7%	81.6%
Durum Wheat	87.4%	65.2%	---	---	---	84.4%
Barley*	82.3%	66.1%	47.2%	51.5%	45.4%	64.6%
Oats*	71.5%	61.0%	33.7%	39.2%	40.6%	43.8%
Canola*	69.9%	50.5%	55.9%	47.8%	58.0%	56.6%
Dry Peas*	94.2%	96.7%	99.7%	86.6%	66.4%	89.3%
Mustard	69.9%	43.2%	---	---	---	62.0%
Flax	65.1%	39.5%	29.8%	---	---	57.8%
Potatoes	98.9%	58.5%	90.0%	---	---	90.4%
Chickpeas	85.2%	98.0%	---	---	---	85.8%
Lentils	80.7%	95.0%	---	---	---	82.7%
Corn	85.0%	82.5%	---	82.8%	---	83.4%
All Crops, May 18	81.9%	71.0%	68.1%	58.7%	58.7%	70.6%
Major Crops(*), May 18	81.8%	71.3%	68.2%	59.0%	58.7%	69.7%
5-year (2016-2020) Avg	74.1%	56.9%	45.7%	43.4%	45.2%	56.1%
10-year (2011-2020) Avg	75.0%	59.4%	49.5%	52.8%	48.1%	59.2%
Major Crops (*), May 11	55.4%	31.5%	22.8%	20.5%	17.2%	31.5%

Figure 1: Provincial and Regional Seeding Progress as of May 18, 2021



Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey



Growing season moisture to date has differed across the province and has led to the variable soil moisture levels (see the Map). Compared to the long-term normal, soil moisture is moderately low or low in the southern and eastern parts of the province, as well as the western parts of the North West and Peace Regions. In contrast, soil moisture is moderately high in some of the wet areas, where have received over 80 mm of precipitation over the growing season. Provincially, surface soil moisture (5-year average shown in brackets) is rated as 14 (10) per cent poor, 32 (24) per cent fair, 47 (40) per cent good and 6 (22) per cent excellent, with 1 (4) per cent excessive.

Pasture and tame hay fields have had slow start in most areas, due to the cool temperatures and the lack of moisture. Warmer temperatures over the past week, coupled with rains across the middle third of the province, allowed tame hay and pasture fields to start to green up, while forage crops in the rest of the province could benefit from warmer temperatures. Pasture conditions across the province are now reported as 21 per cent poor, 27 per cent fair, 49 per cent good and 3 per cent excellent (see Table 3), with the same ratings reported for tame hay.

Table 2: Pasture Growth Conditions as of May 18, 2021

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
South	7.8%	33.7%	52.4%	6.1%
Central	10.8%	21.0%	66.7%	1.5%
North East	69.7%	20.4%	10.0%	0.0%
North West	12.9%	34.5%	50.7%	1.9%
Peace	24.3%	26.4%	47.7%	1.7%
Alberta	21.0%	27.3%	48.7%	3.0%
5-year Average	13.6%	28.4%	49.3%	8.7%
10-year Average	8.8%	26.7%	53.5%	11.0%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Regional Assessments:

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

- Seeding is nearing 82 per cent completed, up 27 per cent from a week ago. Precipitation over the past weekend, coupled with lower temperatures could lead to frost damage in some areas and therefore some re-seeding. However, moisture is needed in the region to benefit for both seeded crops and pastures.
- Growth in pasture and tame hay fields have been slow due to the lack of heat and moisture, however it should improve with the recent precipitations as well as more in the forecast.
- About 35 per cent of seeded acres have now emerged, above the 5-year average of 28 per cent. Spring cereals are mostly reported in the seedling stage of development, while fall seeded crops are either in the tillering or in the stem elongation stage.
- Surface soil moisture is rated at 7 per cent poor, 43 per cent fair, 46 per cent good and 4 per cent excellent.
- Fall seeded crops are rated as 4 per cent poor, 28 per cent fair, 61 per cent good, and 7 per cent excellent.

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

- Seeding was in full swing over the past week and progressed substantially by 40 per cent in the region. About 71 per cent of acres have now been seeded. A few hot days coupled with some showers helped germination of seeded crops and assisted forages starting to grow in most areas. However, germination has been slow in few colder areas.
- Tame hay and pasture fields were in need of moisture, but their conditions should have been improved as a result of the recent precipitation.
- More than 95 per cent of pulses are now seeded, with just over one half of canola acres. Nearly 89 per cent of spring wheat, 66 per cent of barley, 61 per cent of oats and 59 per cent of potatoes are reported as seeded.

- About 17 per cent of seeded acres have now emerged, above the 5-year average of 12 per cent. Spring cereals are mostly in the germination stage, while stage of development for fall seeded crops is variable
- Surface soil moisture is rated at 18 per cent poor, 23 per cent fair, 50 per cent good and 9 per cent excellent.
- Fall seeded crops are rated as 5 per cent poor, 15 per cent fair and 80 per cent good.

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

- Favourable seeding conditions advanced seeding progress by an additional 45 per cent over the past week. About 68 per cent of acres have now been seeded. Most parts of the region remained dry over the past week and in need of moisture to help immensely on crops and hay fields. The recent precipitations should improve conditions in the western, central and northern parts of the region, while the south eastern parts are still in need of moisture.
- The seeding of dry peas is now complete, while 90 per cent of potatoes, 84 per cent of spring wheat, 47 per cent of barley, 34 per cent of oats and 56 per cent of canola have now been seeded.
- About 11 per cent of seeded acres have emerged, compared to the 5-year average of eight per cent.
- Surface soil moisture is rated at 31 per cent poor, 33 per cent fair and 36 per cent good.
- For fall seeded crops, conditions are reported as 27 per cent fair and 73 per cent good.

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

- Warm days over the past week enabled producers to advance seeding by 39 per cent to reach 59 per cent complete. The precipitation over the last week increased surface and sub-surface soil moisture, refilling some low areas where water tolerance is low.
- The combination of heat and moisture throughout the past week benefited growth for tame hay and pasture fields and fields are getting green in most of areas.
- About 73 per cent of spring wheat, 52 per cent of barley, 39 per cent of oats, 48 per cent of canola and 87 per cent of dry peas are reported as seeded.
- About six per cent of seeded acres have now been emerged, slightly above the 5-year average of five per cent.
- Surface moisture is rated at 4 per cent poor, 25 per cent fair, 61 per cent good and 10 per cent excellent.
- For fall seeded crops, conditions are reported as 8 per cent poor, 62 per cent fair and 30 per cent good.

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

- Seeding for the region is now at 59 per cent complete, jumping 41 per cent from a week ago. A heavy rain on May 18, plus snow in the forecast may slow down seeding operations, but could improve the pastures and forage crops growth.
- Almost 62 per cent of spring wheat, 45 per cent of barley, 41 per cent of oats, 58 per cent of canola and 66 per cent of dry peas have now been seeded.
- Cooler temperatures have delayed crop germination. Currently three per cent of crops have been emerged, below the 5-year average of seven per cent.
- Surface soil moisture is rated at 3 per cent poor, 25 per cent of fair, 56 per cent good and 12 per cent excellent, with 4 per cent excessive.

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