

Alberta Crop Report



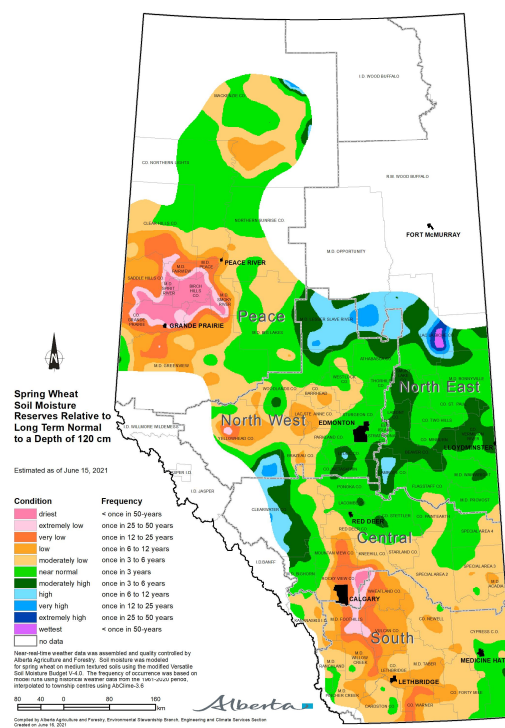
Crop Conditions as of June 15, 2021

Over the past 30 days, precipitation in Alberta mostly occurred in the upper half of the Central Region, in the North East and North West Regions, and in the extreme southern parts of the Peace Region. This led to moderately high to very high soil moisture in much of the North West and North East Regions, with some areas in the northern parts of the North East Region having extremely high moisture (see the map). In contrast, soil moisture reserves are moderately low to extremely low throughout much of the South Region as well as the southern and eastern parts of the Central Region. Soil moisture across much of the Peace Region is very low, with a large area in the central Peace, estimated to be near a one in 50 year low. Provincial surface soil moisture ratings (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) were rated at 10 (8) per cent poor, 25 (25) per cent fair, 54 (52) per cent good and 10 (14) per cent excellent, with 1 (1) per cent excessive. As of June 15, provincial crop growing conditions are rated as 82 per cent good to excellent, compared to the provincial 5-year average of 77 per cent and the 10-year average of 75 per cent (See Table 1). Regionally, growing conditions across the province vary, with the best ratings in the North West Region (95 per cent rated as good or excellent condition). This was followed by the Central and North East Regions (89 per cent rated as good or excellent). Ratings are the lowest in the South Region, which were lower than normal (70 per cent rated as good or excellent condition), due to the lack of moisture. For the Peace Region, growing condition ratings are slightly better than normal (73 per cent rated as good or excellent), while some areas in the central Peace are under stress from the dry conditions.

Table 1: Regional Crop Condition Ratings as of June 15, 2021

	Per cent rated in Good to Excellent Condition					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat*	67.0%	91.1%	91.5%	98.2%	72.9%	83.9%
Durum Wheat	75.6%	82.4%	---	---	---	76.5%
Barley*	67.2%	90.9%	90.2%	97.6%	71.0%	82.5%
Oats*	74.3%	87.2%	89.5%	96.8%	70.6%	86.4%
Canola*	63.3%	84.9%	85.2%	92.7%	72.9%	80.1%
Dry Peas*	69.4%	89.0%	92.3%	96.4%	76.1%	80.7%
Mustard	85.7%	80.6%	---	---	---	84.2%
Flax	74.9%	82.4%	93.4%	---	---	78.2%
Potatoes	81.4%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	---	83.6%
Chickpeas	88.4%	80.0%	---	---	---	88.1%
Lentils	86.8%	86.6%	---	---	---	86.6%
All Crops, June 15	69.6%	88.4%	88.7%	95.3%	73.1%	81.7%
Major Crops(+), June 15	66.4%	88.8%	88.6%	95.4%	73.1%	82.0%
All Crops, June 16, 2020	82.5%	95.6%	84.1%	39.9%	77.2%	80.6%
5-year (2016-2020) Avg	75.3%	82.3%	83.7%	63.7%	69.4%	76.9%
10-year (2011-2020) Avg	76.3%	76.9%	77.3%	64.3%	71.4%	74.7%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey



Warm temperatures along with scattered showers (in the Central, North East and North West Regions) allowed for more crop emergence and progression. Stage of development for crops varies across the province, but regionally, is similar to



Our thanks to Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen and staff of AFSC for their partnership and contribution to the Alberta Crop Reporting Program. The climate map is compiled by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Natural Resource Management Branch.



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their 5-year averages. Herbicide spraying is progressing (wind and rain permitting), with post-emergence spraying now 51 per cent completed. Flea beetles, wireworms and gophers are becoming a concern in some parts of the South, Central and North East Regions.

Conditions for pasture and tame hay fields are also variable across the province, depending on soil moisture reserves. In some fields in the South and Central Regions, hay crop yield potential has been reduced due to dry conditions, while pasture growth has stalled. Pasture conditions (tame hay conditions shown in brackets) across the province are now reported as 7 (8) per cent poor, 29 (30) per cent fair, 58 (54) per cent good and 6 (8) per cent excellent (see Table 2).

Table 2: Pasture Growth Conditions as of June 15, 2021

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
South	6.3%	36.6%	54.2%	2.9%
Central	7.5%	17.7%	62.8%	12.0%
North East	4.1%	33.0%	55.4%	7.4%
North West	0.0%	10.5%	84.4%	5.1%
Peace	18.8%	43.6%	31.3%	6.3%
Alberta	6.7%	28.9%	57.7%	6.7%
5-year (2016-2020) Avg	8.2%	19.9%	54.6%	17.3%
10-year (2011-2020) Avg	10.8%	19.0%	51.1%	19.1%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Regional Assessments:

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

- Over the past week, hot weather has stressed crops and forages, while precipitation was limited to some light localized showers. Moisture is needed for dryland fields, as the hot temperatures have impacted forage yields and the growth of crops and pastures in most areas.
- Spring seeded crops are mostly at the beginning of the stem elongation stage of development, while fall seeded crops are in the head emergence stage. About 64 per cent of canola, 60 per cent of dry peas and 68 per cent of lentils are in the 4-6 leaf/node stage.
- Post-emergence spraying is underway, with 60 per cent complete, but windy conditions have delayed it in some areas. Flea beetles and gopher infestations are now becoming an issue in some fields.
- Surface soil moisture is rated (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) at 19 (12) per cent poor, 41 (39) per cent fair, 38 (47) per cent good and 2 (2) per cent excellent.
- Tame hay growing conditions are reported as 5 per cent poor, 35 per cent fair, 56 per cent good and 4 per cent excellent.

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

- Over the past week, most parts of the region received moisture, coupled with some warm temperatures. This resulted in good growth conditions for both crops and forages. However, some counties, mostly in the southern parts of the region still need moisture in order to maintain growth and prevent yield loss.
- Spring seeded cereals are mostly in the tillering stage of development and fall seeded crops are finishing the booting stage. About 52 per cent of canola, 65 per cent of dry peas and 45 per cent of lentils are in the 4-6 leaf/node stage.
- Post-emergence spraying is continuing in the region, but slow due to rain and windy conditions and is now 38 per cent complete. Flea beetles, wireworms and gopher infestations are concerns in some areas.
- Surface soil moisture is rated (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) at 7 (10) per cent poor, 12 (17) per cent fair, 58 (51) per cent good and 22 (21) per cent excellent, with 1 (1) per cent excessive.
- Hay crops and pastures will need some moisture soon to maintain growth. Tame hay conditions are reported as 6 per cent poor, 17 per cent fair, 60 per cent good and 17 per cent excellent.

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

- Warm temperatures and adequate moisture contributed to active growth for crops and forages.
- While fall seeded crops are in the head emergence stage of development, spring seeded cereals are mostly in the seedling stage. About 57 per cent of canola are still in the 1-3 leaf/node stage with another 38 per cent reported in the 4-6 leaf/node stage. For dry peas, about 12 per cent are in the 1-3 leaf/node stage and 65 per cent in the 4-6 leaf/node stage.
- Post-emergence spraying was delayed due to rain and wind over the past week and is now 54 per cent complete. Army cutworms, wireworms and gopher infestations are a concern for some areas.
- Surface soil moisture is rated (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) at 9 (6) per cent fair, 76 (54) per cent good and 14 (39) per cent excellent, with 1 (1) per cent excessive.
- Tame hay growing conditions are reported as 12 per cent poor, 40 per cent fair, 43 per cent good and 5 per cent excellent.

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

- Crops are progressing well as a result of the recent precipitation along with long sunny days. Minor hail events were reported in a few counties. Also, standing water is reported in some low lying areas, with some crops showing signs of excessive moisture.
- Spring cereals are mostly at the end of the seedling growth stage of development, while fall seeded crops are finishing the tillering stage. About 67 per cent of canola and 73 per cent of dry peas are still in the 4-6 leaf/node stage.
- Rain and wind halted spraying for several days. Post-emergence spraying is now at 57 per cent complete, with no over threshold pest infestation concerns yet.
- Surface soil moisture is rated (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) at 1 (0) per cent poor, 8 (6) per cent fair, 77 (93) per cent good and 13 (1) per cent excellent, with 1 (0) per cent excessive.
- Soil moisture has improved and as a result, so has pasture and hay growth. Tame hay growing conditions are now rated as 2 per cent poor, 19 per cent fair, 75 per cent good and 4 per cent excellent.

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

- Over the past week, temperatures in the region were in mid to high 20^oC range, with high winds. This has resulted in depleting soil moisture in some parts of the region, especially in the central parts. Frost was reported for some areas on June 8.
- Most cereals are still in the late stages of the seedling stage of development. About 67 per cent of canola are in the 1-3 leaf/node stage, with another 33 per cent reported in the 4-6 leaf/node stage. For dry peas, one-half is in the 1-3 leaf/node stage, with another half in the 4-6 leaf/node stage.
- Post-emergence spraying is 44 per cent complete, with no over-threshold pest infestation concerns.
- Surface soil moisture is rated (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) at 19 (17) per cent poor, 49 (50) per cent fair, 30 (30) per cent good and 2 (3) per cent excellent.
- Tame hay conditions are reported as 18 per cent poor, 43 per cent fair, 32 per cent good and 7 per cent excellent.

Contact

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