

# Alberta Crop Report



## Crop Conditions as of September 7, 2021

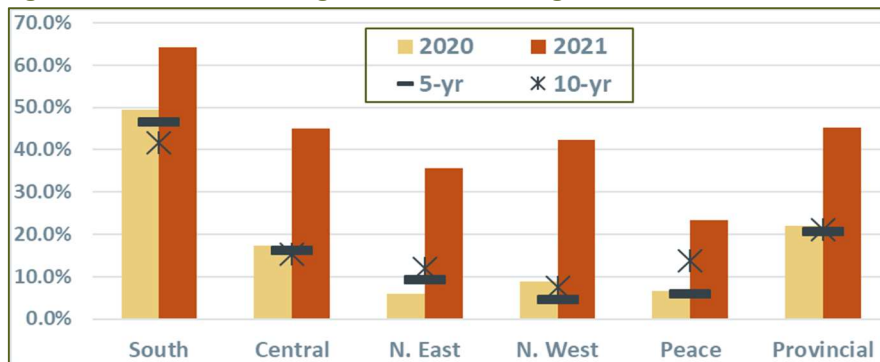
Since the beginning of August, precipitation has shifted from a 'drier than normal' trend to an 'above normal' trend through most of the province, with some exceptions in the North East, North West and Peace Regions. Over this period, precipitation was extremely variable in different regions, but improved soil moisture reserves provincially (see the map), with the South Region improving the most. Surface soil moisture is now rated at 32 per cent poor, 32 per cent fair, 35 per cent good and 1 per cent excellent. Hail was reported in some areas, impacting yields negatively.

Due to favourable weather over the past week, harvest advanced 17 per cent for major crops from a week ago. As of September 7, about 45 per cent of all crops have been combined, more than doubled from last year's progress of 22 per cent, and was ahead of both the 5-year (2016-2020) and 10-year (2011-2020) averages of 21 per cent (See Figure 1). Another 20 per cent of crops are currently in swath, while 35 per cent is still standing. Regionally, harvest has advanced for all regions (See Table 1).

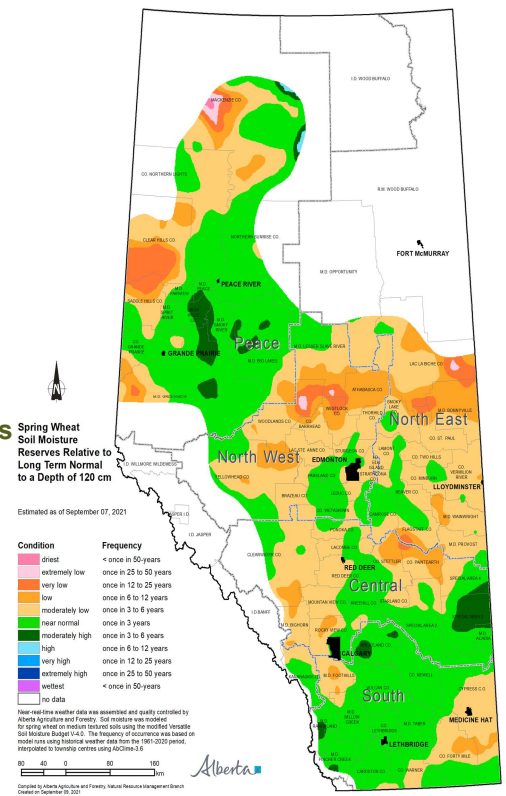
**Table 1: Estimates of Crop Harvest Progress as of September 7, 2021**

	Per cent of Crops Combined					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat*	60.6%	52.3%	52.9%	65.1%	34.5%	<b>53.9%</b>
Durum Wheat	80.5%	52.3%	---	---	---	<b>76.7%</b>
Winter Wheat	97.5%	96.2%	100.0%	100.0%	---	<b>97.5%</b>
Barley*	69.8%	63.2%	34.9%	56.3%	18.8%	<b>56.0%</b>
Oats*	66.3%	43.2%	19.4%	35.4%	15.3%	<b>29.8%</b>
Fall Rye	100.0%	94.8%	100.0%	100.0%	---	<b>98.6%</b>
Canola*	35.6%	9.5%	10.9%	11.1%	2.6%	<b>13.5%</b>
Dry Peas*	97.9%	95.1%	99.2%	98.2%	74.9%	<b>92.9%</b>
Lentils	84.5%	90.0%	---	---	---	<b>85.2%</b>
Chickpeas	84.6%	95.0%	---	---	---	<b>85.1%</b>
Potatoes	5.7%	25.4%	10.0%	0.0%	---	<b>6.3%</b>
<b>All Crops, Sep 7</b>	<b>64.1%</b>	<b>45.1%</b>	<b>35.6%</b>	<b>42.2%</b>	<b>23.4%</b>	<b>45.3%</b>
<b>Major Crops (*), Sep 7</b>	<b>61.3%</b>	<b>44.1%</b>	<b>35.6%</b>	<b>42.3%</b>	<b>23.4%</b>	<b>42.7%</b>
<b>Major Crops (*), Aug 31</b>	<b>43.5%</b>	<b>27.5%</b>	<b>16.1%</b>	<b>22.8%</b>	<b>17.0%</b>	<b>26.2%</b>
<b>All Crops, Last Year</b>	<b>49.4%</b>	<b>17.4%</b>	<b>6.0%</b>	<b>8.8%</b>	<b>6.6%</b>	<b>21.9%</b>
<b>5-yr (2016-2020) Avg</b>	<b>46.5%</b>	<b>16.2%</b>	<b>9.4%</b>	<b>4.7%</b>	<b>5.9%</b>	<b>20.7%</b>
<b>10-yr (2011-2020) Avg</b>	<b>41.7%</b>	<b>15.2%</b>	<b>12.1%</b>	<b>7.5%</b>	<b>13.8%</b>	<b>21.1%</b>

**Figure 1: Provincial & Regional Harvest Progress, 2021 vs 2020 and Averages**



Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey



Preliminary dryland yield indices remained similar to two weeks ago. The provincial estimated dryland yield index is estimated at 39 per cent below the 5-year averages and 37 per cent below the 10-year averages (see Table 2). The best yields are in the North West Region (but still 24 per cent below the 5-year averages), while the South Region has the lowest (53 per cent below the 5-year averages). The average yields for potatoes on dryland and irrigated fields are estimated at 11 and 15 tons per acre, respectively. For sugar beets, the average yield is estimated at 28.9 tonnes per acre, while for dry beans it is 26.2 cwt per acre.

The quality for crops harvested so far varies across the province. Provincially, quality for malt barley, the top two grades of spring and durum wheat, oats and dry peas are below the 5-year averages, while feed barley and the top two grades of canola are above average. There are reports of some greens in canola, while some are being graded as sample, due to sprouts in pods.

**Table 2: Dryland Yield Estimates as of September 7, 2021**

	Estimated Yield (bushel/acre)					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	17.8	30.9	31.0	45.6	34.8	30.4
Barley	20.7	53.7	44.2	48.2	35.4	40.2
Oats	23.8	49.3	50.4	56.6	46.7	50.1
Canola	17.1	28.7	26.6	33.0	24.8	26.1
Dry Peas	19.8	24.5	28.5	28.8	31.7	25.6
5-year Yield Index	47.0%	59.4%	61.0%	76.2%	69.7%	60.5%
10-year Yield Index	44.6%	63.7%	65.6%	76.1%	73.5%	62.5%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Across the province, second cut dryland hay is 48 per cent complete (ahead of the 5-year average of 37 per cent), while it has been limited in the South and Peace Regions, given the dry conditions and extreme heat. The provincial average yield for second cut dryland hay is estimated at one ton per acre, below the 5-year average of 1.3 tons per acre. Quality is rated as 42 per cent poor to fair, 54 per cent good and 4 per cent excellent. Second cut hay on irrigated fields is 85 per cent complete, with yield estimated at 1.7 tons per acre, and below the 5-year average of 1.9 tons per acre. Quality for baled irrigated hay is rated as 40 per cent poor to fair, 53 per cent good and 7 per cent excellent.

Pasture growth is minimal in most areas at this point, and heavily grazed pastures are still struggling to recover, even with the recent moisture. Pasture conditions (tame hay numbers shown in the brackets) across the province are now reported as 55 (50) per cent poor, 28 (31) per cent fair and 17 (19) per cent good.

## Regional Assessments:

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

- Favourable weather allowed producers to combine an additional 18 per cent of their major crops. Yields are variable across the region, depending on the crop, soil type, amount and timing of precipitation.
- About 64 per cent of all crops are now in the bin (compared to the 5-year average of 47 per cent), seven per cent in swath and 29 per cent still standing.
- Crop quality for harvested crops to date are below their 5-year averages, with the exception of feed barley and the top two grades of canola and dry peas, which are above average.
- Second cut haying is 92 per cent complete on irrigated land (ahead of the 5-year average of 81 per cent), with yield at 1.8 tons per acre, and quality rated as 34 per cent poor to fair, 57 per cent good and 9 per cent excellent. Due to dry conditions, there was no second cut for dryland hay.

- Pasture conditions are rated as 64 per cent poor, 26 per cent fair, and 10 per cent good.

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

- Over the past week, harvest was in full swing in the region, despite some rain showers. An additional 17 per cent of major crops have been combined.
- Regionally, about 45 per cent of crops are now in the bin (compared to the 5-year average of 16 per cent), with another 22 per cent swathed and 33 per cent of crops still standing.
- To date, the quality for the harvested spring and durum wheat, barley and canola are better than their 5-year averages, while oats and dry peas are below.
- Second cut haying on dryland is 80 per cent complete (compared to the 5-year average of 48 per cent), with yield estimated at 1.2 tons per acre and below the 5-year average of 1.5 tons per acre. For irrigated haying, it is 35 per cent complete (compared to the 5-year average of 19 per cent), with yield estimated at 1.2 tons per acre, slightly above the 5-year average of 1.1 tons per acre. Quality for dryland hay (irrigated hay shown in brackets) is rated as 17 (20) per cent poor, 40 (60) per cent fair and 43 (20) per cent good.
- Pasture conditions are rated as 32 per cent poor, 36 per cent fair, and 32 per cent good.

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

- Favourable harvest weather over the past week allowed producers to combine an additional 20 per cent of their major crops, although in some areas, rain put a pause on harvesting operations for a couple of days.
- Overall, 36 per cent of crops have been combined in the region (compared to the 5-year average of nine per cent), with another 30 per cent swathed, and 34 per cent of crops still standing.
- To date, quality for harvested malt barley, the top two grades of oats, canola and dry peas are all above their 5-year averages, and below average for feed barley and the top two grades of spring wheat.
- Second cut haying is 78 per cent complete, ahead of the 5-year average of 25 per cent. Yield is reported at 0.7 ton per acre, below the 5-year average of 1.2 tons per acre, and quality rated as 22 per cent fair, 63 per cent good and 15 per cent excellent.
- Pasture growing conditions are rated as 80 per cent poor, 15 per cent fair and 5 per cent good.

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

- Although rain led to slow progress in the beginning of the past week, great weather over the long weekend allowed harvest operations for major crops to advance by another 20 per cent.
- Regionally, about 42 per cent of crops have now been combined (compared to the 5-year average of five per cent), with another 24 per cent swathed, while 34 per cent of crops are still standing.
- To date, crop quality for harvested malt barley, the top two grades of oats and dry peas are above their 5-year averages, but below average for feed barley, canola number one and the top two grades of spring wheat.
- Second cut haying is 51 per cent complete, compared to the 5-year average of 25 per cent. The yield is reported at 0.9 ton per acre, below the 5-year average of 1.1 tons per acre and quality is estimated at 35 per cent poor or fair, 60 per cent good and 5 per cent excellent.
- Pasture growing conditions are rated as 38 per cent poor, 29 per cent fair and 33 per cent good.

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

- Over the last week, in some areas, rain showers halted harvest operations for a few days. Even so, producers were able to combine an additional six per cent of their crops. Some canola in swath were blown out by high winds.
- About 23 per cent of crops in the region are now in the bin (compared to the 5-year average of six per cent), with another 21 per cent swathed and 56 per cent still standing.

- To date, quality for all crops harvested are below their 5-year averages, with the exception of canola number one and the top two grades of spring wheat, which were above average. No barley was eligible for malt in this region.
- There has not been a second cut haying for the region and pasture growing conditions are rated as 67 per cent poor, 30 per cent fair and 3 per cent good.

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