

Alberta Crop Report



Crop Conditions as of September 21, 2021

Cool wet weather caused varying degrees of delays in provincial harvest activities this week. Even with the delays, producers now have 78 per cent of the major crops in the bin, an 18-percentage point increase over last week. The harvest is 31 points ahead of last year's progress and 37 points ahead of the five-year average. Regionally, the North East made the most progress with over 26 per cent of the crop harvested this week (see Table 1), followed by Central (21), North West and Peace (13), and the South region (10).

Table 1: Regional Harvest Progress as of September 21, 2021

	Per cent combined					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat*	82.5%	89.0%	93.1%	80.6%	74.0%	86.5%
Durum Wheat	95.0%	85.5%	---	---	---	93.7%
Barley*	88.6%	92.8%	92.3%	79.7%	61.0%	87.5%
Oats*	87.6%	82.2%	87.0%	56.8%	52.8%	70.6%
Winter Wheat	99.5%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	---	99.6%
Mixed Grain	97.0%	57.6%	90.0%	54.2%	---	60.1%
Canola*	71.1%	70.5%	71.7%	41.2%	35.2%	60.6%
Dry Peas*	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	92.5%	98.4%
Lentils	97.2%	100.0%	---	---	---	97.6%
Chickpeas	94.0%	100.0%	---	---	---	94.3%
Mustard	82.7%	80.0%	---	---	---	81.9%
Flax	74.1%	87.6%	26.0%	---	---	68.3%
Potatoes	15.4%	67.0%	100.0%	10.0%	---	17.5%
All Crops	85.1%	84.7%	84.2%	64.3%	56.9%	78.8%
Major Crops (*)	84.3%	84.6%	84.3%	64.4%	56.9%	78.0%
All Crops Last Year	76.2%	45.8%	34.8%	28.8%	25.5%	47.9%
5-year (2016-2020) Avg.	75.1%	37.6%	27.4%	18.0%	19.1%	41.4%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Expected dryland yields in the province are significantly below normal at 63 per cent of the 10-year index (see Table 2). Regionally, the ratings vary reflecting the growing season precipitation received in the area. As anticipated, the South region has fared the worst with yields being 43 per cent of the 10-year index. The North West region fared better with yields being 77 per cent of the 10-year index.

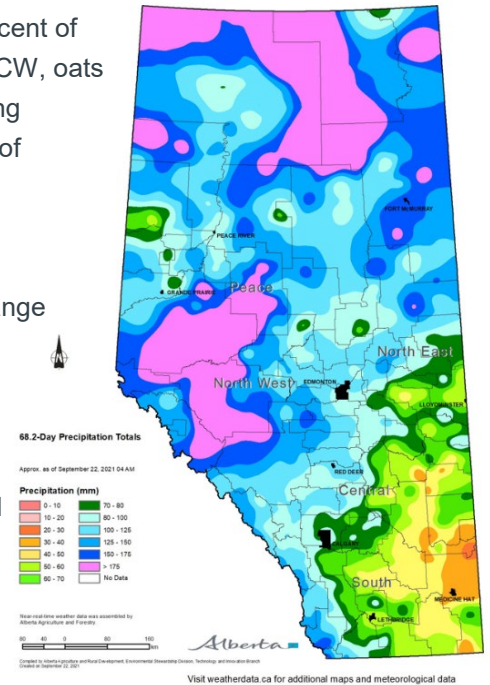
Table 2: Estimate Dryland Yield Estimates (Major Crops) as of September 21, 2021

	Estimated Yield (bu/ac)					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	17.8	31.3	35.2	44.1	33.3	31.3
Barley	21.2	55.9	45.6	49.6	37.3	41.6
Oats	25.9	52.7	52.3	53.3	49.9	51.2
Canola	16.3	28.8	28.1	35.1	25.5	26.9
Dry Peas	18.5	25.1	29.3	28.8	29.4	24.9
10-year Yield Index (2011-20)	42.7%	64.1%	70.2%	77.4%	73.5%	63.3%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

With over three quarters of the crop now harvested, grades for the major crops are coming in close to the five-year averages (in brackets). Spring wheat has 92 (92) per cent of production at 1 CW and 2 CW, barley at 29 (32) per cent Malt and 57 (56) per cent 1 CW, oats are 69 (70) per cent 1 CW and 2 CW, canola is 90 (90) per cent 1 CAN with peas being 89 (82) per cent 1 CAN and 2 CAN. Durum is also looking good with 85 (83) per cent of production being reported as being 1 CW or 2 CW.

Hot, dry conditions were prevalent in the province up until mid-July. Since then large areas of southeastern Alberta have received 80 mm or less precipitation (green to orange shading on map). The low precipitation accumulations in these areas are a concern and without fall and winter precipitation they will be at an elevated risk for next year's plantings. The soil moisture ratings stayed static on the week at 39 per cent good or excellent for surface, with sub-soil moisture at 29 per cent rated good or excellent. Fall-seeded crops are holding up under the dry conditions with 63 per cent rated good or excellent, seven points below the five-year average. Pastures are rating at 21 per cent good or excellent, well below the five-year average of 46 per cent.



Regional Assessments:

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

- Harvest is nearing completion with 85 per cent in the bin, well ahead of the five-year average of 75 per cent harvested. Six per cent is currently in the swath. Sugar beets are 10 per cent and dry beans are 50 per cent done.
- The dryland yield index dipped slightly to 45 per cent from 47 per cent two weeks ago. Dryland yield estimates (irrigated in brackets) are currently 18 (71) bushels per acre on spring wheat, 16 (75) on durum, 21 (91) on barley with 26 (79) on oats. Canola estimates are 16 (55) bushels to the acre with peas at 19 (47).
- Quality is very good despite the difficult growing season: 89 per cent of spring wheat and 83 per cent of durum are in the top two grades with 79 per cent of barley grading 1 CW or Malt and 90 per cent of oats in the top two grades. 73 per cent of canola is grading 1 CAN with 97 per cent of field peas in the top two grades.
- Fall seeded crop condition is estimated as 64 per cent good or excellent.
- Pasture ratings are 61 per cent poor, 29 per cent fair and 10 per cent good. Cattle have been turned into stubble.
- Surface soil moisture ratings (sub-surface in brackets) are 31 (59) per cent poor, 39 (31) per cent fair, 29 (10) per cent good and 1 (0) per cent excellent.

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

- Harvest is nearing completion with 85 per cent in the bin, significantly ahead of the five-year average of 38 per cent harvested. Ten per cent is currently in the swath.
- The dryland yield index rose slightly to 61 per cent from 59 per cent two weeks ago. Dryland yield estimates (irrigated in brackets) are currently 31 (70) bushels per acre on spring wheat, 10 on durum, 56 (95) on barley with 53 on oats. Canola estimates are 29 (60) bushels to the acre with peas at 25.
- Quality is very good despite the difficult growing season: 90 per cent of spring wheat and 96 per cent of durum is in the top two grades with 91 per cent of barley grading 1 CW or Malt and 84 per cent of oats in the top two grades. 90 per cent of canola is grading 1 CAN with 88 per cent of field peas in the top two grades.
- Fall seeded crop condition is estimated as 63 per cent good or excellent.
- Pasture ratings are 30 per cent poor, 28 per cent fair, 41 per cent good and 1 per cent excellent.
- Surface soil moisture ratings (sub-surface in brackets) are 18 (29) per cent poor, 25 (28) per cent fair, 54 (38) per cent good and 3 (5) per cent excellent.

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

- Harvest is nearing completion with 84 per cent in the bin, significantly ahead of the five-year average of 27 per cent harvested. Seven per cent is currently in the swath.
- The dryland yield index rose to 66 per cent from 61 per cent two weeks ago. Dryland yield estimates are 35 bushels per acre on spring wheat, 46 on barley with 52 on oats. Canola estimates are 28 bushels to the acre with peas at 29.
- Quality is very good despite the difficult growing season: 94 per cent of spring wheat is in the top two grades with 86 per cent of barley grading 1 CW or Malt and 56 per cent of oats in the top two grades. 94 per cent of canola is grading 1 CAN with 76 per cent of field peas in the top two grades.
- Fall seeded crop condition is estimated as 66 per cent good with zero excellent.
- Pasture ratings are 84 per cent poor, 11 per cent fair and 5 per cent good.
- Surface soil moisture ratings (sub-surface in brackets) are 46 (43) per cent poor, 20 (24) per cent fair, 31 (31) per cent good and 3 (2) per cent excellent.

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

- Harvest is advancing nicely with 64 per cent in the bin, significantly ahead of the five-year average of 18 per cent harvested. 18 per cent is currently in the swath.
- The dryland yield index rose to 78 per cent from 76 per cent two weeks ago. Dryland yield estimates are 44 bushels per acre on spring wheat, 50 on barley with 53 on oats. Canola estimates are 35 bushels to the acre with peas at 29.
- Quality is very good despite difficult growing season: 97 per cent of spring wheat is in the top two grades with 86 per cent of barley grading 1 CW or Malt and 79 per cent of oats in the top two grades. 89 per cent of canola is grading 1 CAN with 92 per cent of field peas in the top two grades.
- Fall seeded crop condition is estimated as 60 per cent good with zero excellent.
- Pasture ratings are 33 per cent poor, 26 per cent fair and 41 per cent good.
- Surface soil moisture ratings (sub-surface in brackets) are 12 (12) per cent poor, 36 (32) per cent fair, 46 (44) per cent good and 6 (12) per cent excellent.

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

- Harvest is past the halfway point with 57 per cent in the bin, significantly ahead of the five-year average of 19 per cent harvested. 14 per cent is currently in the swath.
- The dryland yield index dipped one point to 69 per cent from two weeks ago. Dryland yield estimates are 33 bushels per acre on spring wheat, 37 on barley with 50 on oats. Canola estimates are 26 bushels to the acre with peas at 29.
- Quality is quite good despite difficult growing season: 95 per cent of spring wheat is in the top two grades with 88 per cent of barley grading 1 CW but only 8 per cent reaching Malt. Oats have 53 per cent grading in the top two grades, 100 per cent of canola is grading 1 CAN with 87 per cent of field peas grading 2 CAN but zero grading 1 CAN.
- Pasture ratings are 59 per cent poor, 32 per cent fair, 8 per cent good and 1 per cent excellent.
- Surface soil moisture ratings (sub-surface in brackets) are 39 (37) per cent poor, 38 (41) per cent fair, 22 (21) per cent good and 1 (1) per cent excellent.

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