

Alberta Crop Report



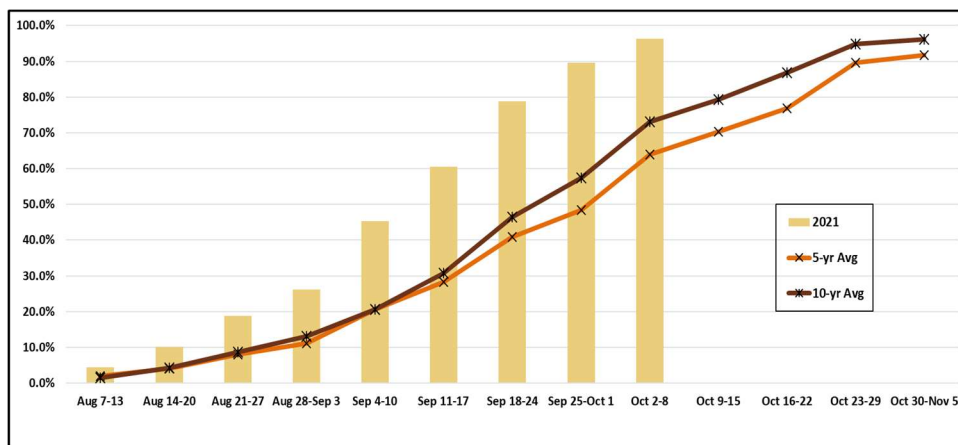
Crop Conditions as of October 5, 2021

Fall fieldwork is progressing in most parts of the province, while harvest is almost three weeks ahead (see Figure 1). Provincially, about 96 per cent of crops have been harvested, 32 per cent ahead of the 5-year average and 22 per cent ahead of the 10-year average (see Table 1). About two per cent of crops are in swath, and another two per cent are still standing. Regionally, harvest is wrapping up in the South, Central and North East Regions, where more than 98 per cent of crops are now in the bin. For the North West and Peace Regions, green crops from the second growth, mainly in canola fields, have delayed the completion of harvest.

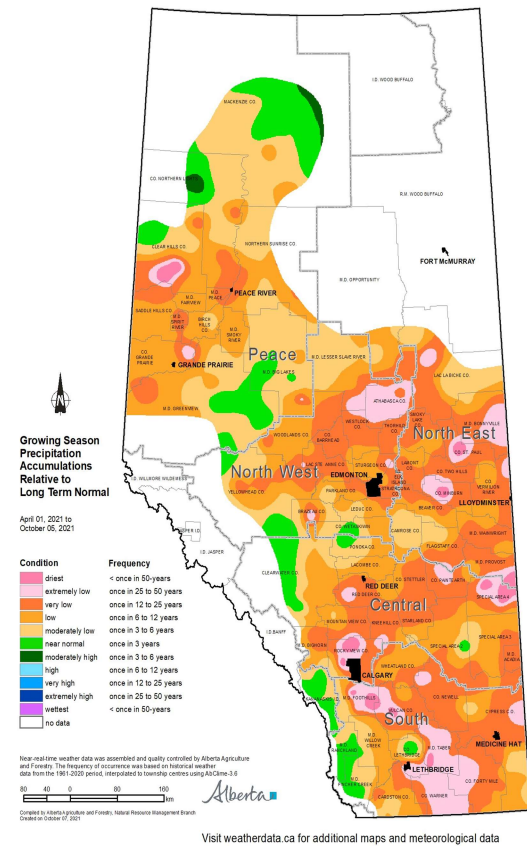
Table 1: Estimates of Crop Harvest Progress as of October 5, 2021

	Per cent of Crops Combined					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat*	98.6%	99.6%	99.7%	95.8%	92.3%	98.1%
Durum Wheat	99.8%	100.0%	---	---	---	99.8%
Barley*	97.8%	99.9%	98.7%	94.9%	87.2%	97.5%
Oats*	99.5%	98.5%	96.2%	89.6%	85.2%	92.7%
Canola*	97.5%	96.3%	96.4%	88.0%	82.2%	92.9%
Dry Peas*	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	98.6%	99.7%
Lentils	100.0%	100.0%	---	---	---	100.0%
Chickpeas	100.0%	100.0%	---	---	---	100.0%
Flax seed	96.0%	100.0%	100.0%	---	---	96.9%
Potatoes	85.0%	87.0%	100.0%	90.0%	---	85.4%
All Crops, Oct 5	98.1%	98.6%	98.2%	92.4%	87.8%	96.3%
Major Crops (*), Oct 5	98.3%	98.6%	98.2%	92.4%	87.8%	96.1%
Major Crops (*), Sep 28	94.0%	94.1%	95.5%	80.4%	71.3%	89.5%
All Crops, Last Year	96.7%	89.9%	90.6%	79.4%	82.9%	90.2%
5-yr (2016-2020) Avg	86.7%	61.9%	55.4%	43.2%	55.2%	64.6%
10-yr (2011-2020) Avg	91.3%	72.1%	67.7%	58.9%	66.6%	74.5%

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



Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey



Dryland yield estimates remained significantly below average across all regions. The provincial dryland 5-year yield index is estimated at 63, indicating that yields are 37 per cent below the 5-year averages (see Table 2). The highest yields are in the North West Region (but still 20 per cent below the 5-year averages), while the South Region has the lowest yield (56 per cent below the 5-year averages). The average yields for potatoes on dryland and irrigated fields are estimated at 11.6 and 15 tons per acre, respectively. For sugar beets, the average yield is estimated at 30 tonnes per acre, while for dry beans it is 27 cwt per acre.

Crop quality varies among regions. Provincially, quality for all crops is above their 5-year averages, with the exception of malting barley and oats, which are below average. About 93 per cent of hard red spring wheat and 84 per cent of durum wheat are grading in the top two grades. About 28 per cent of barley is eligible for malt and 58 per cent is grading as No. 1 feed. For oats, about 59 per cent is grading in the top two grades, which is below the average. Almost 90 per cent of canola is grading as No. 1, with seven per cent as No. 2. For dry peas, 33 per cent is grading as No. 1, 54 per cent as No. 2, 10 per cent as No. 3 and three per cent as feed.

Table 2: Dryland Yield Estimates as of October 5, 2021

	Estimated Yield (bushel/acre)					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	17.8	31.3	35.3	45.7	33.3	31.6
Barley	20.5	55.9	48.8	50.9	41.6	42.5
Oats	27.4	52.7	53.6	55.3	58.0	53.9
Canola	16.1	29.1	29.8	35.9	28.0	28.0
Dry Peas	18.9	24.9	29.9	28.8	28.1	24.8
5-year Yield Index	44.4	60.4	67.7	79.7	72.4	62.5
10-year Yield Index	42.4	63.8	71.9	79.0	78.0	64.4

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

The majority of dryland hay in the province (about 92 per cent) was from the first cut, as many producers, particularly in the South and Peace Regions, failed to harvest a second cut, or harvested very little, and the remaining eight per cent was from the second cut. Dryland yield for first cut hay was estimated at 1.1 tons per acre, below the average of 1.5 tons per acre, while it was 0.9 ton per acre for second cut, compared to the 5-year average of 1.2 tons per acre. For irrigated hay, first cut accounted for 58 per cent of the total (with yield estimated at 2.1 tons per acre), second cut accounted for 38 per cent (with yield reported at 1.7 tons per acre), and third cut accounted for the remaining four per cent (with yield estimated at 0.5 ton per acre).

Regional Assessments:

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

- Dry conditions prevailed in most of the region. Harvest is wrapping up and fall fieldwork is underway. There are a few green canola fields yet to be harvested, and potato and sugar beets harvest is progressing nicely.
- About 98 per cent of all crops are now in the bin (compared to the 5-year average of 87 per cent), and one per cent are in swath. Another one per cent is still standing and includes sugar beets, potatoes, flax and canola.
- Quality for all crops is slightly below their regional 5-year averages, except for dry peas, which is above. About 89 per cent of hard red spring wheat, 82 per cent of durum wheat and 89 per cent of oats are grading in the top two grades. About 27 per cent of barley is eligible for malt and 51 per cent grading as No. 1 feed. About 73 per cent of canola is grading as No. 1 and 22 per cent as No. 2. For dry peas, 63 per cent are grading as No. 1, with 34 per cent as No. 2.
- Fall seeded crops are rated as 7 per cent poor, 30 per cent fair, 49 per cent good and 14 per cent excellent.
- Pastures are turning brown due to low precipitation, with mediocre to low growth going into winter. Pasture conditions are rated as 60 per cent poor, 30 per cent fair, and 10 per cent good.

- All dryland tame hay was from first cut, with yield (5-year averages shown in brackets) estimated at 0.9 (1.2) tons per acre. For irrigated hay, first cut hay accounted for 56 per cent of the total, with yield at 2.1 (2.4) tons per acre. Second cut accounted for 40 per cent and estimated yield was at 1.8 (2) tons per acre. The remaining four per cent was from third cut, with yield at 0.5 (1.4) tons per acre.

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

- Harvest is virtually complete in the region and producers have begun fall work. Nearly 99 per cent of all crops are now in the bin (compared to the 5-year average of 62 per cent) and one per cent in swath.
- Crop quality for all crops is above their regional 5-year averages. About 90 per cent of hard red spring wheat, 99 per cent of durum wheat and 84 per cent of oats are grading in the top two grades. About 43 per cent of barley is eligible for malt and 48 per cent is grading as No. 1 feed. About 91 per cent of canola is grading as No. 1 and five per cent as No. 2. For dry peas, 39 per cent are grading as No. 1, with 51 per cent as No. 2.
- Fall seeded crops are rated as 26 per cent poor, 16 per cent fair, 49 per cent good and 9 per cent excellent.
- Pastures are going dormant and livestock producers are expecting to use straw, hay, pellets and greenfeed for winter feed. Pasture conditions are rated as 37 per cent poor, 29 per cent fair, 33 per cent good, and 1 per cent excellent.
- About 91 per cent of total dryland tame hay in the region was from first cut, with the average yield (5-year averages shown in brackets) at 1.4 (1.3) tons per acre. The remaining nine per cent was from second cut, with yield at 1.2 (1.4) tons per acre. For irrigated hay, first cut hay accounted for 70 per cent of the total, with yield reported at 2 (2.3) tons per acre, while second cut hay accounted for 30 per cent, with yield at 1.2 (1.1) tons per acre.

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

- Harvest is mostly wrapped up in the region. About 98 per cent of crops have been combined (compared to the 5-year average of 55 per cent), with one per cent swathed, and another one per cent of crops still standing.
- Crop quality for all crops is above their regional 5-year averages, except for oats, which is below. About 94 per cent of hard red spring wheat and 46 per cent of oats are grading in the top two grades. About 20 per cent of barley is eligible for malt and 68 per cent is grading as No. 1 feed. About 96 per cent of canola is grading as No. 1 and three per cent as No. 2. For dry peas, five per cent are grading as No. 1, with 61 per cent as No. 2.
- Fall seeded crops are rated as 27 per cent poor, 13 per cent fair, and 60 per cent good.
- In many areas, cattle are grazing in harvested fields, while pasture conditions are rated as 88 per cent poor, 7 per cent fair, and 5 per cent good.
- First cut hay accounted for 96 per cent of the total, with yield (5-year averages shown in brackets) reported at 1.0 (1.8) tons per acre, while second cut accounted for four per cent, with yield estimated at 0.5 (1.1) tons per acre.

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

- Harvest is still processing despite scattered showers in the region and wet mornings. Additionally, fall fieldwork is underway. For much of the region, soil moisture has improved over the last month, relieving fields from dry summer conditions, although it is too late to benefit this growing season.
- Regionally, 92 per cent of crops have now been combined (compared to the 5-year average of 43 per cent), with another three per cent swathed, while five per cent of crops are still standing. The majority of crops left to combine are either late seeded crops or those ones that were damaged during the season, hence delaying maturity.
- Crop quality for hard red spring wheat, malt barley, oats and dry peas is above their regional 5-year averages, while it is below for feed barley and canola. About 97 per cent of hard red spring wheat and 52 per cent of oats are grading in the top two grades. About 15 per cent of barley is eligible for malt and 71 per cent is grading as No. 1 feed. About 88 per cent of canola is grading as No. 1 and 10 per cent as No. 2. For dry peas, 41 per cent are grading as No. 1 and 51 per cent as No. 2.

- Fall seeded crops are rated as 38 per cent fair, 61 per cent good and one per cent excellent.
- The recent moisture in most areas benefited pasture and tame hay fields heading into the winter months, while pasture growing conditions are now rated as 30 per cent poor, 28 per cent fair and 42 per cent good.
- About 73 per cent of tame hay was from first cut, with yield (5-year averages shown in brackets) estimated at 1.2 (2) tons per acre, and the rest (27 per cent) was from second cut, with yield reported at 0.7 (1) ton per acre.

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

- Favourable harvesting conditions over the past week allowed producers to combine an additional 17 per cent of the crops in the region. Even so, green second growth, mainly in canola fields and some in barley, have prevented producers from completing the 2021 harvest. Some minor to major hail and wind damage was reported for some canola fields.
- About 88 per cent of crops in the region are now in the bin (compared to the 5-year average of 55 per cent), with another four per cent swathed and eight per cent still standing.
- Crop quality for all crops is above their regional 5-year averages, except for malt barley and oats, which is lower. About 96 per cent of hard red spring wheat and 53 per cent of oats are grading in the top two grades. About 12 per cent of barley is eligible for malt and 84 per cent has graded as No. 1 feed. Almost all harvested canola is grading as No. 1, while for dry peas, 87 per cent are grading as No. 2, and none grading as No. 1.
- Pasture conditions are rated as 58 per cent poor, 33 per cent fair, and 9 per cent good.
- All tame hay was from first cut, with yield estimated at 0.8 ton per acre, below the 5-year average of 1.5 tons per acre.

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