

Alberta Crop Report



Crop Conditions as of August 10, 2021

NOTE – Crop Reports will be released bi-weekly in July and August

Over the past two weeks, low to moderate amounts of moisture were received through widespread thunderstorms across the province, with the exception of last week's general rains over southern parts. Rain was welcome in the areas where it was received, particularly for hay and pasture fields. However, it might be late for most annual crops. Temperatures over this period remained in the mid to high 20s across all regions. Overall, precipitation accumulations tended to be highly variable throughout most parts of the province (see the map).

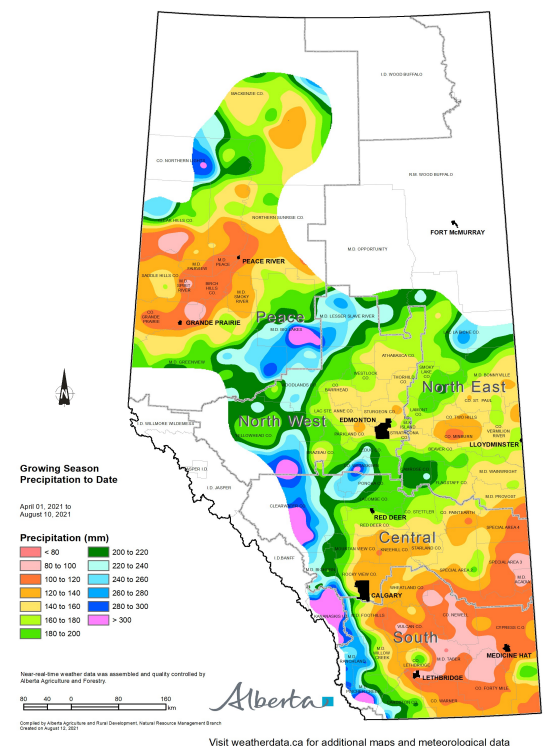
Crop development was accelerated by the heat wave over the months of June and July. Spring seeded cereals across the province are mostly in the dough development growth stage, while all dry peas, 97 per cent of canola and more than 95 per cent of lentils and chickpeas are in the podding stage.

Crops still look weak in many areas with small head sizes and unfilled kernels. Provincial crop condition ratings declined slightly from the previous crop report (conditions as of July 27). Currently, 18 per cent of crops in Alberta are in good or excellent condition, compared to the 5-year average (2016-2020) of 69 per cent (see Table 1). Compared to the previous crop report, growing condition ratings dropped for all regions, with the North West Region deteriorating the most (down three per cent), followed by the Peace and Central Regions (down two per cent). Conditions deteriorated marginally (by one per cent) in the South and North East Regions.

Table 1: Regional Crop Condition Ratings as of August 10, 2021

	Per cent rated in Good to Excellent Condition					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat*	22.6%	12.0%	27.6%	19.9%	11.2%	19.9%
Durum Wheat	20.5%	10.0%	---	---	---	19.1%
Barley*	22.0%	14.1%	13.1%	16.2%	15.2%	16.7%
Oats*	23.9%	14.3%	19.7%	15.1%	28.2%	19.3%
Canola*	19.8%	15.6%	15.5%	14.5%	11.6%	15.4%
Dry Peas*	20.2%	13.4%	13.1%	13.7%	19.3%	16.9%
Mustard	30.1%	20.0%	---	---	---	27.1%
Flax	30.0%	10.0%	40.5%	---	---	29.8%
Potatoes	51.9%	---	100.0%	85.7%	---	51.7%
Chickpeas	11.0%	20.0%	---	---	---	11.4%
Lentils	19.2%	26.1%	---	---	---	20.1%
All Crops, Aug 10	22.8%	13.9%	19.9%	16.8%	13.3%	18.2%
Major Crops (*), Aug 10	21.4%	13.8%	19.7%	16.6%	13.3%	17.4%
All Crops, July 27	23.7%	16.1%	20.7%	19.6%	15.0%	19.7%
5-year (2016-2020) Avg	57.5%	74.8%	81.0%	58.2%	71.1%	69.0%
10-year (2011-2020) Avg	66.2%	73.2%	77.4%	62.0%	64.5%	69.9%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey



Harvest is advanced in all regions and operations have begun for fall-seeded crops, pulses and some early-seeded spring cereals. Provincially, 62 per cent of fall rye, 44 per cent of winter wheat, 32 per cent of lentils, 19 per cent of dry peas and 14 per cent of both durum wheat and triticale are now in the bin, accounting for about four per cent of all crops. About one per cent of crops across the province have been swathed and 95 per cent is still standing.

Average yields are below both the 5-year and 10-year averages in all regions. Provincially, the estimated dryland 5-year yield index is 58.7 per cent, indicating that provincial yields are estimated to be below the 5-year averages by 41 per cent (See Table 2). The 5-year yield index is the best in the North West Region (reporting yields 28 per cent below the 5-year averages), followed by the Peace Region (estimating 32 per cent below the 5-year averages). The lowest yields have been reported in the South Region, where yields are 51 per cent below the 5-year averages. Please note that these estimates are preliminary and subject to change, but they will be updated bi-weekly.

Table 2: Dryland Yield Estimates as of August 10, 2021

	Estimated Yield (bushel/acre)					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	18.8	29.0	31.5	43.3	34.4	29.9
Barley	20.8	51.9	38.5	41.8	27.7	37.2
Oats	21.0	47.5	45.6	52.0	45.9	46.9
Canola	17.5	27.1	24.1	32.6	23.5	24.7
Dry Peas	18.8	23.3	22.7	23.1	31.1	23.4
5-year Yield Index	48.5%	58.7%	56.2%	71.9%	67.7%	58.7%
10-year Yield Index	46.0%	61.9%	61.2%	72.4%	70.5%	60.6%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Pasture growing conditions across the province remains poor. Some pastures are so “burnt” and dried out from the earlier hot and dry conditions in the year that recent precipitation was not enough to benefit them. Rainfall before the fall is needed to ensure average growth next year. In response to feed shortage as a result of hot dry conditions, producers are taking cereals and pulses for silage, greenfeed or pasturing them. Pasture conditions (tame hay numbers shown in the brackets) across the province are now reported as 52 (51) per cent poor, 30 (32) per cent fair, 17 (16) per cent good and 1 (1) per cent excellent.

First cut haying is virtually complete across the province, significantly ahead of the 5-year average of 85 per cent. There will not be any second cut in many areas, due to little re-growth. Yield for first cut dryland hay is estimated at one ton per acre (below the 5-year average of 1.5 tons per acre), with quality rated as 17 per cent poor, 34 per cent fair, 36 per cent good and 13 per cent excellent. For irrigated hay, yield is reported at 2.1 tons per acre, below the 5-year average of 2.4 tons per acre. Quality is rated as 4 per cent poor, 35 per cent fair, 55 per cent good and 6 per cent excellent.

Regional Assessments:

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

- Warm dry conditions continued in the region, with rain bringing moisture in some areas. Harvest in most areas has started and is ahead of normal, with several fields being cut for greenfeed.
- About 12 per cent of crops are now in the bin (compared to the 5-year average of six per cent) and another two per cent are swathed. Nearly 73 per cent of fall rye, 44 per cent of winter wheat, 40 per cent of dry peas and 30 per cent of lentils are now in the bin.
- First cut haying operations for both dryland and irrigated land are virtually complete. Average yield on dryland is estimated at 0.8 ton per acre, below the 5-year average of 1.1 tons per acre and is 2.2 tons per acre on irrigated land, lower than the 5-year average of 2.4 tons per acre. Of first cut hay, about 65 per cent of dryland hay and 40 per cent

of irrigated hay is rated as poor or fair quality. Second cut haying operations is currently underway only in irrigated fields, with 33 per cent completed at 1.7 tons per acre yield.

- Pasture growing conditions (tame hay conditions shown in brackets) are now reported as 53 (47) per cent poor, 31 (36) per cent fair, 15 (17) per cent good and 1 (0) per cent excellent.
- Surface soil moisture is rated (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) at 50 (55) per cent poor, 37 (35) per cent fair, 12 (10) per cent good and 1 (0) per cent excellent.

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

- Scattered showers and moderate temperatures in the central and northwestern parts of the region improved soil moisture and were beneficial to fill what is left of crops. Hail was reported in some counties.
- About four per cent of crops have been combined in the region (compared to the 5-year average of less than one per cent), with another one per cent swathed, while 95 per cent of crops are still standing. Almost 48 per cent of winter wheat, 19 per cent of fall rye, 17 per cent of dry peas and 44 per cent of lentils are now in the bin.
- Producers wrapped up first cut hay and second cut is underway, ahead of normal. For first cut hay, average yield is estimated at 1.2 and two tons per acre, respectively for dryland and irrigated (both below the 5-year averages). Quality is rated as 54 per cent good to excellent for dryland hay and 70 per cent good for irrigated.
- Pastures are becoming depleted, but hay and pasture growing conditions improved from the last report. Pasture growing conditions (tame hay conditions shown in brackets) are reported as 39 (41) per cent poor, 28 (28) per cent fair, 32 (29) per cent good and 1 (2) per cent excellent.
- Surface soil moisture is rated (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) at 44 (37) per cent poor, 29 (32) per cent fair and 27 (31) per cent good.

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

- Dry conditions persist, particularly in the southeastern parts, while localized showers helped moisture conditions in other counties.
- Over the past five years, no crops were harvested at this time, while all winter wheat, 93 per cent of fall rye and eight per cent of dry peas are now in the bin. Overall, nine per cent of crops have been combined in the region and 91 per cent still standing.
- First cut haying is 99 per cent complete, much ahead of the 5-year average of 79 per cent completed at this time. Yield is reported at 0.9 ton per acre, below the 5-year average of 1.7 tons per acre and quality is rated as 23 per cent poor and fair, 24 per cent good and 53 per cent excellent. Second cut hay is also under-way.
- Pasture growing conditions (tame hay conditions shown in brackets) are reported as 72 (78) per cent poor, 18 (18) per cent fair and 10 (4) per cent good.
- Surface soil moisture is reported (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) at 62 (47) per cent poor, 24 (33) per cent fair and 14 (20) per cent good.

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

- Scattered rain storms over the past two weeks deposited some moisture in most parts of the region. Some crops were hit with hail, losing their potential yields. Currently, about one per cent of all crops are in the bin and 99 per cent are still standing, while many crops are expected to be harvested for feed.
- First cut haying is virtually complete and second cut haying progress varies. The yield for first cut hay is reported at 1.3 tons per acre, below the 5-year average of two tons per acre. Quality is estimated at 43 per cent poor or fair, 42 per cent good and 15 per cent excellent.
- Pasture growing conditions (tame hay conditions shown in brackets) are reported as 41 (38) per cent poor, 52 (44) per cent fair and 7 (18) per cent good.

- Surface soil moisture is reported (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) at 31 (15) per cent poor, 41 (50) per cent fair and 28 (35) per cent good.

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

- Spotty showers were reported for the region over the past two weeks, with temperatures mostly in mid 20s. Harvest of dry peas has started and combining cereals will be starting soon, but canola needs more time. Overall, less than one per cent of all crops in the region are now in the bin.
- First cut haying operations are now 99 per cent complete with the average yield estimated at 0.7 ton per acre, below the 5-year average of 1.5 tons per acre. Quality is rated as 34 per cent poor, 44 per cent fair, 18 per cent good and 4 per cent excellent.
- Pasture growing conditions (tame hay conditions shown in brackets) are reported as 66 (62) per cent poor, 31 (35) per cent fair and 3 (3) per cent good.
- Surface soil moisture is rated (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) at 46 (42) per cent poor, 40 (41) per cent fair, 12 (15) per cent good and 2 (2) per cent excellent.

Contact

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry
Intergovernmental and Trade Relations Branch
Statistics and Data Development Section
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Ashan Shooshtarian
Crop Statistician
Phone: 780-422-2887
Email: ashan.shooshtarian@gov.ab.ca

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