

Alberta Crop Report



Crop Conditions as of September 14, 2021 (Abbreviated Report)

Since the beginning of September, many areas have received more than 15 mm of rain, with much of the North West Region and the eastern-half of the Peace Region recording more than 40 mm (map 1). In contrast, relatively drier conditions have prevailed for the South and North East Regions, receiving less than 5 mm through scattered showers. As of September 14, 2021, wide-spread damaging frosts have not yet occurred. However, small pockets of frost were reported in low-lying parts across most areas. In addition, hailstorms were reported in some parts of the Central Region, with damage to be determined.

Favourable harvest conditions continued over the past week, helping producers harvest their crops at a steady rate, and combine an additional 18 per cent of major crops. Overall, about 61 per cent of major crops have now been harvested, far ahead of the 5-year average of 28 per cent and the 10-year average of 32 per cent (see Table 1). About 16 per cent of major crops are in swath and 23 per cent remain standing. When compared to the 5-year averages (2016-2020), harvest progress is ahead for all regions.

Table 1: Estimates of Crop Harvest Progress as of September 14, 2021

	Per cent of Crops Combined					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	75.4%	71.1%	78.8%	70.7%	63.1%	73.4%
Barley	80.3%	78.2%	69.3%	69.1%	48.5%	74.0%
Oats	78.9%	64.7%	59.2%	48.3%	42.0%	54.6%
Canola	55.4%	37.1%	29.4%	23.3%	18.9%	32.9%
Dry Peas	100.0%	98.7%	99.8%	100.0%	88.1%	97.2%
Major Crops, Sep 14	74.6%	63.7%	57.9%	51.7%	44.3%	60.5%
Major Crops, Sep 7	61.3%	44.1%	35.6%	42.3%	23.4%	42.7%
Major Crops, Last Year	60.8%	28.8%	18.1%	15.7%	12.1%	30.0%
5-yr (2016-2020) Avg	59.9%	28.1%	17.8%	10.1%	10.1%	28.4%
10-yr (2011-2020) Avg	57.1%	27.3%	23.9%	16.9%	23.6%	31.9%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Across the province, precipitation improved soil moisture reserves by two per cent. Provincial surface soil moisture is now rated as 29 per cent poor, 33 per cent fair, 36 per cent good and 2 per cent excellent (See Table 2). Regionally, soil moisture reserves improved the most in the Central Region (up 13 per cent from a week ago), followed by the Peace Region (up eight per cent from previous week). Compared to last week, soil moisture improved by one per cent in the North East and North West Regions, while it deteriorated in the South Region by eight per cent. As a result of received moisture since August, some earlier cut and silaged fields are showing second growth, from which producers may be able to salvage some feed. However, second growth and green immature kernels are an issue in some other fields.

Pasture and hay growth is generally slow at this point, with cooler temperatures, but for the North West Region, some late growth due to the moisture is reported. Pasture conditions (tame hay numbers shown in the brackets) across the province are now reported as 53 (48) per cent poor, 26 (28) per cent fair and 21 (24) per cent good (see Table 3).

Table 2: Surface Soil Moisture Ratings as of September 14, 2021

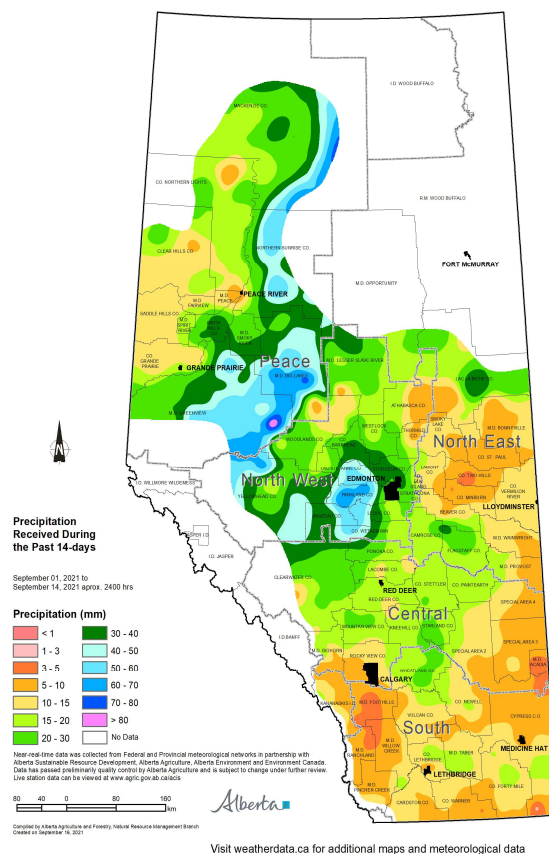
	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Excessive
South	28.4%	42.1%	29.2%	0.3%	0.0%
Central	21.3%	29.7%	49.0%	0.0%	0.0%
North East	44.6%	19.6%	31.6%	4.3%	0.0%
North West	11.9%	36.1%	47.1%	4.8%	0.0%
Peace	38.6%	38.0%	22.7%	0.7%	0.0%
Alberta	29.2%	33.4%	35.9%	1.5%	0.0%
5-yr (2016-2020) Avg	16.9%	20.2%	40.7%	19.8%	2.4%
10-yr (2011-2020) Avg	14.7%	24.0%	43.2%	16.5%	1.7%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Table 3: Pasture Growing Conditions as of September 14, 2021

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
South	62.8%	27.0%	9.9%	0.2%
Central	28.9%	25.8%	45.2%	0.0%
North East	81.3%	13.8%	4.9%	0.0%
North West	32.8%	30.7%	36.5%	0.0%
Peace	59.2%	35.2%	5.7%	0.0%
Alberta	53.4%	25.4%	21.1%	0.1%
5-yr (2016-2020) Avg	25.5%	29.0%	40.4%	5.1%
10-yr (2011-2020) Avg	18.4%	32.0%	42.8%	6.8%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey



Regional Assessments:

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

- Light showers over the past week slowed harvesting operations for most parts of the region, while notable rain in other areas halted harvest. Harvest advanced an additional 14 per cent for major crops from a week ago.
- Regionally, 18 per cent of crops are still standing, seven per cent are swathed and 75 per cent have been combined (compared to the 5-year average of 60 per cent).
- All dry peas, 75 per cent of spring wheat, 80 per cent of barley and 79 per cent of oats are now in the bin. About 55 per cent of canola has now been combined and another 12 per cent is in swath.
- Pasture growing conditions are rated as 63 per cent poor, 27 per cent fair and 10 per cent good.

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

- Rain showers throughout the previous week were reported, yet producers were able to harvest an additional 20 per cent of acres.
- Regionally, 19 per cent of crops are still standing, 17 per cent are swathed and 64 per cent are combined (compared to the 5-year average of 28 per cent).
- About 99 per cent of dry peas, 71 per cent of spring wheat, 78 per cent of barley and 65 per cent of oats are now in the bin. Almost 37 per cent of canola has been harvested and another 39 per cent is in swath.
- Pasture growing conditions are rated as 29 per cent poor, 26 per cent fair and 45 per cent good.

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

- Harvest was progressing in the region, until showers halted combining last weekend. Over the past week, harvest advanced by an additional 22 per cent.
- Overall, 22 per cent of crops are still standing, 20 per cent are swathed and 58 per cent are combined (compared to the 5-year average of 18 per cent).
- All dry peas, 79 per cent of spring wheat, 69 per cent of barley and 59 per cent of oats are now in the bin. About 29 per cent of canola has been combined and another 42 per cent is in swath.
- Pasture growing conditions are rated as 81 per cent poor, 14 per cent fair and 5 per cent good.

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

- While harvest progressed in some areas due to favourable harvest weather, a couple of days of rain slowed or halted combining in other areas. Regionally, harvest advanced an additional 10 per cent for major crops from a week ago.
- In this region, 26 per cent of crops are still standing, 22 per cent are swathed and 52 per cent are combined (compared to the 5-year average of 10 per cent).
- All dry peas, 71 per cent of spring wheat, 69 per cent of barley and 48 per cent of oats are now in the bin. About 23 per cent of canola has been combined and another 43 per cent is in swath.
- Pasture growing conditions are rated as 33 per cent poor, 31 per cent fair and 36 per cent good.

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

- Although rain showers in much of the region slowed harvest operations over the past week, harvesting still progressed, with producers able to combine an additional 21 per cent of their crops.
- Overall, 39 per cent of crops are still standing, 17 per cent are swathed and 44 per cent are combined (compared to the 5-year average of 10 per cent).
- About 88 per cent of dry peas, 63 per cent of spring wheat, 49 per cent of barley and 42 per cent of oats are now in the bin. Nearly 19 per cent of canola has been harvested and 36 per cent is in swath.
- Pasture growing conditions are rated as 59 per cent poor, 35 per cent fair and 6 per cent good.

Contact

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