

Alberta Crop Report



Crop Conditions as of May 25, 2021 (Abbreviated Report)

Total precipitation accumulation over the past 30-days have been at least near normal conditions for most of the province, except for the northern half of the Peace Region, which has only received 10-20 mm to date. Some parts of the South Region and a large area in the North West Region have received above normal accumulations.

Most of southern Alberta received heavy snow between May 17 to 19, 2021, and in another weather event, a large area across the North East and South Regions received subsequent rains over this past long weekend. This resulted in total precipitation of 20-50 mm for the South Region and the southeastern parts of the North East Region, where it was much needed (see the map). Most areas in the Central Region as well as a large area from the southern to the central and western parts of the North West Region received at least 10-15 mm of precipitation. Frost was reported for some regions, but the potential damage is yet to be determined.

When weather permitted over the past week, seeding progress continued. Producers across the province advanced seeding to 90 per cent complete, up 20 per cent from a week ago, and ahead of the 5-year and 10-year averages of 78 and 82 per cent, respectively. Regionally, producers in the Peace Region made the most seeding progress at 31 per cent, followed by the North East and North West Regions at 23 and 21 per cent, respectively. Seeding progress was 18 per cent in the Central Region and 13 per cent in the South.

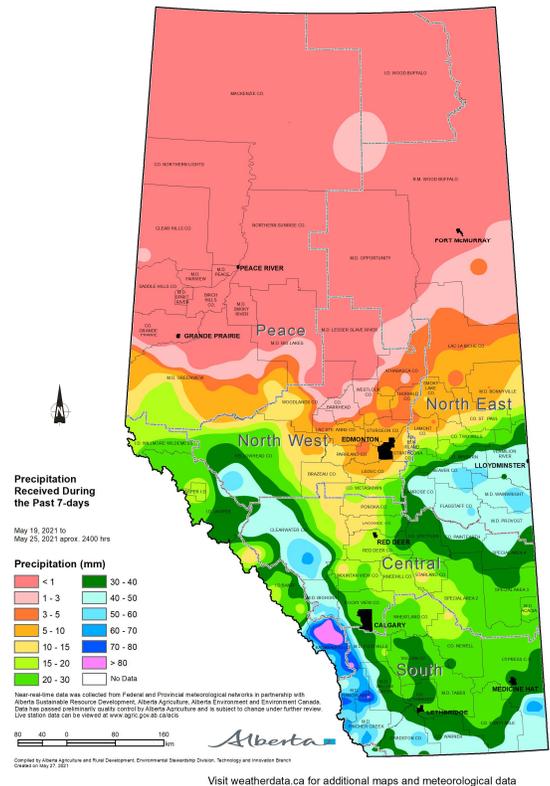


Table 1: Alberta Seeding Progress as of May 25, 2021

	% Seeded					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	97.0%	95.8%	98.2%	89.4%	90.1%	95.4%
Barley	93.7%	87.3%	77.2%	73.1%	85.6%	85.8%
Oats	87.4%	79.6%	68.4%	62.9%	80.6%	72.6%
Canola	89.3%	81.3%	87.1%	75.0%	89.8%	85.2%
Dry Peas	99.1%	99.9%	100.0%	92.8%	91.1%	97.3%
Major Crops, May 25	94.4%	89.3%	90.7%	80.2%	89.4%	89.8%
Major Crops, May 18	81.8%	71.3%	68.2%	59.0%	58.7%	69.7%
5-year (2016-2020) Avg	89.9%	81.7%	73.9%	68.5%	64.1%	77.5%
10-year (2011-2020) Avg	91.0%	84.6%	78.5%	76.7%	74.6%	82.2%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

The precipitation improved soil moisture reserves for all regions by at least 15 per cent, except in the Peace Region, where soil moisture ratings fell from a week ago by 17 per cent. About 82 per cent of fields in Alberta have good or excellent surface soil moisture, compared to the five-year average of 78 per cent. Overall, provincial surface soil moisture is rated (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) at 1 (4) per cent poor, 16 (23) per cent fair, 57 (51) per cent good, 25 (21) per cent excellent and 1 (1) per cent excessive (see Table 2).

Table 2: Surface Soil Moisture Ratings as of May 25, 2021

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Excessive
South	1.5%	22.9%	55.7%	19.3%	0.6%
Central	1.7%	9.6%	67.5%	20.5%	0.7%
North East	0.0%	1.2%	43.8%	54.1%	0.8%
North West	0.3%	14.3%	68.8%	15.8%	0.8%
Peace	4.7%	40.4%	47.9%	6.3%	0.7%
Alberta	1.5%	16.2%	56.9%	24.7%	0.7%
5-year (2016-2020) Avg	4.9%	17.2%	46.0%	27.2%	4.7%
10-year (2011-2020) Avg	6.4%	19.4%	44.6%	26.0%	3.6%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Rain and snow have brought much needed moisture for pasture and tame hay fields across the province, but cooler temperatures have slowed field growth. Heat and sunshine are needed for active growth in these fields. Pasture conditions across the province are now estimated at 16 per cent poor, 28 per cent fair, 53 per cent good and 3 per cent excellent, with similar ratings reported for tame hay.

Regional Assessments:

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

- Snowfall over the past week coupled with rains over the long weekend brought much needed moisture to the region, improving the crop growth outlook going forward. Cooler temperatures on the other hand slowed germination and frost was reported for some areas. Some re-seeding is possible for the areas with wind or frost damage.
- Seeding is estimated at 94 per cent complete, up 13 per cent from a week ago, with about 52 per cent of crops emerged.
- Precipitation over the last two weeks improved hay and pasture fields conditions. Pasture conditions (tame hay shown in brackets) are rated as 5 (2) per cent poor, 33 (31) per cent fair, 56 (60) per cent good and 6 (7) per cent excellent.
- Fall seeded crops are rated as 2 per cent poor, 22 per cent fair, 67 per cent good and 9 per cent excellent.

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

- Central Region received more moisture that was needed for crop germination, pastures and forages. Frost was reported in some counties. Warm weather is needed for active growth of crops and forages.
- Seeding advanced to an estimated 89 per cent complete, up 18 per cent from a week ago, with about 41 per cent of crops emerged.
- Pasture conditions (tame hay shown in brackets) are rated as 12 (10) per cent poor, 20 (17) per cent fair, 67 (71) per cent good and 1 (2) per cent excellent.
- Fall seeded crops are rated as 5 per cent poor, 14 per cent fair and 81 per cent good.

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

- The rain over the weekend was much needed in some areas and helped crops to emerge. However, crop emergence has been slow due to cold temperatures. Frost was reported for a couple of nights in most areas.
- Seeding is now estimated at 91 per cent complete, up 23 per cent from a week ago, with about 41 per cent of crops emerged.
- Forage and pasture growth is still slow, but as soon as the weather warms up, fields should grow actively. Pasture conditions (tame hay shown in brackets) are rated as 54 (52) per cent poor, 28 (24) per cent fair, 17 (23) per cent good and 1 (1) per cent excellent.
- For fall seeded crops, conditions are reported as 27 per cent fair, 47 per cent good and 26 per cent excellent.

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

- Accumulation of precipitation over the past couple of weeks led to flooding in some low areas, as well as areas with heavier soil. The below zero temperatures slowed crop emergence and growth. Frost was reported for most parts of the region, with any potential damage to be determined.
- Seeding is estimated at 80 per cent completed, up 21 per cent from a week ago, with about 28 per cent of crops emerged.
- Hay and pasture fields are progressing as a result of recent precipitation, but are still lagging behind normal and are in need of heat. Pasture conditions (tame hay shown in brackets) are rated as 36 (44) per cent fair, 62 (55) per cent good and 2 (1) per cent excellent.
- For fall seeded crops, conditions are reported as 32 per cent fair and 68 per cent good.

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

- Minimal rainfall over the past week allowed for significant seeding progress. Frost was reported for a couple of nights, but it is too early to tell if any re-seeding will be needed. Although the region is not in desperate need of rain, some moisture could improve crops, forages and pastures.
- Seeding is now estimated at 89 per cent complete, up 31 per cent from a week ago, with 41 per cent of crops emerged.
- Pasture conditions (tame hay shown in brackets) are rated as 17 (17) per cent poor, 30 (31) per cent fair, 51 (50) per cent good and 2 (2) per cent excellent.

Contact

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