

Alberta Crop Report

Crop conditions as of June 13, 2023

A provincial state of emergency was declared on May 6 due to the number of wildfires in the province, and ended on June 3. The wildfire situation in the northern areas of the province remains serious.

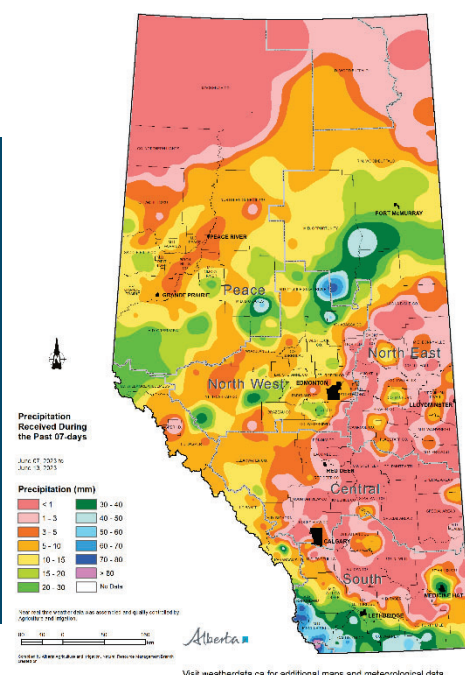
Light and sporadic showers experienced across the province have failed to be enough to boost crop condition ratings and soil moisture reserves as of June 13 (see the Map). Many areas continue to report hot and dry temperatures that have further depleted soil moisture conditions continuously since May 23. The Peace Region has received the most moisture the past week with up to 60 mm (as well as select south west parts of the South Region), while the majority of the Central, North East and South Regions received 0-5 mm. This has caused crops across the province to show signs of stress and mature quicker than normal.

As of June 13, provincial crop growing conditions are rated as 43 per cent good to excellent conditions, 32 per cent below the 5-year average and 31 per cent below the 10-year average. Potatoes, lentils, chickpeas, and durum are rated in the best condition provincially, whereas canola and barley are rated the lowest. While the Peace Region isn't experiencing the same poor growing conditions (rated at 72 per cent of crops in good to excellent condition) thanks to adequate rain, the rest of the province is seeing the lowest ratings since 2009 and 2015. Currently, 56 per cent of all crops in the North East Region are rated as good to excellent, followed by the South (46 per cent), the Central (23 per cent) and the North West (18 per cent). Last week, 93 per cent of crops had emerged. Currently, 55 per cent of broad leaf crops are in the 4-6 leaf/node stage moderately ahead of the 5-year average of 45 per cent and spring cereals are just entering stem elongation. While some fields are so dry that there are dormant seedlings struggling to get going, other cereals have already produced a flag leaf as they rush into heading.

Table 1: Regional Crop Condition Ratings as of June 13, 2023

	Per cent rated in Good to Excellent Conditions					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat*	37.9%	21.3%	60.2%	20.0%	73.0%	42.4%
Durum	67.0%	37.1%	-	-	-	62.7%
Barley*	35.8%	18.6%	54.6%	20.9%	73.3%	36.1%
Oats*	49.1%	24.5%	62.4%	21.3%	73.9%	47.0%
Canola*	29.4%	22.3%	50.3%	13.6%	70.2%	39.7%
Dry Peas*	44.1%	38.9%	68.5%	21.6%	77.1%	52.5%
Mustard	65.7%	40.0%	-	-	-	59.6%
Flax	53.0%	48.8%	86.2%	-	-	57.7%
Potatoes	88.3%	0.0%	-	73.5%	-	83.5%
Chickpeas	72.3%	55.4%	-	-	-	71.0%
Lentils	73.9%	58.2%	-	-	-	71.4%
All Crops, June 13	45.5%	23.3%	55.6%	17.7%	72.0%	43.4%
Major Crops(*), June 13	35.6%	21.9%	55.6%	17.6%	72.0%	40.9%
All Crops(*), June 14, 2022	63.0%	79.8%	79.1%	80.8%	78.8%	74.6%
5-year All Crops (2018-2022)	68.0%	81.9%	82.6%	71.7%	73.3%	75.8%
10-year All Crops (2013-2022)	73.6%	74.5%	80.6%	68.7%	69.8%	74.4%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey



Heavy precipitation in the near forecast will be needed to improve soil moisture conditions across majority of the province. Overall, good to excellent rated surface soil moisture conditions fell 2 per cent and sub-surface soil moisture ratings decreased 5 per cent over the past week. Overall, surface soil moisture (10-year average in brackets) is rated at 40(9) per cent poor, 32(19)

per cent fair, 21(43) per cent good, 7(26) per cent excellent and less than one per cent (3) rated excessive. The majority of the province is rated as extremely low (once in 25-50 year dry) to less than once-in-50-years dry (see the Map). Currently, sub surface soil moisture (10-year average in brackets) is rated as 37(9) per cent poor, 32(23) per cent fair, 24(45) per cent good, 7(21) per cent excellent and 0(2) per cent excessive.

Table 2: Alberta Surface Soil Moisture Ratings as of June 13, 2023

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Excessive
South	34.1%	35.7%	22.5%	7.6%	0.0%
Central	53.7%	27.8%	17.3%	1.2%	0.0%
North East	35.1%	38.3%	25.7%	0.9%	0.0%
North West	55.7%	27.6%	16.2%	0.4%	0.0%
Peace	12.2%	24.2%	25.3%	35.4%	2.9%
Alberta	40.0%	31.8%	21.2%	6.6%	0.3%
5-year (2018-2022) Avg	8.4%	20.4%	46.0%	22.5%	2.8%
10-year (2013-2022) Avg	8.6%	19.0%	43.1%	25.9%	3.4%

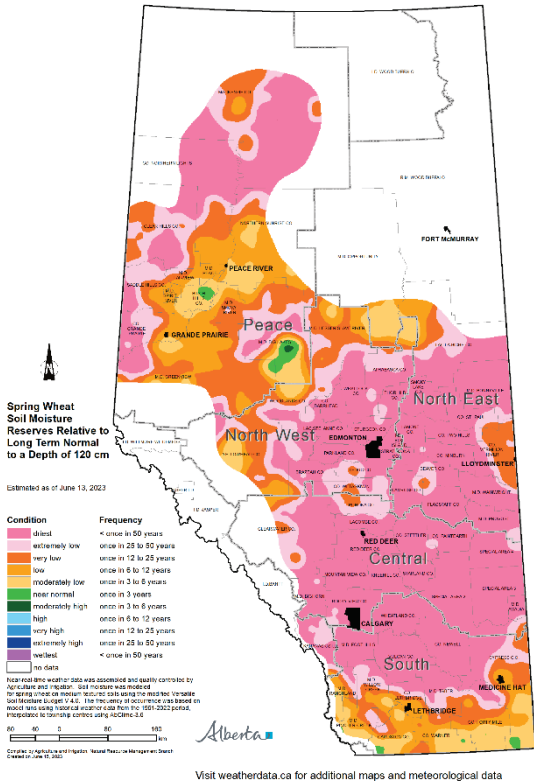
Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Even though pasture and tame hay conditions rated good to excellent increased by 4 and 3 per cent, respectively, conditions are still well below the 5- and 10-year averages. Tame hay is reported to be flowering, while pasture grass is heading out and as a result is being cut for hay and silage and rotated through grazing cycles sooner than normal. First cut haying progress is reported to range from 2 per cent complete in the Peace to 12 per cent complete in the North West. Tame hay is rated as (10-year average in brackets) 39(10) per cent poor, 26(24) per cent fair, 31(51) per cent good, and 4(15) per cent excellent. Pasture conditions are rated as (10-year average in brackets) 37(13) per cent poor, 23(24) per cent fair, 38(51) per cent good and 2(13) per cent excellent.

Table 3: Pasture Growth Conditions as of June 13, 2023

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
South	30.1%	22.7%	46.7%	0.5%
Central	43.3%	20.0%	33.7%	2.9%
North East	36.4%	23.8%	39.8%	0.0%
North West	58.5%	27.0%	14.6%	0.0%
Peace	10.3%	34.3%	45.5%	9.9%
Alberta	36.8%	23.2%	38.2%	1.8%
5-year (2018-2022) Avg	12.6%	27.7%	50.2%	9.5%
10-year (2013-2022) Avg	12.5%	24.1%	50.7%	12.7%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey



Regional Assessments:

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

- Precipitation in the South Region was scattered and ranged from less than one mm in the north east part of the region and up to 60 mm in the south west part of the region.
- Crops in the region are rated at 46 good to excellent, 23 and 28 per cent behind the 5- and 10-year average, respectively.
- The fifth node is detectable on most spring seeded crops and head emergence is nearly complete on fall seeded cereals. About 59 per cent of canola, 61 per cent of dry peas, 61 per cent of lentils are in the 4-6 leaf/node stage.
- Roughly 70 per cent of post emergent spraying is completed in the South, though some spraying is being delayed as to not further stress crops. Both grasshoppers and flea beetles are being reported over threshold.
- Surface soil moisture is now rated at (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) 34 (35) per cent poor, 36 (30 per cent fair, 23 (24) per cent good and 8 (11) per cent excellent, with 0(0) per cent excessive.
- Hay and pasture conditions in the South fell the most of all regions over the last week. Haying has started as some perennial crops have started regressing. Currently, pasture is rated at (tame hay conditions in brackets) 30 (35) per cent poor, 23 (27) per cent fair, 47 (38) per cent good, and 1(1) per cent excellent.

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

- Little moisture was experienced during the past week that has left the Central Region mostly dry.
- In the region, 23 per cent of all crops are rated at good to excellent, 59 and 51 per cent behind the 5- and 10-year average, respectively.
- The majority of spring seeded crops are in the late stages of tillering and fall seeded crops are roughly half complete head emergence. About 53 per cent of canola, 38 per cent of dry peas, and 56 per cent of lentils are in 4-6 leaf/node stage.
- Post-emergent spraying is 57 per cent complete. Some areas reported grasshoppers, army cutworms and gophers as being over threshold.
- Surface soil moisture is now rated at (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) 54(51) per cent poor, 28(31) per cent fair, 17(18) per cent good and 1(0) per cent excellent, with 0(0) per cent excessive.
- Hay is starting to be cut as both forages and pastures are flowering and heading out in the dry and hot conditions. Currently, pasture is rated at (tame hay conditions in brackets) 43(53) per cent poor, 20(18) per cent fair, 34(23) per cent good, and 3(6) per cent excellent.

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

- Conditions have been dry as dugouts are severely lacking in water levels and producers are expecting only one cut of hay with current conditions. Very little precipitation was seen over the past week.
- Crop conditions are rated at 56 per cent good to excellent in the North East, 27 and 25 per cent behind the 5- and 10-year average, respectively.
- The majority of spring seeded crops are in the late stages of tillering and fall seeded crops are in the late stages of booting as the flag leaf sheath is opening. About 60 per cent of canola and 48 per cent of dry peas are in the 4-6 leaf/node stage.
- Post-emergent spraying is 57 per cent complete as farmers try to beat the forecasted precipitation. Some areas reported wireworms, cutworms, and gophers as being over threshold.
- Surface soil moisture is now rated at (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) 35 (31) per cent poor, 38 (43) per cent fair, 26 (26) per cent good and 1(0) per cent excellent, with 0(0) per cent excessive.
- Poor hay and pasture growth is reported due to the heat and stress as hay is flowering earlier than anticipated. Haying and silaging has started earlier than normal. Currently pasture is rated as (tame hay conditions in brackets) 36(44) per cent poor, 24(28) per cent fair, and 40(28) per cent good, and 0(0) excellent.

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

- Select rains were experienced in the North West as well as some non-damaging hail. Dugouts continue to be severely lacking and will benefit from forecasted rains.
- In the region, 18 per cent of all crops are rated at good to excellent, 54 and 51 per cent behind the 5- and 10-year average, respectively.
- The majority of spring seeded crops are in the late stages of tillering and fall seeded crops have a fifth node detectable. About 67 per cent of canola and 73 per cent of dry peas are in the 4-6 leaf/node stage.
- Post-emergent spraying is 65 per cent complete. Some areas are being re-seeding due to cutworm damage. Some areas reported grasshoppers and army cutworms over threshold.
- Surface soil moisture is now rated at (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) 56 (45) per cent poor, 28 (32) per cent fair, 16 (24) per cent good and 0(0) per cent excellent or excessive.
- Alfalfa has flowered early and as producers try to maximize protein potential, haying has begun in many parts of the region. There are reports of more intense rotational grazing and downsizing to stretch pasture for longer periods. Currently, pasture is rated at (tame hay conditions in bracket) 59(48) per cent poor, 27(29) per cent fair, 15(24) per cent good, and 0(0) per cent excellent.

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

- Sporadic light rain was experienced across the Peace Region.
- Adequate rain in the region has left crops rated at 72 per cent good to excellent, 1 per cent behind the 5-year average and 2 per cent ahead of the 10-year average.
- The majority of spring seeded cereals have just produced a shoot and few have tillers. There are no fall seeded crops in this region. About 32 per cent of canola and 82 per cent of dry peas are in the 4-6 leaf/node stage.
- 35 per cent of post-emergent spraying is complete. Some areas reported re-seeding, which is necessary due to cutworm damage.

- Surface soil moisture is now rated at (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) 12 (10) per cent poor, 24 (25) per cent fair, 25 (32) per cent good and 35(32) per cent excellent, with 3(0) per cent excessive.
- Recent rains and heat have benefited hay and pasture conditions in the Peace Region. Currently, pasture is rated as (tame hay conditions in bracket) 10(11) per cent poor, 34(34) per cent fair, 46(45) per cent good, and 10(10) per cent excellent.

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Our thanks to Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen and AFSC staff for their partnership and contribution to the Alberta Crop Reporting Program. Agriculture and Irrigation compiles the climate map.

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