

Alberta Crop Report

Crop conditions as of September 19, 2023

Across the province, all regions reported that favorable weather conditions had allowed harvest to progress significantly over the last week. Harvest progress of major crops is reported as 65 per cent completed, progressing 21 per cent since last week's report. In the South region, reports indicate that harvest of pulses and spring cereals are at or near completion. The oilseed harvests remain a priority, with attention also turning to both the seeding of fall crops and post-harvest weed control. The Central, North East, North West, and Peace regions report that pulse harvests are near completion with the majority of harvest efforts focused on the spring cereal crops. While canola crops in these regions are being harvested where the crop is ready, significant portions of the canola crop are reported as still drying in swaths.

Table 1: Estimates of Crop Harvest as of September 19, 2023

	Per Cent of Crops Combined					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat *	93.8%	79.7%	74.2%	53.7%	83.4%	79.2%
Durum	94.5%	100.0%	-	-	-	95.3%
Barley *	95.1%	82.7%	74.9%	62.5%	75.0%	82.3%
Oats *	96.8%	60.5%	64.1%	35.0%	67.0%	57.4%
Canola *	84.1%	28.5%	30.7%	16.7%	36.1%	38.7%
Dry Peas *	99.9%	100.0%	100.0%	96.7%	90.3%	97.8%
Mustard	87.6%	95.6%	-	-	-	89.5%
Flax	56.1%	47.2%	5.7%	-	-	47.3%
Potatoes	35.0%	50.0%	-	56.1%	-	37.4%
Chickpeas	91.9%	100.0%	-	-	-	92.5%
Lentils	96.7%	100.0%	-	-	-	97.2%
All Crops, September 19	90.9%	65.9%	56.4%	40.4%	59.6%	67.4%
Major Crops (*), September 19	92.0%	64.1%	56.4%	40.2%	59.6%	65.0%
Major Crops (*), September 12	80.1%	41.0%	24.1%	23.6%	44.2%	44.1%
5-year All Crops (2018-22)	79.4%	53.7%	44.9%	35.2%	32.1%	54.4%
10-year All Crops (2013-22)	77.3%	48.4%	45.0%	34.7%	42.3%	53.8%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Provincial yield estimates for major crops have improved since September 5, with multiple regions noting that yields continue to surprise to the upside. Estimates for barley and canola moved the most with yield expectations increasing by 2.4 bushel per acre and 1.9 bushel per acre, respectively. Expectations for spring wheat and oat yields both increased by 1.1 bushel per acre. Dry pea yields expectations also increased by 0.4 bushel per acre.

Increasing yield expectations have improved the five-year yield indexes in all regions of the province, resulting in the expectation that provincial major crop yields will be 91 per cent of the five-year average. Regionally, five-year yield indexes are reported to have increased by one per cent in the South to 69 per cent, increased by three per cent in Central to 82 per cent, increased by six per cent in the North East to 102 per cent, increased by one per cent in the North West to 113 per cent and increased by six per cent in the Peace to 96 per cent.

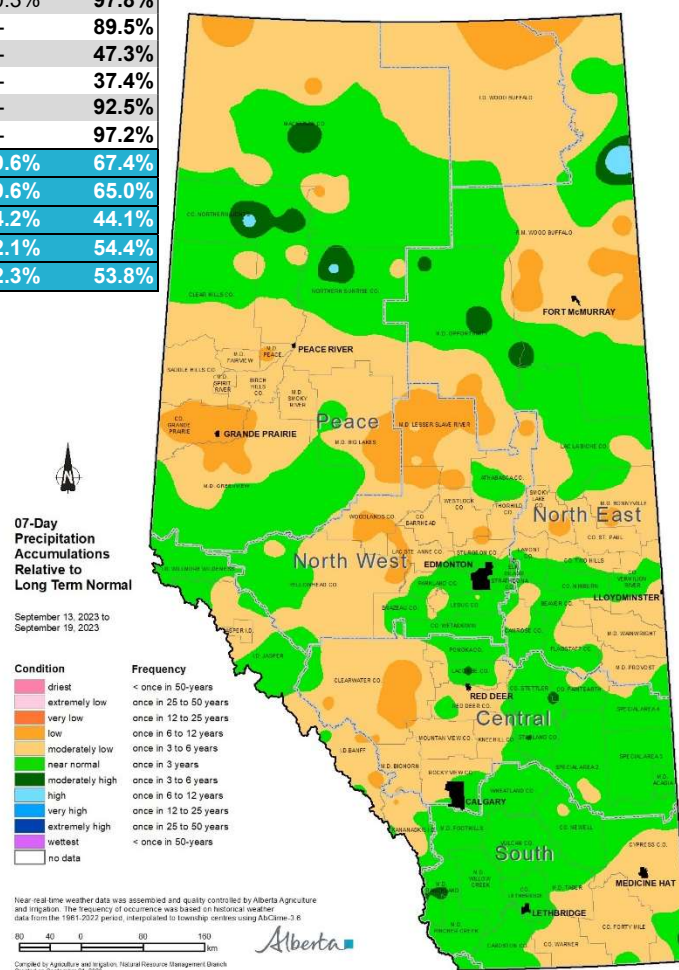


Table 2: Regional Dryland Yield Estimations (Major Crops) as of September 19, 2023

	Estimated Dryland Yield (bushels/acre) and Index for Major Crops					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	25.0	39.6	46.0	54.8	45.2	40.8
Barley	32.1	68.9	78.5	83.7	52.4	59.9
Oats	31.8	64.0	91.0	99.2	61.2	79.7
Canola	19.8	34.7	41.3	40.9	35.0	35.3
Dry Peas	24.8	36.0	45.4	39.3	40.7	35.3
5-year Yield Index	68.8	82.4	101.5	113.1	96.0	91.4
10-year Yield Index	61.0	81.7	100.0	104.6	99.8	88.6

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Quality estimates for the province have been updated since the September 5 report. This week, 62 per cent of the hard red spring wheat is expected to grade 1 CW, a one per cent increase from the last estimate. Similarly, the durum crop is estimated to be 54 per cent 1 CW, a two per cent increase since last reported. The percentage of barley expected to be malt quality is reported as 29 per cent, a six per cent increase from the last estimate. Canola yields are expected to be 85 per cent graded 1 CAN, a 12 per cent increase over the last quality estimate. Oat quality expectations decreased by four percentage points, with 37 per cent of the crop expected to be graded 1 CW. Dry pea quality also decreased by one percentage point, with 20 per cent currently expected to grade 1 CAN.

While the weather has supported harvesting operations, a lack of moisture has reduced the percentage of provincial soil rated as having good-to-excellent moisture reserves. The overall portion of the province rated as having good-to-excellent surface soil moisture conditions is at 33 per cent, a decrease of three per cent from last week and below the five-year average of 54 per cent. Regional good-to-excellent soil ratings improved in the South to eight per cent (a two per cent increase) and improved in the North West to 71 per cent (a two per cent increase). Good-to-excellent surface soil conditions declined in all other regions, as the Central region reported a seven per cent decrease to 18 per cent, the North East reported a three per cent decrease to 61 per cent and the Peace reported a six per cent decrease to 64 per cent.

The percentage of the province reported as having good-to-excellent sub-surface moisture was reported as 33 per cent this week, a decrease of two per cent. Regionally, improvements in the South and North West regions only mitigated the reductions in the Central, North East, and Peace regions. Detailed changes are listed in the regional assessments below.

Table 3: Alberta Surface Soil Moisture Ratings as of September 19, 2023

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Excessive
South	59.3%	32.6%	8.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Central	41.3%	40.7%	17.7%	0.2%	0.0%
North East	7.0%	31.7%	56.5%	4.0%	0.8%
North West	0.2%	16.1%	39.1%	31.6%	12.9%
Peace	10.0%	26.4%	36.4%	27.2%	0.0%
Alberta, September 19	32.7%	32.3%	26.2%	7.2%	1.6%
Alberta, September 12	32.3%	29.8%	28.2%	7.7%	2.0%
5-yr (2018-2022) Avg	17.2%	27.1%	41.3%	12.8%	1.6%
10-yr (2013-2022) Avg	15.2%	25.1%	42.7%	15.6%	1.5%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Provincial pasture growth rated in good-to-excellent condition is at 19 per cent, which is a decrease of two per cent since the last report. Regionally, the per cent of pasture rated good-to-excellent is at six per cent in the South, 16 per cent in Central, 31 per cent in the North East, 38 per cent in the North West and 51 per cent in the Peace.

Regional Assessments:

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

- The majority of areas in the region report harvest to be nearing completion.
- Light scattered showers reported across the region slowed field operations.
- Canola is reported as five per cent remaining in swaths.
- Reports noted that weed pressures are a concern as thin crops provided less suppression than normal.
- The sub-surface (below 6") moisture is rated as good-to-excellent for eight per cent of the region.

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

- Harvest progressed steadily despite reports of minor delays due to scattered showers and smoke.
- Canola crop in the swath is reported as 34 per cent.
- Eastern areas of the region are reporting that harvest is nearing completion.
- Cooling nighttime temperatures have raised concerns of frost events occurring.
- Sub-surface (below 6") moisture is reported as good-to-excellent for 22 per cent of the region.

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

- All areas reported that this week's weather allowed for significant harvest progress.
- Reports suggest that 46 per cent of the canola crop is in the swath.
- Reports suggest that cooler weather and shorter days are limiting pasture growth.
- Sub-surface (below 6") moisture is rated as good-to-excellent for 47 per cent of the region.

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

- Higher temperatures have helped harvest progress, despite reports that wet soil conditions are still limiting access to fields.
- Canola in the swath is reported as 54 per cent.
- Areas reported that the second cut of hay is still progressing, with yields expected to be greater than from the first cut.
- Reporting on sub-surface (below 6") moisture indicates that 76 per cent of the region is rated as good-to-excellent.

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

- Mostly dry weather has led to considerable progress in harvest across the region.
- The percentage of canola in the swath is reported as 36 per cent.
- Sub-surface (below 6") moisture is rated as good-to-excellent for 67 per cent of the region.

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