

Alberta Crop Report

Crop conditions as of July 11, 2023

Over the last 30 days, parts of the province have received much-needed rains. The North West Region received 125 to over 300 mm of precipitation. Parts of the Peace received up to 200 mm of precipitation, while some areas in the North East and Central received up to 175 mm. However, many areas of these three regions, as well as the entire South Region, only received 0-50 mm of rain.

Currently, 45 per cent of all crops are rated in good to excellent condition, well below the 5- and 10-year averages of 66 and 68 per cent, respectively (see Table 1). Regionally, growing condition ratings were the highest in the North East and the Peace where conditions were 59 and 58 per cent good to excellent, respectively. Conditions are rated the lowest in South at 35 per cent good to excellent. Compared to the 5-year average the Peace Region is only 1 per cent below average. The rest of the regions were 13 (North East) to 39 (Central) per cent below the 5-year average of crops rated in good to excellent condition.

Spring cereals are flowering across the province and 83 per cent of major broad leaf crops are flowering and 11 per cent are podding. Podding is most present in the South at 19 per cent, while the rest of the province ranges from 7-10 per cent. All crops are ahead of the 5-year average as half complete head emergence and 75 per cent flowering is average for this time of year. Provincially, the best rated crops are spring wheat (46 per cent of acres rated good to excellent), oats (57 per cent), lentils (50 per cent), potatoes (93 per cent) and chickpeas (54 per cent). The lowest rated crops are durum (34 per cent rated good to excellent), mustard (27 per cent) and flax (36 per cent). The Central, North East and North West have reported spraying for pest, or disease.

Table 1: Regional Crop Condition Ratings as of July 11, 2023

| | Per cent rated in Good to Excellent Conditions | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|---------|--------|--------|-------|---------|
| | South | Central | N East | N West | Peace | Alberta |
| Spring Wheat* | 31.4% | 34.7% | 60.2% | 52.7% | 62.6% | 46.4% |
| Durum | 36.3% | 22.9% | - | - | - | 34.3% |
| Barley* | 29.1% | 41.0% | 58.2% | 54.1% | 58.6% | 43.4% |
| Oats* | 32.1% | 43.6% | 67.0% | 62.5% | 54.2% | 57.4% |
| Canola* | 27.6% | 34.8% | 56.8% | 30.8% | 56.4% | 43.6% |
| Dry Peas* | 39.8% | 38.4% | 69.1% | 66.2% | 55.5% | 49.9% |
| Mustard | 28.0% | 24.4% | - | - | - | 27.1% |
| Flax | 28.2% | 3.1% | 93.1% | - | - | 35.6% |
| Potatoes | 95.0% | 42.5% | - | 100.0% | - | 93.4% |
| Chickpeas | 56.0% | 32.3% | - | - | - | 54.2% |
| Lentils | 52.5% | 36.3% | - | - | - | 49.9% |
| All Crops, July 11 | 34.9% | 35.9% | 59.0% | 44.9% | 58.3% | 45.1% |
| Major Crops (*), July 11 | 30.4% | 36.6% | 59.0% | 44.7% | 58.3% | 45.3% |
| All Crops (*), June 27, 2023 | 41.6% | 31.9% | 58.0% | 30.5% | 60.0% | 44.6% |
| 5-year All Crops (2018-2022) | 60.4% | 74.9% | 71.8% | 58.1% | 59.7% | 66.1% |
| 10-year All Crops (2013-2022) | 64.5% | 69.4% | 74.3% | 64.3% | 61.6% | 67.6% |

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Scattered showers and thunderstorms experienced across the province over the last two weeks helped stabilize many crop conditions. Surface soil moisture conditions rated 45 per cent good to excellent have been stable since the last report as well after declining from the growing season high of 57 per cent (See Table 2). Currently, surface soil moisture is rated at 21 per cent poor, 33 per cent fair, 31 per cent good, 14 per cent excellent and 1 per cent excessive. Sub-surface moisture rated good to excellent peaked earlier in the season at 47 per cent, the fourth week of May and returned to that by the fourth week of June. Since then, conditions have dropped and stayed around 37 per cent. Currently, sub-surface soil moisture is rated (five-year average in brackets) 27 (14) per cent poor, 35 (25) per cent fair, 25 (40) per cent good, 12 (18) per cent excellent and 1 (3) per cent excessive. As seen on the map on the next page, soil moisture reserves are experiencing once-in-3-to-5-year lows to once-in-50-year lows in select areas around the South, North East, and Peace Region.

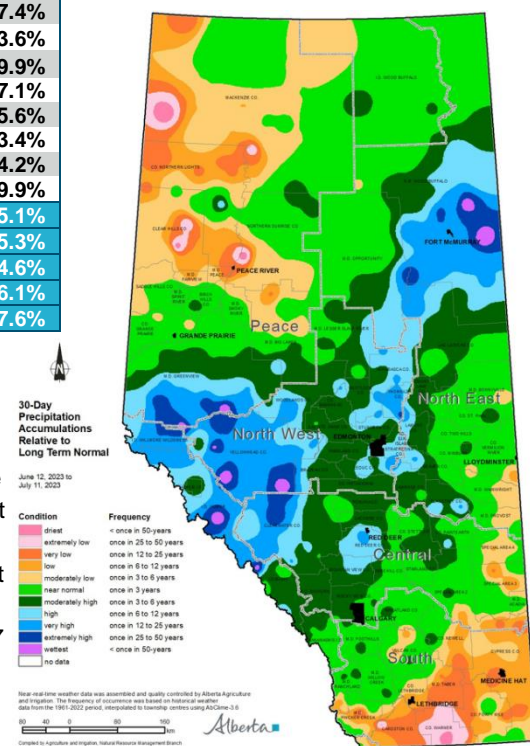


Table 2: Alberta Surface Soil Moisture Ratings as of July 11, 2023

| | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent | Excessive |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|-----------|
| South | 42.3% | 36.2% | 21.2% | 0.3% | 0.0% |
| Central | 19.5% | 39.7% | 19.1% | 19.5% | 2.2% |
| North East | 5.8% | 30.1% | 52.2% | 11.5% | 0.5% |
| North West | 0.8% | 21.9% | 54.2% | 20.3% | 2.8% |
| Peace | 9.5% | 22.6% | 29.3% | 36.0% | 2.7% |
| Alberta, July 11, 2023 | 21.0% | 33.1% | 30.9% | 13.8% | 1.3% |
| Alberta, June 27, 2023 | 19.8% | 33.7% | 29.9% | 14.7% | 2.1% |
| 5-year (2018-2022) Avg | 12.5% | 21.5% | 43.3% | 19.1% | 3.7% |
| 10-year (2013-2022) Avg | 13.6% | 20.7% | 41.7% | 20.6% | 3.4% |

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Since the second week of June, tame hay conditions have increased moderately from 31 per cent rated good to excellent to 35 per cent. As of July 11, tame hay conditions are rated at 27 per cent poor, 38 per cent fair, 29 per cent good, and 6 per cent excellent with the best ratings seen in the Peace Region. The average yield for first cut dryland hay is 0.9 tons per acre and the average yield for irrigated first cut is 2.0 tons per acre. Currently, 59 per cent of dryland first cut is complete, well ahead of the 5-year average (38 per cent). Some producers are also putting annual crops into their grazing rotations due to lack of available feed. Pasture conditions have been slightly decreasing since the third week of June and currently only 33 per cent of the pastures in Alberta are rated as good to excellent (see Table 3). Overall, 31 per cent are rated as poor, 37 per cent fair, 29 per cent good and 4 per cent excellent.

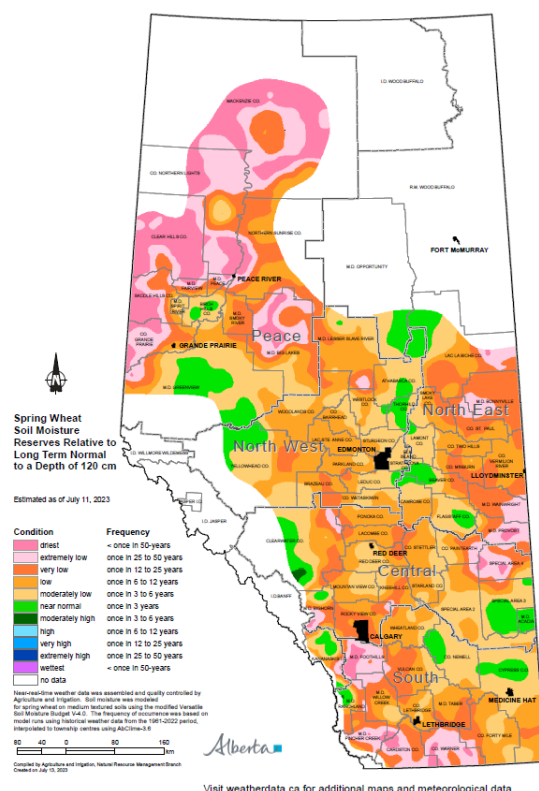


Table 3: Pasture Growth Conditions as of July 11, 2023

| | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|
| South | 46.4% | 36.6% | 17.0% | 0.0% |
| Central | 24.9% | 35.5% | 30.7% | 8.9% |
| North East | 21.5% | 30.1% | 47.0% | 1.4% |
| North West | 21.5% | 52.8% | 25.8% | 0.0% |
| Peace | 14.1% | 36.0% | 43.3% | 6.5% |
| Alberta, July 11, 2023 | 30.8% | 36.7% | 28.9% | 3.7% |
| Alberta, June 27, 2023 | 29.0% | 34.9% | 33.7% | 2.3% |
| 5-year (2018-2022) Avg | 16.5% | 27.0% | 47.2% | 9.4% |
| 10-year (2013-2022) Avg | 17.4% | 25.1% | 45.7% | 11.9% |

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Regional Assessments:

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

- Crop conditions rated good to excellent have decreased 6 per cent since last report. They are currently rated 23 per cent poor, 47 per cent fair, 29 per cent good and 2 per cent excellent. Grasshoppers are rated over threshold in 17 per cent of acres.
- Crop quality is reported to be decreasing due to heat and lack of rain. Additionally, there are estimates of flower and pod loss in oilseeds and pulses.
- Light scattered showers haven't been enough to benefit soil moisture as both surface and sub-surface conditions have decreased since last report. Surface soil moisture is now rated at (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) 42 (50) per cent poor, 36 (34) per cent fair, 21 (14) per cent good and 0 (2) per cent excellent, with 0 (0) per cent excessive.
- Pasture shortages are causing producers to take some annual crops for feed. First cut dryland hay is yielding (irrigated in brackets) 0.9 (2.2) tons per acre. Currently, pasture is rated at (tame hay conditions in brackets) 46 (50) per cent poor, 37 (36) per cent fair, 17 (14) per cent good, and 0 (0) per cent excellent.

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

- Producers are spraying fungicide as there has been lots of moisture across the region. Crop conditions rated good to excellent have increased 5 per cent since the last report. Conditions in the Central Region are currently rated 17 per cent poor, 46 per cent fair, 34 per cent good and 2 per cent excellent.
- With the help of recent rains, patchy crops are filling in but are still stunted.
- While there has been up to 50 mm of rain over the past week, soil moisture conditions slightly decreased. Surface soil moisture is now rated at (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) 20 (24) per cent poor, 40 (36) per cent fair, 19 (19) per cent good and 20 (20) per cent excellent, with 2 (2) per cent excessive.
- Hay crops continue to mature faster than normal but the recent rains have helped. First cut dryland hay yield has averaged (irrigated in brackets) 0.8 (1.5) tons/acre. Currently, pasture is rated at (tame hay conditions in brackets) 25 (21) per cent poor, 36 (31) per cent fair, 31 (31) per cent good, and 9 (17) per cent excellent.

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

- Crop conditions in the North East Region have remained fairly stable since the last report and are currently rated 10 per cent poor, 31 per cent fair, 56 per cent good and 3 per cent excellent.
- Minimal rain has slightly increased soil moisture conditions in the region since the last report. Surface soil moisture is now rated at (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) 6 (17) per cent poor, 30 (37) per cent fair, 52 (40) per cent good and 12 (6) per cent excellent, with 1 (1) per cent excessive.
- First cut dryland hay is averaging 1 ton per acre but recent rains give more confidence to a second cut. Currently, pasture is rated at (tame hay conditions in brackets) 22 (31) per cent poor, 30 (38) per cent fair, 47 (26) per cent good, and 1 (4) per cent excellent.

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

- Crop conditions in the North West Region are currently rated 7 per cent poor, 48 per cent fair, 40 per cent good and 5 per cent excellent. Cereals are flowering and seem to be progressing well but are short and small and canola staging is extremely variable.
- Some spraying is occurring to mitigate grasshopper damage and there are reports of some hail damage as well.
- Scattered showers increased surface (sub-surface) soil moisture rated good to excellent by 24 (12) per cent since last report. Surface soil moisture is now rated at (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) 1 (5) per cent poor, 22 (45) per cent fair, 54 (35) per cent good and 20 (15) per cent excellent, with 3 (0) per cent excessive.
- Currently, pasture is rated at (tame hay conditions in brackets) 22 (19) per cent poor, 53 (48) per cent fair, 26 (32) per cent good, and 0 (1) per cent excellent. First cut dryland hay is averaging yields of 0.7 tons per acre.

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

- Hot conditions and occasional rains have decreased crop conditions since the last report but remain the second highest rated in the province. They are currently rated at 12 per cent poor, 30 per cent fair, 51 per cent good and 7 per cent excellent.
- Rains of up to 50 mm in the last week have helped sub-surface soil moisture. The good to excellent rating increased by 3 per cent but surface soil moisture still decreased by 3 per cent. Surface soil moisture is now rated at (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) 10 (8) per cent poor, 23 (26) per cent fair, 29 (32) per cent good and 36 (34) per cent excellent, with 3 (0) per cent excessive.
- Dryland hay yields are averaging 1.2 tons per acre and are the highest in the province. Currently, pasture is rated at (tame hay conditions in brackets) 14 (14) per cent poor, 36 (37) per cent fair, 43 (43) per cent good, and 7 (6) per cent excellent.

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