

Alberta Crop Report

Crop conditions as of June 6, 2023

(Abbreviated Report)

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.

Seeding in the province is now essentially 100 per cent complete (Table 1), with the exception of a handful of acres designated for feed crops. Emergence is ahead of the historical average with major crops now reported as 93 per cent up and out of the ground compared to the five and 10-year averages of 84 and 86 per cent respectively (Table 2). This is an increase of 16 per cent over last week's report. Most annual crops are so far withstanding the dry conditions reasonably well with some cases of uneven germination reported due to lack of moisture. The first crop condition ratings of the year will commence next week.

Table 1: Alberta Seeding Progress on Major Crops as of June 6, 2023

	% Seeded					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Barley	100%	99.7%	99.8%	98.7%	99.9%	99.7%
Oats	100%	99.1%	99.1%	97.8%	99.5%	98.9%
Canola	100%	100%	99.8%	100%	99.9%	99.9%
Dry Peas	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Major Crops, June 6	100%	99.9%	99.9%	99.7%	99.9%	99.9%
Major Crops, May 30	99.6%	96.4%	98.2%	97.1%	93.8%	97.3%
5-year (2018-2022) Avg	99.7%	99.9%	99.5%	98.4%	98.0%	99.3%
10-year (2013-2022) Avg	99.8%	99.6%	98.4%	98.1%	96.1%	98.7%

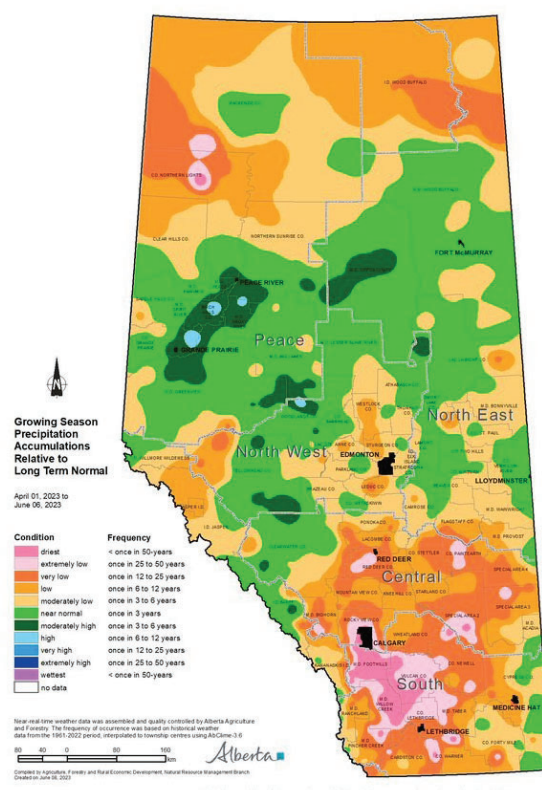
Source AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Table 2: Emergence of Major Crops as of June 6, 2023

	% Emerged					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	93.4%	99.4%	99.0%	97.5%	97.0%	97.3%
Barley	95.5%	97.8%	88.9%	88.3%	89.5%	93.6%
Oats	90.6%	92.6%	85.2%	82.6%	88.0%	86.7%
Canola	88.5%	92.9%	86.4%	89.5%	87.3%	88.7%
Dry Peas	94.9%	100%	100%	98.7%	94.7%	97.1%
Average, June 6	92.7%	96.8%	92.0%	91.9%	90.9%	93.1%
Average, May 30	77.5%	75.3%	76.9%	79.8%	77.8%	77.1%
5-year (2018-2022) Avg	87.1%	89.6%	88.5%	77.2%	67.8%	84.0%
10-year (2013-2022) Avg	91.3%	89.8%	86.7%	80.6%	74.1%	85.9%

Source AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

The growing season precipitation has been lower than normal and resulted in nearly all of the South and Central regions, as well as portions of North East, North West and Peace region experiencing drier than normal conditions (orange and pink on map). Survey respondents reported continuing hot, dry windy weather across much of the province this past week, with only a few localized showers. Surface soil moisture ratings across the province declined from last week's ratings with more acres now rated as poor. Currently, surface soil moisture is rated 31 per cent poor, 39 per cent fair, 26 per cent good, four per cent excellent with next to none having excess surface soil moisture (Table 3). Sub-surface soil moisture ratings across the province are at 29 per cent poor, 36 per cent fair, 31 per cent good, four per cent excellent and none excessive. Many crops are reliant on timely rainfall for their daily moisture needs.



Visit weatherdata.ca for additional maps and meteorological data

Table 3: Surface Soil Moisture as of June 6, 2023

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Excessive
South	34.7%	42.7%	19.8%	2.8%	0.1%
Central	34.9%	40.6%	24.5%	0.0%	0.0%
North East	25.2%	40.3%	34.0%	0.5%	0.0%
North West	41.1%	37.6%	19.0%	2.2%	0.0%
Peace	7.0%	22.2%	40.6%	27.9%	2.4%
Alberta June 6	30.8%	38.9%	25.9%	4.1%	0.3%
Alberta May 30	21.8%	43.6%	30.1%	4.1%	0.3%
5-year (2018-2022) Avg	8.1%	22.8%	48.2%	18.2%	2.7%
10-year (2013-2022) Avg	9.2%	19.8%	43.7%	23.7%	3.5%

Source AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Tame hay ratings have deteriorated from last week's 60 per cent poor to fair compared to this week's ratings of 69 per cent poor to fair (Table 4). Peace region is reported to be in the best shape with 43 per cent rated good and 10 per cent rated as excellent condition, followed by North East region with 33 per cent rated as good and none excellent. Central region has the lowest ratings in the province at 23 per cent rated as good or excellent. Pasture ratings for the province are somewhat better than hay and reported as one per cent excellent, 35 per cent good, 35 per cent fair and 30 per cent poor. Survey respondents indicate that forage crops are feeling the full effects of the dry, hot, and windy conditions with stunted growth and some grasses showing signs of yellowing off. First-cut hay production is anticipated to start earlier and be lower than normal as alfalfa is already starting to flower and grasses are heading out in many areas.

Table 4: Tame Hay Growth Conditions as of June 6, 2023

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
South	36.0%	36.1%	27.5%	0.5%
Central	38.6%	37.9%	23.2%	0.3%
North East	33.7%	33.5%	32.8%	0.0%
North West	38.1%	36.5%	25.4%	0.0%
Peace	7.9%	39.7%	42.9%	9.5%
Alberta	31.7%	36.9%	29.5%	1.9%
5-year (2018-2022) Avg	9.4%	28.3%	52.2%	10.0%
10-Year (2013-2022) Avg	10.9%	24.0%	51.6%	13.6%

Source AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Regional Assessments:

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

- The south-east corner of this region received some welcome rainfall, but most of the counties have seen only a few localized showers this past week, and the hot, windy conditions are depleting moisture.
- Both grasshoppers and flea beetles are pressuring crops, and both dryland annual and perennial crops are starting to show signs of stress from minimal moisture. Observers shared that irrigated crops are looking good.
- Pasture conditions are 26 per cent poor, 35 per cent fair, 38 per cent good and less than one per cent excellent.
- Sub-surface soil moisture conditions (below six inches) are currently rated 31 per cent poor, 29 per cent fair, 33 per cent good and seven per cent excellent with none rated excessive.

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

- Some rainfall dropped along the far western edge of the region with only a few showers and a bit of hail across the rest of the region. The prevalent weather includes wind and heat.
- Spraying operations are underway on annual crops with signs of cutworms and flea beetles appearing. Perennial crops in particular are showing signs of stress according to observers.
- Pasture condition ratings this week are 34 per cent poor, 34 per cent fair and 32 per cent good with none rated excellent.
- Sub-surface soil moisture conditions (below six inches) are currently rated 43 per cent poor, 38 per cent fair, 19 per cent good with none rated as excellent or excessive.

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

- The north and eastern edges of this region received upwards of 20 mm of rainfall this past week, although the rest of the region experienced only spotty showers with windy, hot and dry circumstances and some hail events.
- Grasshoppers, cutworms and flea beetles are making their presence known in some counties while lack of moisture has resulted in some spotty emergence. Hay and pasture growth is struggling.
- Pasture respondents estimate ratings are 27 per cent poor, 30 per cent fair, 43 per cent good with none excellent.
- Sub-surface soil moisture conditions (below six inches) are currently rated 19 per cent poor, 42 per cent fair, 39 per cent good with none rated as excellent or excessive.

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

- Scattered showers and hail hit small areas of this region in the last week, with 20 to 40 mm of rainfall in parts of counties in the north and west of the region. Most areas are reporting dry and windy conditions.
- Survey respondents report concerns with all crops lacking vigor in many counties due to reduced moisture. Flea beetles, cutworms and grasshoppers also reported throughout this region.
- Pasture conditions are 44 per cent poor, 39 per cent fair and 17 per cent good with no ratings of excellent reported this past week.
- Sub-surface soil moisture conditions (below six inches) are currently rated 21 per cent poor, 54 per cent fair, 25 per cent good with none rated as excellent or excessive.

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

- High winds were observed throughout much of the region this past week with a few scattered showers and little in the way of significant rainfall, except central Mackenzie County.
- The significant rain event of two weeks ago is now showing its impacts with some crusting and crops yellowing off in the central areas of this region, as per observers.
- Pasture conditions are reported as nine per cent poor, 40 per cent fair, and 42 per cent good with nine per cent rated in excellent condition.
- Sub-surface soil moisture conditions (below six inches) are currently rated seven per cent poor, 23 per cent fair, 47 per cent good and 22 per cent excellent with one per cent rated as excessive.

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