

# Alberta Crop Report

Crop conditions as of June 20, 2023

(Abbreviated Report)

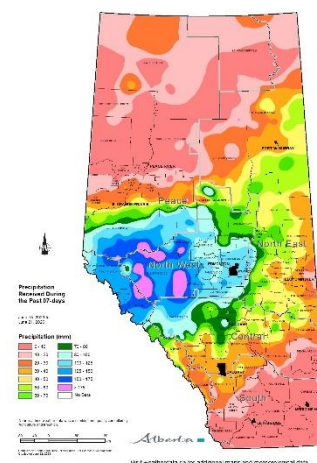
Precipitation ranging from 0 to more than 175 mm across the province has substantially improved surface soil moisture conditions in most regions. As of June 13, surface soil moisture rated good to excellent in the North West and Central Regions was 17 and 19 per cent, respectively. After localized showers in these regions, conditions rated good to excellent in the North West and Central Regions increased by 68 and 27 per cent, respectively. A big improvement was also seen in the North East Region, which improved by 57 per cent. However, some areas in the Central and North West reported excessive moisture with standing water in some fields. Additionally, previous very dry areas across the northern Peace Region along with parts of the Southern Region and eastern portions of the Central Region received little or no rain and remain in need of moisture.

Crop conditions improved 9 per cent provincially since June 13 and at 50 per cent good to excellent, are currently 28 per cent and 26 per cent behind the 5- and 10-year average, respectively. Crop conditions improved in all regions, with substantial gains reported for the Central and North West Regions. However, crop conditions are still 25-42 per cent below the 5-year average in the South, Central, North East and North West and 2 per cent below the 5-year average (1 per cent ahead of the 10-year) in the Peace Region. Following the recent precipitation, warm weather is needed to advance crops. Major cereals are currently, on average, at their 6<sup>th</sup> node of stem elongation slightly ahead of the 5- and 10-year averages.

**Table 1: Regional Crop Condition Ratings as of June 20, 2023**

	Per Cent Rated in Good to Excellent Condition					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	44.0%	38.6%	62.3%	40.0%	74.1%	<b>50.9%</b>
Barley	40.2%	38.3%	56.9%	39.7%	73.2%	<b>45.8%</b>
Oats	58.2%	37.1%	64.8%	39.7%	71.4%	<b>54.5%</b>
Canola	36.5%	41.4%	54.3%	35.7%	70.3%	<b>49.1%</b>
Dry Peas	44.4%	51.6%	70.7%	56.1%	76.9%	<b>57.9%</b>
Major Crops, June 20	41.1%	40.1%	58.6%	38.7%	72.3%	49.8%
Major Crops, June 13	35.6%	21.9%	55.6%	17.6%	72.0%	40.9%
Major Crops, June 21, 2022	61.6%	87.6%	82.3%	81.9%	80.6%	78.3%
5-year (2018-2022) Avg	66.3%	82.8%	85.1%	78.1%	74.6%	77.9%
10-year (2013-2022) Avg	71.8%	75.4%	82.0%	74.8%	71.2%	75.7%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey



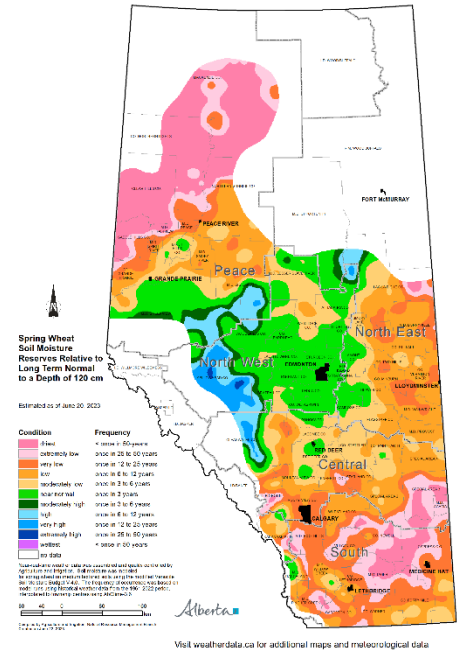
Overall, good to excellent rated surface soil moisture conditions rose 29 per cent and sub-surface soil moisture ratings increased 14 per cent over the past week. Overall, surface soil moisture (10-year average in brackets) is rated at 13 (8) per cent poor, 28 (19) per cent fair, 38 (44) per cent good, 19 (26) per cent excellent and 2 (4) rated excessive. Currently, the North East, North West and Peace Regions' surface soil moisture is rated above 50 per cent good to excellent. Precipitation was heaviest in the North West which had 70 to more than 175 mm across the region. The South Region saw minimal showers, but northern parts of the region received up to 50 mm (see map on second page). Currently, sub surface soil moisture (10-year average in brackets) is rated as 20 (8) per cent poor, 35 (23) per cent fair, 32 (46) per cent good, 13 (21) per cent excellent and 0 (3) per cent excessive.

Table 2: Alberta Surface Soil Moisture Ratings as of June 20, 2023

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Excessive
South	21.5%	42.9%	34.5%	1.2%	0.0%
Central	20.5%	31.9%	22.8%	23.1%	1.8%
North East	1.8%	13.0%	67.3%	16.7%	1.0%
North West	0.8%	5.5%	36.4%	48.3%	9.1%
Peace	4.2%	20.3%	35.7%	37.7%	2.1%
Alberta	13.4%	27.7%	37.6%	19.3%	1.9%
5-year (2018-2022) Avg	6.2%	21.5%	46.8%	22.7%	2.8%
10-year (2013-2022) Avg	7.5%	19.0%	44.1%	25.7%	3.7%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Pasture and hay conditions slightly improved over the past week in some regions but decreased in the South and Central. Provincially, tame hay growth ratings did not change, and pasture growth ratings decreased by 2 per cent. Recent rains may have been too late for some pasture and hay fields that had already progressed faster than normal due to excessive heat and dryness. Forage growth will come later if adequate heat follows soon in areas that received surplus rain. Tame hay is rated as (10-year average in brackets) 31 (10) per cent poor, 35 (23) per cent fair, 30 (51) per cent good, and 4 (17) per cent excellent. Pasture conditions are rated as (10-year average in brackets) 31 (11) per cent poor, 32 (24) per cent fair, 35 (51) per cent good and 3 (13) per cent excellent.



## Regional Assessments:

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

- Crop conditions have improved 6 per cent since last week. Currently 41 per cent of the region is rated in good to excellent conditions, 31 per cent below the 10-year average.
- Crop development is varied across the region as some crops were heading out before the rain came and may not be able to recover lost yield. Other crops that were not as far along will benefit from this week's rain. Majority of cereals are nearing or have already entered booting. Due to uneven germination, Canola is in different stages between emergence and bolting.
- Scattered showers ranging from 0 to 50 mm, as well as some damaging hail, were reported around the region. Surface soil conditions rated good to excellent increased by 6 per cent but sub-surface soil moisture conditions decreased by 3 per cent. Surface soil moisture is now rated at (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) 22 (30) per cent poor, 43 (37) per cent fair, 35 (29) per cent good and 1 (4) per cent excellent, with 0 (0) per cent excessive.
- While tame hay and pasture has been struggling in the excessive heat in the previous weeks, this week's moisture did cause some fields to green up. Pasture growth conditions did not see a change and tame hay growth rated good to excellent decreased by 3 per cent. Currently, pasture is rated at (tame hay conditions in brackets) 31 (37) per cent poor, 22 (28) per cent fair, 46 (35) per cent good, and 1 (1) per cent excellent.
- Reseeding due to a variety of issues and grasshoppers over threshold have been reported in the South.

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

- Crop conditions improved 18 per cent from last week and are now rated 40 per cent good to excellent, 35 per cent behind the 10-year average.
- Crop development is reported to be mostly in stem elongation for cereals. Some wheat is reported to be heading out prematurely and early canola is starting to bolt. The eastern half of the region is still challenged by dry conditions and there are reports of poor canola emergence.
- Precipitation varied across the region as the west part received up to 127 mm while the east received little. Regionally, surface soil conditions rated good to excellent increased 27 per cent and sub-surface soil moisture conditions increased 24 per cent. Surface soil moisture is now rated at (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) 21 (20) per cent poor, 32 (39) per cent fair, 23 (20) per cent good and 23 (22) per cent excellent, with 2 (0) per cent excessive.

- Pasture and tame hay growth may be revitalized in some areas with the moisture, but the recent rains may be too late for some fields to recover. Conditions decreased 11 and 8 per cent, respectively, and are currently the poorest in the province. Pasture is rated at (tame hay conditions in brackets) 37 (48) per cent poor, 37 (31) per cent fair, 22 (14) per cent good, and 4 (8) per cent excellent.

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

- Crop conditions are rated at 59 per cent in good to excellent condition, 23 per cent behind the 10-year average and 3 per cent above last week.
- Peas and canola in the southern part of the region are reported to be flowering ahead of normal and the majority of cereals are halfway through stem elongation, while some are reported to be heading out but very short.
- Precipitation ranged from 20 to 75 mm and surface soil moisture conditions rated as good to excellent increased by 57 per cent. Surface soil moisture is now rated at (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) 2 (20) per cent poor, 13 (32) per cent fair, 67 (43) per cent good and 17 (4) per cent excellent, with 1 (0) per cent excessive.
- Pasture and tame hay conditions were quite stable week over week and are currently rated at (tame hay conditions in brackets) 31 (37) per cent poor, 27 (34) per cent fair, 40 (29) per cent good, and 2 (0) per cent excellent.

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

- Crop conditions are rated at 39 per cent in good to excellent condition, 36 per cent ahead of the 10-year average and 21 per cent ahead of last week.
- Crops that were seeded later are benefiting from the moisture and progressing well, in contrast to the cereals that already had headed out or failed to tiller and the canola that is reported to already be bolting/flowering. Majority of cereals are in stem elongation.
- 70 to more than 175 mm of precipitation fell in the North West Region, which helped surface soil moisture rated good to excellent increase by 68 per cent. While the moisture was greatly needed and beneficial, some low spots are now flooded and will negatively affect the crops in those areas unless the forecast quickly brings heat. Surface soil moisture is now rated at (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) 1 (6) per cent poor, 6 (35) per cent fair, 36 (49) per cent good and 48 (10) per cent excellent, with 9 (0) per cent excessive.
- Hay and pasture growing conditions improved due to the rain over the past week after reports of burnt up and flowered acres but will need some heat and sun to completely reap the benefits of the surplus moisture. Pasture and tame hay conditions are currently rated at (tame hay conditions in brackets) 20 (16) per cent poor, 54 (52) per cent fair, 26 (32) per cent good, and 0 (1) per cent excellent.

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

- Crop conditions are rated at 72 per cent good to excellent, 1 per cent ahead of the 10-year average and consistent with last week.
- While other regions are ahead of their typical growth stage due to stress and heat, the Peace Region is still tillering, averaging out between the 5- and 10-year averages.
- Precipitation in the Peace Region the past few weeks has kept surface soil conditions on track near the 5- and 10-year average and helped surface and sub-surface soil moisture conditions increase 13 and 5 per cent, respectively, since last week. Surface soil moisture is now rated at (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) 4 (5) per cent poor, 20 (26) per cent fair, 36 (37) per cent good and 38 (32) per cent excellent, with 2 (0) per cent excessive.
- Pasture and tame hay conditions rated as good to excellent increased 1 and 3 per cent, respectively. Pasture is rated at (tame hay conditions in brackets) 9 (9) per cent poor, 35 (33) per cent fair, 46 (48) 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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