

Alberta Crop Report

Crop conditions as of September 26, 2023 (Abbreviated Report)

Harvest continued across the province during the last week with limited disruptions. Harvest progress of major crops is reported at 79 per cent complete across the province, a 14 per cent increase since the last report. Harvest is reported as mostly complete in the South region, as well as in some areas of the Central region. The harvest of spring cereals is reported as nearing completion with reports indicating spring wheat at 89 per cent, barley at 91 per cent and oats at 73 per cent. While reports suggest that cooler evening temperatures may be slowing canola maturation in some areas, canola harvest advanced 23 per cent this week to 62 per cent harvested. An additional 23 per cent of the provincial canola crop is reported as drying in the swath.

Table 1: Harvest Progress (Major Crops) as of September 26, 2023

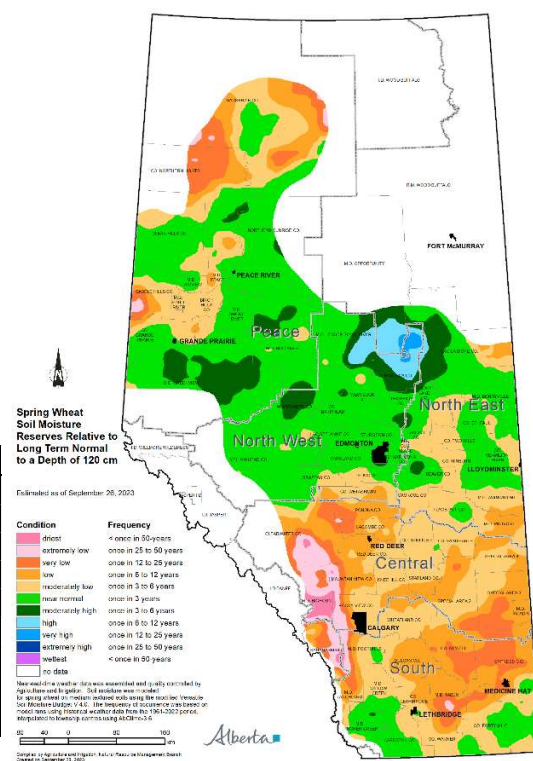
	Estimated Per Cent of Major Crops Combined					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	98.1%	90.1%	85.5%	76.2%	92.1%	89.4%
Barley	98.7%	89.8%	88.0%	79.6%	86.7%	90.9%
Oats	98.2%	75.9%	85.3%	45.7%	82.7%	72.8%
Canola	94.6%	49.4%	57.3%	29.9%	73.5%	61.5%
Dry Peas	99.9%	100.0%	100.0%	98.9%	93.1%	98.5%
Major Crops, Sept 26	97.4%	76.8%	74.3%	56.6%	82.2%	79.3%
Major Crops, Sept 19	92.0%	64.1%	56.4%	40.2%	59.6%	65.0%
5-Year (2018-22) Avg	85.8%	63.4%	57.8%	48.2%	44.2%	62.8%
10-Year (2013-22) Avg	86.2%	57.4%	54.7%	46.5%	51.5%	61.5%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Table 2: Alberta Surface Soil Moisture Ratings as of September 26, 2023

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Excessive
South	59.6%	34.3%	6.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Central	40.1%	42.1%	17.8%	0.0%	0.0%
North East	8.2%	44.3%	46.1%	0.7%	0.7%
North West	0.4%	16.8%	40.0%	30.5%	12.3%
Peace	11.1%	26.7%	36.7%	25.5%	0.0%
Alberta, September 26	32.8%	35.7%	23.8%	6.2%	1.5%
Alberta, September 19	32.7%	32.3%	26.2%	7.2%	1.6%
5-Year (2018-22) Avg	18.5%	27.1%	40.6%	12.5%	1.3%
10-Year (2013-22) Avg	15.2%	24.1%	43.5%	15.8%	1.3%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey



While the seasonal trend toward cooler and drier weather is assisting harvest, it has also continued to impact soil moisture reserves over the last week with an overall decrease of three per cent in the provincial good-to-excellent surface moisture ratings and a two per cent decrease in the provincial sub-surface soil moisture ratings when compared to the last report. The percentage of surface soil moisture rated good-to-excellent (sub-surface in brackets) for the province this week is 30 per cent (31 per cent). Regional good-to-excellent surface soil moisture ratings this week are six per cent (seven per cent) in the South, 18 per cent (19 per cent) for Central, 47 per cent (45 per cent) for the North East, 71 per cent (73 per cent) for the North West and 62 per cent (63 per cent) for the Peace.

The seasonal shift to cooler and drier weather continues to impact pasture growth as most regions reported decreased percentages of pasture rated as good-to-excellent compared to last week, with the Peace region being the notable exception. The regional percentage of pasture rated as good-to-excellent (change from last week in brackets) is 19 per cent (down one per cent) for the province. Regional reporting of good-to-excellent pasture is at five per cent (down one per cent) for the South, 16 per cent (down less than one per cent) for Central, 29 per cent (down three per cent) for the North East, 37 per cent (down one per cent) for the North West and 52 per cent (up one per cent) for the Peace.

Regional Assessments:

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

- All areas note that harvest is close to completion, if not already complete.
- Canola in the swath is reported as down to two per cent.
- Fall-seeded crop condition is reported as 31 per cent poor, 50 per cent fair, 18 per cent good, and one per cent excellent.
- Warm windy and dry conditions during the days continue to raise concerns about soil moisture.
- Sub-surface (below 6") soil moisture is reported as 68 per cent poor, 25 per cent fair, 6 per cent good, one per cent excellent and none rated excessive.

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

- Reports indicate most areas had ideal weather for advancing harvest, with some areas slowed by light rains.
- While most areas are reporting continued harvest progress, some areas have reported harvest as complete.
- The portion of the canola crop in the swath is reported at 29 per cent.
- The condition of fall-seeded crop is one per cent poor, 76 per cent fair, 23 per cent good, and none reported as excellent.
- Sub-surface (below 6") soil moisture is reported as 40 per cent poor, 41 per cent fair, 19 per cent good and none rated excellent or excessive.

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

- Most areas reported ideal weather for harvest over the last week, with a minority of areas slowed by scattered rains.
- Canola in the swath is reported as at 26 per cent.
- Fall-seeded crop condition has none reported as poor, 21 per cent reported as fair, 79 per cent reported as good, and none reported as excellent.
- Sub-surface (below 6") soil moisture is reported as 23 per cent poor, 32 per cent fair, 45 per cent good, and none rated excellent or excessive.

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

- All areas reported wind and warm temperatures, which helped harvest progress over the last week.
- The portion of the canola crop in the swath is reported at 46 per cent.
- The condition of fall-seeded crop is reported as 18 per cent fair and 82 per cent good, with no area reported as poor or excellent.
- Sub-surface (below 6") soil moisture is reported as five per cent poor, 21 per cent fair, 54 per cent good, 19 per cent excellent and none rated excessive.

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

- Reports indicate that despite a rainfall over the weekend causing delays, harvest continued through most of the week.
- Canola in the swath is reported as at 12 per cent.
- Sub-surface (below 6") soil moisture is reported as 10 per cent poor, 27 per cent fair, 33 per cent good, 30 per cent excellent and none rated excessive.

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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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