

Alberta Crop Report

Crop conditions as of June 27, 2023

Over the last week, a patchwork of rain fell across Alberta increasing the crop variability throughout the province. Thunderstorm activity has been widespread, and some areas may have received more rain than depicted in the map below. While these rains were welcomed by survey respondents, portions of the dry areas in the South, Central, and Peace regions missed out on significant rainfalls and report a need for further moisture. Flooding concerns were noted in some areas of the North West region.

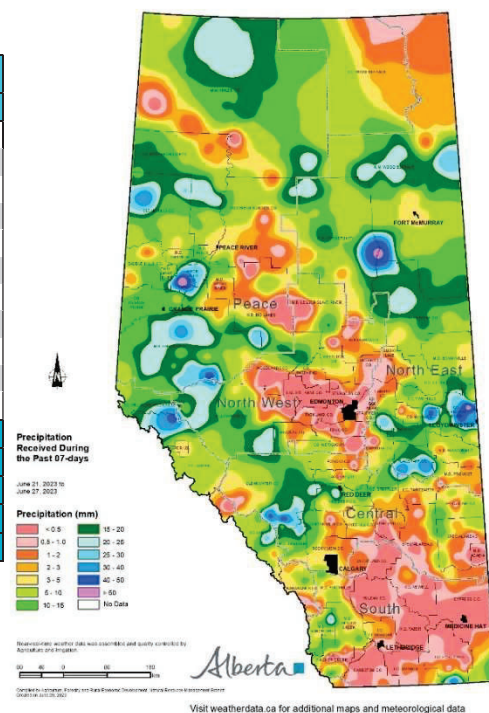
As of June 27, provincial crop conditions for all crops are reported at 45 per cent good to excellent, which is 29 per cent below the five-year average and 27 per cent below the 10-year average. The Peace Region retains the highest per cent of crops rated in good to excellent condition at 60 per cent, with the North East region reporting a slightly lower 58 per cent, followed by the South region at 42 per cent, the Central region at 32 per cent and the North West at 31 per cent. The reported condition for all crops is a slight improvement over the condition reported on June 13 (the last full report date) with notable improvements in ratings for the major crops of spring wheat, barley, oats and canola.

For crop staging, most spring cereals are reported as either booting or near the end of stem elongation in all regions, except the South which is reporting widespread head emergence. Provincially, 22 per cent of the canola crop was reported to have begun flowering, ahead of the five-year and 10-year averages of seven per cent and 11 per cent, respectively. Regional canola flowering is reported at 24 per cent in the South, 26 per cent Central, 21 per cent North East, 13 per cent North West and 26 per cent in the Peace. The provincial proportion of dry peas flowering is reported at 34 per cent, which is ahead of the nine per cent five-year average and 19 per cent 10-year average. Regional reports of pea crop flowering are 31 per cent in the South, 48 per cent Central, 42 per cent North East, 26 per cent North West and 22 per cent in the Peace.

Table 1: Regional Crop Condition Ratings as of June 27, 2023

	Per Cent Rated in Good to Excellent Condition					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat *	39.5%	27.0%	60.7%	35.9%	66.6%	45.3%
Durum	49.7%	33.7%	-	-	-	47.4%
Barley *	34.1%	31.6%	55.1%	36.4%	58.9%	39.8%
Oats *	44.0%	37.5%	62.4%	35.1%	58.2%	49.1%
Canola *	32.6%	34.7%	55.2%	22.3%	56.4%	42.9%
Dry Peas *	41.9%	45.0%	69.3%	37.5%	60.8%	51.0%
Mustard	37.7%	38.3%	-	-	-	37.9%
Flax	42.8%	1.0%	89.3%	-	-	45.5%
Potatoes	95.0%	20.4%	-	73.5%	-	90.2%
Chickpeas	60.6%	44.6%	-	-	-	59.5%
Lentils	52.2%	51.5%	-	-	-	52.1%
All Crops, June 27	41.6%	31.9%	58.0%	30.5%	60.0%	44.6%
Major Crops(*), June 27	36.5%	31.7%	58.0%	30.3%	60.0%	43.8%
All Crops, June 27, 2022	64.1%	78.8%	83.4%	76.1%	78.8%	75.2%
5-Year (2018-22) Avg	63.8%	78.0%	84.2%	72.7%	70.8%	73.8%
10-Year (2013-22) Avg	68.5%	71.4%	79.1%	70.7%	68.9%	72.0%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey



Significant rainfall through June has improved soil moisture ratings in all regions, despite a decrease in ratings since last week. Provincial surface soil moisture (zero to six inches) is rated (with 10-year average in brackets) at 20 (10) per cent poor, 34 (20) per cent fair, 30 (44) per cent good, 15 (22) per cent excellent and 2 (4) per cent excessive, with sub-surface moisture (below six inches) rated at 23 (10) per cent poor, 38 (24) per cent fair, 27 (44) per cent good, 12 (19) per cent excellent and less than 1 (3) per cent excessive.

Table 2: Alberta Surface Soil Moisture Ratings as of June 27, 2023

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Excessive
South	32.1%	42.7%	24.4%	0.8%	0.0%
Central	21.7%	31.9%	20.7%	23.0%	2.7%
North East	8.9%	28.3%	49.3%	12.3%	1.2%
North West	8.8%	33.1%	32.4%	17.8%	7.9%
Peace	8.1%	21.6%	33.9%	34.3%	2.1%
Alberta	19.8%	33.7%	29.9%	14.7%	2.1%
5-year (2018-2022) Avg	8.6%	23.0%	46.8%	18.4%	3.2%
10-year (2013-2022) Avg	10.3%	20.0%	43.8%	22.1%	3.8%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

The first cut of hay is reported to have begun in all regions of the province. Provincial tame hay growth (10-year average) is reported at 28 (11) per cent poor, 37 (24) per cent fair, 30 (49) per cent good and 5 (16) per cent excellent. Provincial pasture growth (10-year average) is reported as 29 (12) per cent poor, 35 (25) per cent fair, 34 (50) per cent good and 2 (13) per cent excellent.

Table 3: Pasture Growth Conditions as of June 27, 2023

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
South	38.4%	26.1%	35.4%	0.2%
Central	23.0%	45.0%	27.6%	4.4%
North East	27.9%	24.1%	47.0%	1.1%
North West	30.8%	48.0%	20.9%	0.4%
Peace	11.5%	37.3%	42.4%	8.9%
Alberta	29.0%	34.9%	33.7%	2.3%
5-year (2018-2022) Avg	10.7%	30.2%	49.7%	9.4%
10-year (2013-2022) Avg	12.6%	24.8%	49.7%	12.9%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

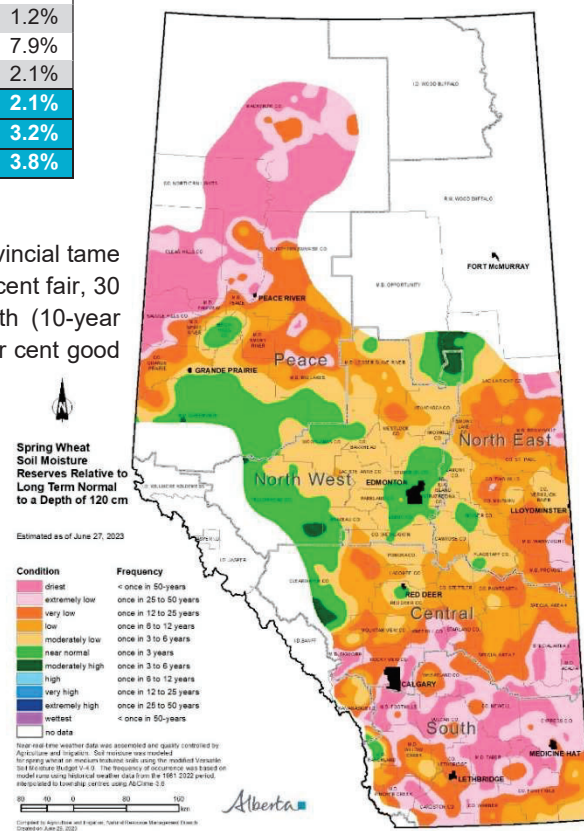
Regional Assessments:

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

- Crops rated in good to excellent condition are 37 per cent for major crops and 42 per cent for all crops with potatoes, dry beans, sugar beets, spring triticale, chickpeas and lentils all rating above 50 per cent. Respondents noted pressures from grasshoppers, flea beetles and gophers.
- Moisture is reported as variable across the region with all regions hoping for more rainfall. Soil surface (sub-surface) moisture reported at 32 (32) per cent poor, 43 (42) per cent fair, 24 (24) per cent good, 1 (2) per cent excellent and 0 (0) per cent excessive.
- Spring cereal crop development ranges from early booting to early flowering, with the most common stage being head emergence.
- Canola crop development is reported as ranging from leaf development to flowering, with the most responses reporting crop as bolting.
- First-cut hay progress is reported at 33 per cent for dryland and 38 per cent for irrigation.

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

- The proportion of crops rated in good to excellent condition is 32 per cent for major crops and 32 per cent for all crops with lentils noted above 50 per cent. Respondents noted pressure from grasshoppers, flea beetles, army cutworms and gophers.
- Areas in the region which received significant rain are reporting improvement in crop growth; however, most areas of the region reported that further rain is needed. Regional surface (sub-surface) moisture is reported as 22 (22) per cent poor, 32 (37) per cent fair, 21 (19) per cent good, 23 (21) per cent excellent and 3 (1) per cent excessive.
- Spring cereal crop development ranges from early stem elongation to early flowering, with the greatest variation reported in durum wheat. The most common stage for spring cereals is early to middle booting.



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- Canola crop development is reported as ranging from leaf development to podding, with the most responses reporting crop as bolting.
- Progress on the first cut of hay is reported as 46 per cent for dryland and 5 per cent for irrigation.

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

- Survey reports put the proportion of crop at good to excellent conditions at 58 per cent for both major crops and all crops, with spring wheat, barley, oats, canola, dry peas and flax noted above 50 per cent. Respondents noted pressure from army cutworms and gophers.
- Significant rain events were reported across the region. Regional surface (sub-surface) moisture is reported as 9 (22) per cent poor, 28 (35) per cent fair, 49 (37) per cent good, 12 (5) per cent excellent and 1 (1) per cent excessive.
- Spring cereal crop development ranges from early stem elongation to late head emergence, with the majority of crop reported as in the booting stages.
- Canola crop development is reported as ranging from leaf development to flowering, with the most responses reporting crop as bolting.
- First-cut dryland hay is reported as 15 per cent complete.

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

- Crops reported as in good to excellent condition are 30 per cent of major crops and 31 per cent of all crops, with fall rye and potatoes noted as above 50 per cent. Respondents noted pressure from grasshoppers, army cutworms and gophers.
- Respondents noted recent rainfall has resulted in regional flooding events which will impact some crops. Regional surface (sub-surface) moisture is reported as 9 (17) per cent poor, 33 (45) per cent fair, 32 (31) per cent good, 18 (7) per cent excellent and 8 (0) per cent excessive.
- Spring cereal crop progress ranges from stem elongation through early emergence, with most at early booting.
- Canola crop development is reported as ranging from leaf development to flowering, with the most responses reporting crop as bolting.
- First-cut dryland hay is reported as 34 per cent complete.

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

- Good to excellent rated crop is reported as 60 per cent per cent for all crops, as only major crops were reported, which were all reported above 50 per cent. Respondents noted army cutworm pressure.
- Respondents noted recent rainfall or showers over most of the region. Regional surface (sub-surface) moisture is reported as 8 (9) per cent poor, 22 (27) per cent fair, 34 (31) per cent good, 34 (32) per cent excellent and 2 (0) per cent excessive.
- Spring cereal crop development ranges from late tillering to late head emergence, with the majority of the crop reported to be at late stem elongation.
- Canola crop development is reported as ranging from leaf development to flowering, with the most responses reporting crop as bolting.
- First-cut dryland hay is reported to be 20 per cent complete.

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