

Alberta Crop Report

Crop conditions as of August 22, 2023

Significant rain has fallen across the province since the August 8 report with a large swath of the North West, North East, and eastern Peace regions receiving over 40 mm, with some areas receiving over 80 mm. These regions have continued to receive above average precipitation over the last 30 days, which is reported to have helped crop development. Currently the North East, North West, and Peace regions are reporting yield expectations and harvest progress near long-term averages. However, the continued lack of precipitation in the South and Central regions is reported to have negatively impacted crops, as harvest progress is ahead of normal in these regions while yield estimates remain below the long-term averages.

Since conditions were reported on August 8, the percentage of all crop rated in good to excellent condition in the Central, North West, and Peace regions has effectively remained unchanged, with reports indicating changes of less than one per cent. Regions which have reported a notable change in good to excellent conditions for all crops are the North East with a three per cent increase and the South with a three per cent decrease. Provincially, 43 per cent of all crops are rated in good to excellent condition, consistent with the last report and below the five-year and 10-year averages by 15 and 19 per cent, respectively.

Table 1: Regional Crop Condition Ratings as of August 22, 2023

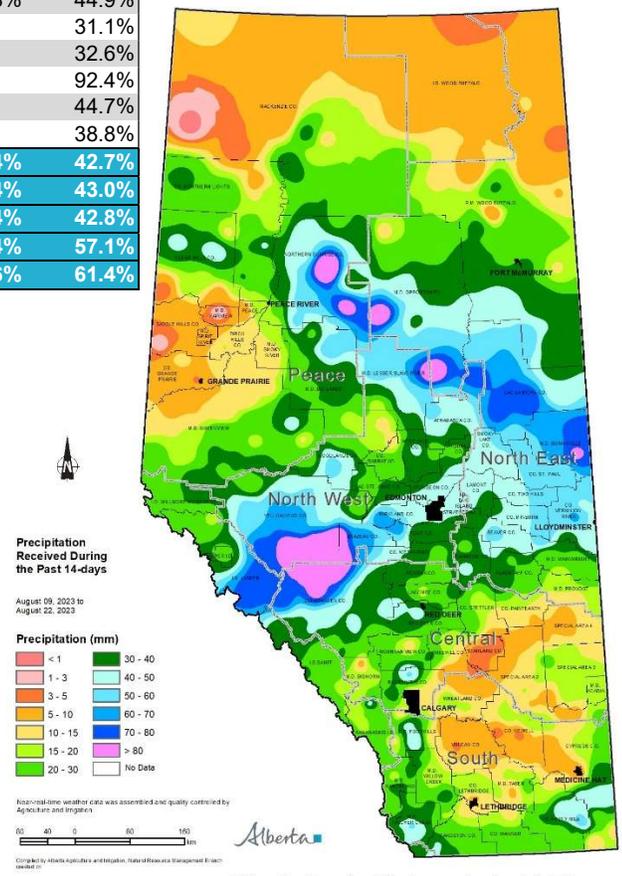
	Per Cent Rated in Good to Excellent Condition					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat *	20.0%	37.6%	61.7%	56.7%	56.0%	44.4%
Durum	33.0%	22.9%	-	-	-	31.6%
Barley *	18.5%	36.5%	62.6%	58.8%	52.2%	39.4%
Oats *	20.5%	40.3%	68.8%	65.8%	51.9%	57.3%
Canola *	16.4%	33.4%	59.7%	34.2%	54.3%	42.3%
Dry Peas *	25.4%	38.5%	72.8%	62.7%	53.8%	44.9%
Mustard	33.3%	23.9%	-	-	-	31.1%
Flax	25.3%	5.2%	86.2%	-	-	32.6%
Potatoes	94.0%	55.7%	-	92.7%	-	92.4%
Chickpeas	45.6%	32.3%	-	-	-	44.7%
Lentils	39.3%	36.3%	-	-	-	38.8%
All Crops, August 22	25.5%	35.4%	61.6%	48.4%	54.4%	42.7%
Major Crops(*), August 22	19.1%	36.0%	61.6%	48.3%	54.4%	43.0%
All Crops, August 08	28.2%	35.3%	58.6%	49.2%	54.4%	42.8%
5-Year All Crops (2018-22)	49.6%	63.6%	64.6%	47.2%	57.4%	57.1%
10-Year All Crops (2013-22)	55.9%	64.1%	69.8%	57.1%	57.6%	61.4%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Table 2: Harvest Progress (Major Crops) as of August 22, 2023

	Estimated Per Cent of Major Crops Combined					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	32.5%	11.5%	0.7%	0.1%	1.5%	11.2%
Barley	47.8%	12.9%	1.4%	2.5%	1.5%	19.8%
Oats	30.2%	8.2%	0.0%	0.5%	0.5%	2.7%
Canola	5.7%	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%
Dry Peas	87.4%	55.0%	46.4%	10.5%	15.2%	53.5%
Major Crops, Aug 22	33.4%	10.2%	2.2%	0.8%	1.8%	11.1%
Major Crops, Aug 08	8.5%	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.2%
5-Year (2018-22) Avg	18.9%	5.2%	1.3%	2.0%	0.7%	6.4%
10-Year (2013-22) Avg	19.0%	3.9%	1.7%	1.9%	4.1%	6.7%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey



Reports estimate that 15 per cent of all crops and 11 per cent of major crops have been combined across the province. Both the five-year and 10-year average for all crops combined is nine per cent for this week. The percentage of all crops combined by region are 37 per cent in the South, 12 per cent in the Central, two per cent in the North East, one per cent in the North West and two per cent in the Peace. The winter cereals harvest is nearing completion, and the dry pea harvest is progressing in all regions.

Provincial yield estimates for major crops are unchanged since August 8, with barley and oat yields revised up 1.5 and 1.6 bushels per acre respectively, and spring wheat, canola, and dry peas yields all revised up 0.5 bushels per acre. Provincial major crop yield estimates remain lower than average, with the exception of oats. The provincial yield indexes, which state 2023 yields as a percentage of the historical averages, indicate that provincial major crop yield estimates are at 86 per cent compared to the past five years and 84 per cent compared to the last 10 years. Regional 10-year indexes for all crops are reported as 61 per cent for the South, 76 per cent for Central, 94 per cent for the North East, 99 per cent for the North West and 94 per cent for the Peace.

Table 3: Regional Dryland Yield Estimations (Major Crops) as of August 22, 2023

	Estimated Dryland Yield (bushels/acre) and Index for Major Crops					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	24.9	38.7	43.0	53.4	42.3	39.1
Barley	30.6	61.3	74.5	75.5	53.0	55.5
Oats	29.7	62.5	89.8	99.1	61.1	78.9
Canola	19.4	32.6	37.9	37.9	31.8	32.7
Dry Peas	23.0	36.5	44.8	38.4	41.0	34.7
5-year Yield Index	66.9	77.2	95.0	106.8	90.8	86.3
10-year Yield Index	59.3	76.6	93.5	98.7	94.4	83.6

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Precipitation since the August 8 report has improved the per cent of provincial surface soil moisture rated good to excellent by four per cent due to regional soil ratings improving in the South by five per cent, in Central by four per cent and in the North East by seven per cent. Surface soil moisture good to excellent ratings in the North West and Peace regions remain unchanged.

Sub-surface moisture conditions rated good to excellent have increased across the province since August 8 by three per cent due to regional ratings increases of six per cent in Central, seven per cent in the North East, and three per cent in the North West. Sub-surface good to excellent moisture ratings were unchanged for the South region and decreased by three per cent in the Peace region.

Table 3: Alberta Surface Soil Moisture Ratings as of August 22, 2023

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Excessive
South	63.0%	24.5%	10.6%	1.9%	0.0%
Central	30.1%	35.9%	27.2%	6.7%	0.0%
North East	6.2%	22.9%	57.2%	12.9%	0.8%
North West	0.0%	7.3%	50.8%	25.6%	16.3%
Peace	7.1%	20.1%	39.9%	32.9%	0.0%
Alberta, Aug 22	30.2%	25.1%	31.6%	11.2%	2.0%
Alberta, Aug 8	29.4%	30.7%	29.2%	9.3%	1.3%
5-yr (2018-2022) Avg	19.2%	29.1%	37.0%	12.1%	2.6%
10-yr (2013-2022) Avg	16.4%	26.1%	40.2%	14.7%	2.6%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Provincial pasture growth rated good to excellent is at 27 per cent, which is a decrease of two per cent since the last report. Regionally, the percent of pasture rated good to excellent is at six per cent in the South, 34 per cent in Central, 39 per cent in the North East, 45 per cent in the North West and 47 per cent in the Peace. Provincial tame hay growth rated good to excellent is at 36 per cent, unchanged since the last report. Regional good to excellent percentages for tame hay are five per cent in the South, 43 per cent in Central, 34 per cent in the North East, 50 per cent in the North West and 47 per cent in the Peace.

Regional Assessments:

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

- Hot and dry conditions in most areas are assisting harvest progress but limiting pasture growth.
- Harvest of winter cereals is reported as over 90 per cent complete.
- Total canola swathing and combining is reported at 14 per cent complete.
- Harvest is now ongoing for all spring-planted crops, with the exception of sugar beets.
- The second cut of irrigated hay is 52 per cent complete with an estimated yield of 1.8 tons per acre.

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

- Significant moisture events throughout the region delayed harvest progress.
- Harvest of winter cereals is reported as over 78 per cent complete.
- Harvest of spring-planted crops has begun with progress mainly reported on pulse and cereal crops.
- Total canola swathing and combining is reported at two per cent complete.
- Second-cut hay is 58 per cent complete on dryland with a yield of 1.3 tons per acre and 75 per cent complete on irrigation with a yield of 1.5 tons per acre.

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

- Spring cereal crops are reported to be at or near full maturity and need to dry before the harvest begins.
- Total canola swathing and combining is reported at less than one per cent complete.
- Harvest of winter cereals is reported as over 79 per cent complete, and harvest has begun on pulse crops.
- Dryland hay second cut is 31 per cent complete with a yield of 0.8 tons per acre.
- Recent rains are supporting continued pasture growth.

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

- Recent cool wet weather is slowing the start of harvest for most areas in the region.
- Total canola swathing and combining is reported at less than one per cent complete.
- Spring cereal crops are reported to be in the late hard dough stages of development.
- The harvest of fall rye is complete, harvest of winter wheat is over 50 per cent complete, and harvest of pulse crops has begun.
- Second-cut dryland hay is 17 per cent complete with a yield of 0.9 tons per acre.

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

- Mostly dry weather over the last week has harvest reported as starting on pulse crops in all areas.
- Total canola swathing and combining is reported at 5 per cent complete.
- Spring cereals are reported as in the mid to late hard dough stages of development.

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