

# Alberta Crop Report

Crop conditions as of August 29, 2023

(Abbreviated Report)

Reports indicate that harvest is progressing rapidly in the South and Central regions due to continued hot and dry conditions. In the northern regions of the province, reports indicate that cool and wet weather over the past week has continued to slow harvest progress. Secondary growth has occurred in the spring cereal and canola crops in the northern regions, brought on by the significant rainfall through July and August, which is leading to producers either leaving crop standing until the second growth matures or swathing the crop to encourage drying.

Provincial soil moisture ratings have decreased this week due to ongoing dryness in the South and Central regions, while reports noted a growing percentage of the northern regions with excessive moisture ratings. The percentage of the province with surface moisture (sub-surface in brackets) rated good to excellent is 37 (38) per cent. Regional surface (sub-surface) moisture good-to-excellent ratings are currently at seven (seven) per cent in the South, 23 (35) per cent in Central, 71 (53) per cent in the North East, 71 (76) per cent in the North West, and 69 (74) per cent in the Peace.

Harvest progress for major crops is reported at 18 per cent complete across the province. The South and Central regions are continuing to progress ahead of long-term averages. The Peace region is reporting average harvest progress, while the North East and North West regions are reporting progress slightly behind both the five- and 10-year averages.

**Table 1: Alberta Surface Soil Moisture Ratings as of August 29, 2023**

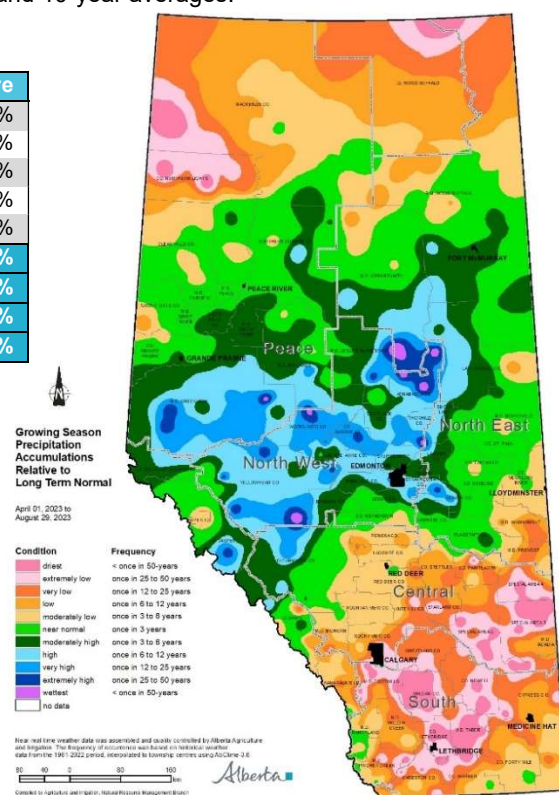
	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Excessive
South	65.3%	27.6%	7.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Central	31.1%	45.8%	23.2%	0.0%	0.0%
North East	6.2%	21.9%	60.5%	10.1%	1.3%
North West	0.2%	8.6%	46.9%	23.7%	20.6%
Peace	7.7%	20.7%	33.3%	35.2%	3.0%
Alberta, Aug 29	31.3%	28.9%	28.8%	8.2%	2.8%
Alberta, Aug 22	30.2%	25.1%	31.6%	11.2%	2.0%
5-yr (2018-2022) Avg	18.0%	29.7%	39.1%	11.0%	2.2%
10-yr (2013-2022) Avg	17.1%	28.2%	39.3%	13.1%	2.2%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

**Table 2: Harvest Progress (Major Crops) as of August 29, 2023**

	Estimated Per Cent of Major Crops Combined					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	53.1%	19.6%	1.6%	3.2%	5.9%	19.4%
Barley	66.4%	20.4%	4.7%	7.6%	4.1%	29.4%
Oats	46.2%	13.3%	0.1%	1.0%	1.8%	4.6%
Canola	15.7%	3.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%	3.5%
Dry Peas	96.0%	78.5%	63.4%	42.7%	50.1%	73.6%
Major Crops, Aug 29	49.5%	17.0%	3.6%	3.8%	6.4%	17.9%
Major Crops, Aug 22	33.4%	10.2%	2.2%	0.8%	1.8%	11.1%
5-Year (2018-22) Avg	31.4%	11.9%	4.6%	5.7%	3.6%	12.6%
10-Year (2013-22) Avg	32.3%	10.6%	5.7%	5.9%	10.8%	13.9%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey



Provincial pasture and tame hay growth is largely unchanged in the province from last week; however, this is due to decreasing ratings in the South, Central and North West regions being offset by improved ratings in the North East and Peace regions. Provincial pasture growth rated good to excellent is at 27 per cent, which is unchanged from the last report. The percentage of pasture rated good to excellent is at six per cent in the South, 29 per cent in Central, 48 per cent in the North East, 44 per cent in the North West and 52 per cent in the Peace. Provincial tame hay growth rated good to excellent is at 35 per cent, a one per cent decrease since the last report. Regional good to excellent percentages for tame hay are four per cent in the South, 33 per cent in Central, 42 per cent in the North East, 46 per cent in the North West and 52 per cent in the Peace.

## Regional Assessments:

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

- Scattered rainfalls this week did not impact the harvest or improve regional soil moisture ratings.
- Reports expect that ongoing hot and dry conditions will continue to support a rapid harvest.
- Crop swathed is reported at 12 per cent for canola, seven per cent for spring wheat, and six per cent for barley.
- Good to excellent surface soil moisture ratings decreased by six per cent, while sub-surface decreased by one per cent.

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

- Reports indicate that the majority of the region is actively harvesting.
- Crop swathed is reported at six per cent for canola, five per cent for spring wheat, and four per cent for barley.
- Good to excellent surface soil moisture ratings decreased by 11 per cent, while sub-surface decreased by two per cent.

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

- Warmer weather in the later part of the week has allowed harvest to continue advancing.
- Reports note that second growth in cereal and canola crops is delaying some harvests.
- Crop swathed is reported at 11 per cent for canola, two per cent for spring wheat, and six per cent for barley.
- Good to excellent surface soil moisture ratings increased by one per cent, while sub-surface decreased by one per cent.

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

- Wet conditions continue to slow harvest for much of the region, with field work occurring as weather allows.
- Crop swathed is reported as 13 per cent for canola, two per cent for spring wheat, and four per cent for barley.
- Good to excellent surface soil moisture ratings decreased by six per cent, while sub-surface increased by one per cent.

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

- Reports of significant rainfall across the region caused harvest progress to slow.
- Crop swathed is reported as 35 per cent for canola, while less than one per cent for spring wheat and barley.
- Good to excellent surface soil moisture ratings decreased by four per cent, while sub-surface was unchanged.

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