

# Alberta Crop Report

## Crop conditions as of May 16, 2023

A provincial state of emergency was declared on May 6, 2023, due to numerous wildfires. Albertans who require assistance can call 310-4455 for wildfire related information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Survey responses from the North West, North East and Peace regions indicated that wildfire activity is affecting some crop and pasture land. Evacuations, road closures and wildfire activity may impact seeding progress over the next week.

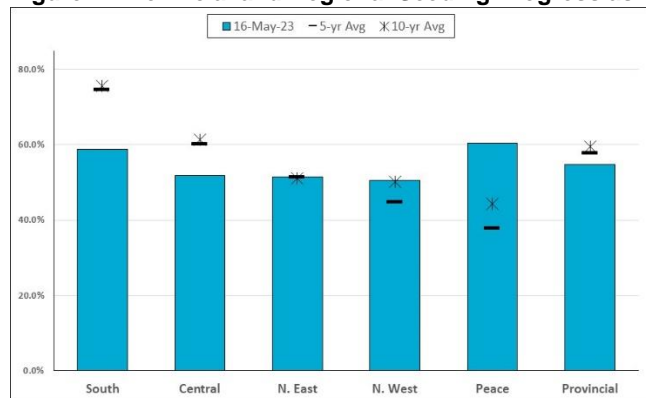
Hot and dry weather with the occasional light shower continued to provide relatively good conditions for seeding progress and allowed early emergence across the province. As of May 16, 55 per cent of all crops have been seeded, only 3 per cent behind the 5-year average and 5 per cent behind the 10-year average (see Table 1). Over the past week, seeding progress for major crops advanced 31 per cent. Regionally, seeding progress is ahead of the 5-year average in the North West and the Peace Region but below average in the South and Central Region. Progress is on par with the 5-year average in the North East. Among regions, the North East reported the most major crop progress over the past week with 36 per cent, followed by the Central, South, North West, and Peace Region with 30, 29, 29, and 28 per cent, respectively.

Emergence is at 15 per cent and 3 per cent ahead of the 5-year average. Adequate and timely rains are still needed to ensure plant growth for crops, as well as for tame hay and pasture.

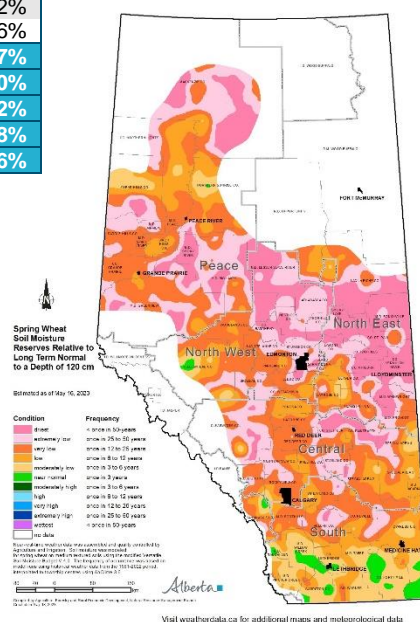
**Table 1: Alberta Seeding Progress as of May 16, 2023**

	% Seeded					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat*	65.4%	66.9%	75.6%	72.1%	72.5%	70.2%
Durum	59.9%	55.9%	---	---	---	59.3%
Barley*	70.5%	51.6%	31.5%	42.2%	58.8%	53.8%
Oats*	56.5%	40.8%	22.3%	25.0%	55.6%	35.4%
Canola*	42.4%	31.2%	33.6%	37.9%	52.6%	38.8%
Dry Peas*	74.7%	84.4%	95.4%	79.7%	69.8%	79.7%
Mustard	45.7%	20.6%	---	---	---	39.8%
Flax	40.9%	1.7%	0.0%	---	---	32.1%
Potatoes	89.4%	84.6%	---	39.0%	---	84.9%
Chickpeas	23.0%	75.0%	---	---	---	26.9%
Lentils	41.0%	80.0%	---	---	---	47.2%
Corn	46.0%	85.0%	10.0%	---	---	53.6%
All Crops, May 16	58.5%	51.9%	51.4%	50.5%	60.4%	54.7%
Major Crops (*), May 16	61.0%	51.9%	51.6%	50.7%	60.4%	55.0%
Major Crops (*), May 9	32.3%	21.6%	15.5%	22.1%	32.8%	24.2%
5-Years All Crops (2018-2022)	74.8%	60.2%	51.4%	44.9%	38.0%	57.8%
10-years All Crops (2013-2022)	75.7%	61.4%	51.1%	50.1%	44.4%	59.6%

**Figure 1: Provincial and Regional Seeding Progress as of May 16, 2023**



Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey



There has been limited precipitation across the province, while warm temperatures have reduced soil moisture reserves greatly as relative to the long term normal. Over the last week, the South was the only region that experienced improved soil moisture conditions. However, conditions for other regions decreased by 8-14 per cent. Provincially, soil moisture conditions (sub-surface moisture conditions in brackets) are rated as 17 (18) per cent poor, 34 (36) per cent fair, 45 (43) per cent good, 4 (3) per cent excellent and 0 (0) per cent excessive (See Table 2).

**Table 2: Alberta Surface Soil Moisture Ratings as of May 16, 2023**

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Excessive
South	14.1%	28.6%	48.8%	8.2%	0.2%
Central	12.7%	31.6%	55.6%	0.0%	0.0%
North East	20.4%	34.5%	43.8%	1.3%	0.0%
North West	30.0%	53.6%	14.1%	2.2%	0.0%
Peace	18.8%	33.7%	42.2%	5.3%	0.0%
Alberta	17.2%	33.9%	45.3%	3.6%	0.1%
5-year (2018-2022) Avg	11.3%	29.7%	42.9%	14.4%	1.7%
10-year (2013-2022) Avg	10.7%	25.5%	41.7%	19.1%	2.9%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Pasture conditions (tame hay in brackets) are rated as 12 (15) per cent poor, 36 (41) per cent fair, 51 (43) per cent good and 1 (1) per cent excellent (See Table 3). Overall, warm weather and more precipitation are needed to ensure growth.

**Table 3: Pasture Growth Conditions as of May 16, 2023**

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
South	7.1%	37.5%	54.6%	0.9%
Central	6.9%	31.2%	61.9%	0.0%
North East	22.6%	30.2%	47.2%	0.0%
North West	26.7%	52.0%	21.3%	0.0%
Peace	12.0%	49.4%	35.4%	3.2%
Alberta	11.6%	36.4%	51.4%	0.5%
5-year (2018-2022) Avg	16.7%	34.0%	45.8%	3.6%
10-year (2013-2022) Avg	13.3%	31.1%	47.9%	7.6%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

## Regional Assessments:

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

- Seeding in the region jumped 29 per cent for major crops from a week previous. However, seeding is 16 per cent behind the 5-year average at 59 per cent complete for all crops.
- The continued dry and hot weather is affecting decisions around seeding and are influenced by germination and flea beetle pressures.
- Light showers were reported, and surface soil moisture ratings increased 7 per cent to 57 per cent good to excellent. The warm and dry weather has affected emergence, which is at 20 per cent, and 9 per cent behind the 5-year average.
- Fall seeded crops were reported as facing poor conditions due to poor soil moisture and some snow smother. These are currently rated as 7 per cent poor, 36 per cent fair, 47 per cent good and 11 per cent excellent.

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

- Seeding is 8 per cent behind the 5-year average at 52 per cent complete. The mix of moisture and heat has aided germination, with emergence at 13 per cent and 2 per cent ahead of the 5-year average.
- Rainfall was reported around the region, even delaying seeding for a few days in certain areas. However, surface soil moisture conditions fell from last week 10 per cent to 44 per cent poor to fair and 56 per cent good to excellent.
- Pasture growth conditions (tame hay in brackets) in the Central Region are rated highest in the province at 62 (60) per cent good to excellent and only 38 (40) per cent poor to fair.

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

- Seeding advanced 36 per cent in the past week to 51 per cent complete, on track with the 5-year average. Emergence is also 8 per cent ahead of the 5-year average at 14 per cent.
- Forages have been growing despite minimal recent moisture but need more rain to ensure better growth conditions. Cattle producers are running low on feed supply awaiting pastures to green up and grow sufficiently. Pasture (tame hay conditions) are rated as 53 (63) per cent poor to fair and 47 (37) per cent good to excellent.
- The small amount of rain the region has received have quickly soaked into the soil leaving sub-surface soil moisture unchanged from last week. Surface soil moisture conditions decreased 8 per cent to 55 per cent poor to fair and 45 per cent good to excellent.

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

- Seeding is 6 per cent ahead of the 5-year average at 51 per cent of the crop seeded. Emergence is 9 per cent ahead of the 5-year average at 11 per cent emerged.
- Sporadic and spotty rains with even some hail in the south part of the region was reported, along with the warm temperatures. Surface soil moisture remains the poorest in the province at 84 per cent poor to fair and 16 per cent good to excellent, down 13 per cent from last week.
- Pasture and tame hay conditions are challenged as the hot weather is creating poor conditions across the region. Pasture (tame hay in brackets) is rated as 79 (72) per cent poor to fair and 21 (28) per cent good to excellent.

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

- Producers were able to take advantage of the hot weather to advance seeding progress. The region advanced 28 per cent since May 9, to 60 per cent complete and emergence is 12 per cent ahead of the 5-year average with 15 per cent emerged.
- Soil moisture conditions in the Peace fell 14 per cent with little to no precipitation over the past week. Soil surface moisture conditions (sub-surface soil moisture in brackets) are rated as 52 (56) per cent poor to fair and 48 (44) per cent good to excellent.
- Pasture (tame hay in brackets) is rated as 61 (59) per cent poor to fair and 39 (41) per cent good to excellent.

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