

Alberta Crop Report



Crop Conditions as of May 17, 2022

Precipitation over the past week has been variable across the province, with many areas receiving less than one millimetre of rain, especially in the South Region which is in desperate need of moisture. Rain in the forecast this week will help to moderate dry conditions. However, timely precipitation will still be needed in the coming weeks to sustain plant growth. The below seasonal temperatures for the next week will minimize water evaporation and plant moisture demand, but will lead to slower growth.

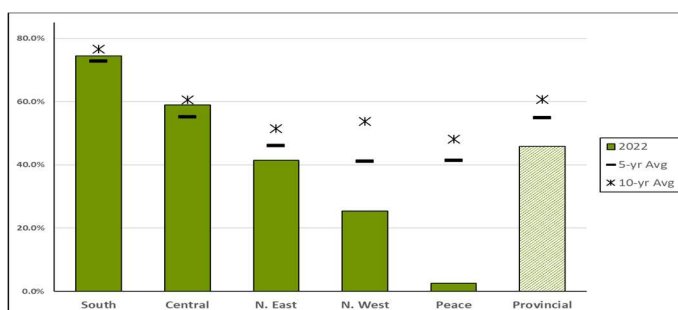
Over the past week, seeding progress advanced by 26 per cent provincially. As of May 17, about 49 per cent of all crops have been seeded, below the 5-year average of 55 per cent, and 10-year average of 61 per cent (see Table 1).

Regionally, seeding progress is ahead of the 5-year average for the South and Central Regions (see Figure 1) but below average in the North East, North West and Peace Regions. Among regions, the Central Region reported the most progress over the past week at 36 per cent, followed by the North East, South and North West Regions with 34, 24 and 19 per cent progress, respectively. Seeding progress in the Peace Region advanced only two per cent.

Table 1: Alberta Seeding Progress as of May 17, 2022

	% Seeded					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat*	77.2%	69.7%	61.3%	44.1%	3.8%	58.8%
Durum Wheat	84.4%	79.0%	---	---	---	83.6%
Barley*	80.1%	59.8%	24.6%	17.4%	1.6%	49.9%
Oats*	64.8%	43.7%	18.0%	15.2%	0.5%	19.8%
Canola*	62.3%	42.2%	23.6%	13.5%	2.1%	29.1%
Dry Peas*	85.4%	87.2%	93.0%	38.5%	2.8%	66.9%
Mustard	71.8%	71.0%	---	---	---	71.6%
Flax	65.4%	34.7%	3.8%	0.0%	---	50.2%
Potatoes	100.0%	100.0%	50.0%	0.0%	---	93.4%
Chickpeas	73.2%	98.0%	---	---	---	74.4%
Lentils	82.0%	92.0%	---	---	---	83.5%
Corn	95.0%	92.5%	---	---	---	93.3%
All Crops, May 17	75.7%	59.9%	41.4%	25.2%	2.5%	48.8%
Major Crops(*), May 17	74.4%	59.0%	41.5%	25.4%	2.5%	45.8%
Major Crops(*), May 10	50.6%	22.7%	7.9%	5.9%	0.3%	20.1%
5-year (2017-2021) Avg	72.9%	55.2%	46.1%	41.2%	41.4%	55.0%
10-year (2012-2021) Avg	76.6%	60.5%	51.5%	53.8%	48.1%	60.7%

Figure 1: Provincial and Regional Seeding Progress as of May 18, 2021



Source: AFRED/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

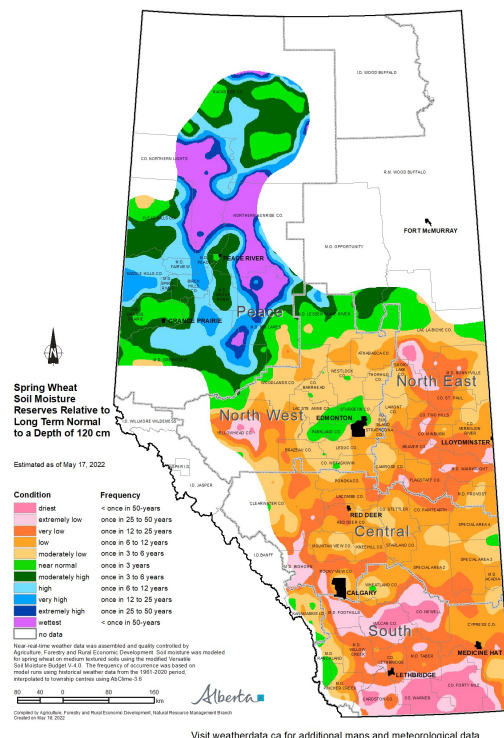
Relative to long term normal, growing season precipitation to date (April 1 to May 17, 2022) has been near normal in most parts of the Central, North East and North West Regions, low in the South Region and the southern parts of the Central Region, and high to extremely high in the Peace. As a result, compared to the long-term normal, soil moisture is moderately low to very low in all regions but the Peace Region, where it is high to extremely high (see the Map). For the South Region, soil moisture has been driest (pink areas in the map). Provincially, surface soil moisture (5-year average shown in brackets) is rated as 20 (7) per cent poor, 39 (23) per cent fair, 32 (42) per cent good and 8 (23) per cent excellent, with 1 (5) per cent excessive.

Pasture and tame hay fields have had a slow start in most areas, as cool temperatures and lack of moisture delayed greening-up and growth of pastures. Warmer weather and near normal precipitation are needed moving forward, to ensure vigorous growth. Pasture (tame hay ratings shown in brackets) conditions across the province are now reported as 26 (21) per cent poor, 48 (45) per cent fair, 25 (33) per cent good and 1 (1) per cent excellent (see Table 2).

Table 2: Pasture Growth Conditions as of May 17, 2022

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
South	36.3%	56.2%	7.3%	0.2%
Central	24.4%	39.2%	35.9%	0.4%
North East	20.9%	47.6%	31.2%	0.3%
North West	7.9%	60.8%	31.3%	0.0%
Peace	18.7%	36.5%	40.3%	4.4%
Alberta	26.2%	48.1%	25.0%	0.6%
5-year (2017-2021) Avg	11.9%	26.4%	52.7%	9.0%
10-year (2012-2021) Avg	10.9%	27.7%	52.2%	9.3%

Source: AFRED/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey



Regional Assessments:

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

- Seeding is completed for 76 per cent of all crops and 74 per cent of major crops, up 24 per cent (major crops) from a week ago. Cooler temperatures and a few scattered showers moderated the dry conditions, but soil moisture continues to deteriorate. Rain is desperately needed in the region, as poor moisture conditions are hampering crop development. There were some reports of wind damage for the emerged crops.
- Pasture and tame hay fields are starting to green up, although growth has been slow due to the cooler temperatures and lack of moisture. Also, pastures were heavily grazed last year and need time and moisture to recover.
- About 34 per cent of seeded acres have now emerged, above the 5-year average of 25 per cent. Spring cereals are mostly reported in the germination stage; while fall seeded crops are in the seedling stage of development.
- Fall seeded crops are rated as 7 per cent poor, 39 per cent fair, 33 per cent good, and 21 per cent excellent.
- Surface soil moisture is rated at 38 per cent poor, 52 per cent fair and 10 per cent good.

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

- Seeding has progressed an additional of 36 per cent over the past week and is still underway. About 60 per cent of acres have now been seeded. Some pockets of rain brought moisture to the region, but more is needed for plant growth.
- Cool temperatures continued to slow down the progression of hay and pasture growth. Precipitation and warmer weather are needed for good production.

- All potatoes and more than 90 per cent of pulses are now seeded. With respect to grains and oil seeds, nearly 70 per cent of spring wheat, 60 per cent of barley, 44 per cent of oats and 42 per cent of canola are now seeded.
- About 10 per cent of seeded acres have now emerged, on par with the 5-year average. Spring cereals are mostly in the germination stage, while fall seeded crops are in the seedling stage of development.
- Fall seeded crops are rated as 5 per cent poor, 32 per cent fair, 59 per cent good and 4 per cent excellent.
- Surface soil moisture is rated at 20 per cent poor, 36 per cent fair, 39 per cent good and 5 per cent excellent.

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

- Favourable seeding conditions advanced seeding progress by an additional 34 per cent over the past week to 41 per cent complete, slightly behind the 5-year average of 46 per cent.
- The seeding of dry peas is now 93 per cent complete, while 50 per cent of potatoes, 61 per cent of spring wheat, 25 per cent of barley, 18 per cent of oats and 24 per cent of canola have now been seeded.
- About four per cent of seeded acres have emerged, compared to the 5-year average of five per cent.
- For fall seeded crops, conditions are reported as 3 per cent poor, 29 per cent fair and 68 per cent good.
- Surface soil moisture is rated at 10 per cent poor, 40 per cent fair, 43 per cent good and 7 per cent excellent.

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

- Despite the rain and some cool temperatures, producers planted an additional 19 per cent of crops over the past week. Currently, seeding is 25 per cent complete, behind the 5-year average of 41 per cent. There has been no crop emergence as yet, but improvement in soil moisture (due to recent rain) will be beneficial for germination.
- Hay and pasture fields are improving and would benefit from warmer temperatures.
- About 44 per cent of spring wheat, 17 per cent of barley, 15 per cent of oats, 14 per cent of canola and 39 per cent of dry peas have now been seeded.
- For fall seeded crops, conditions are reported as 5 per cent fair and 95 per cent good.
- Surface moisture is rated at 4 per cent poor, 36 per cent fair, 58 per cent good and 2 per cent excellent.

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

- Slightly warmer weather and low precipitation over the past week have allowed some producers to begin planting. Seeding for the region is at three per cent complete, behind the 5-year average of 41 per cent, with no crop emergence. There were some reports of run off and wet fields hampering seeding equipment.
- Surface soil moisture is rated at 5 per cent fair, 37 per cent good and 51 per cent excellent, with 7 per cent excessive.

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