

Alberta Crop Report



Crop Conditions as of October 11 (Abbreviated Report)

Final Report for 2022

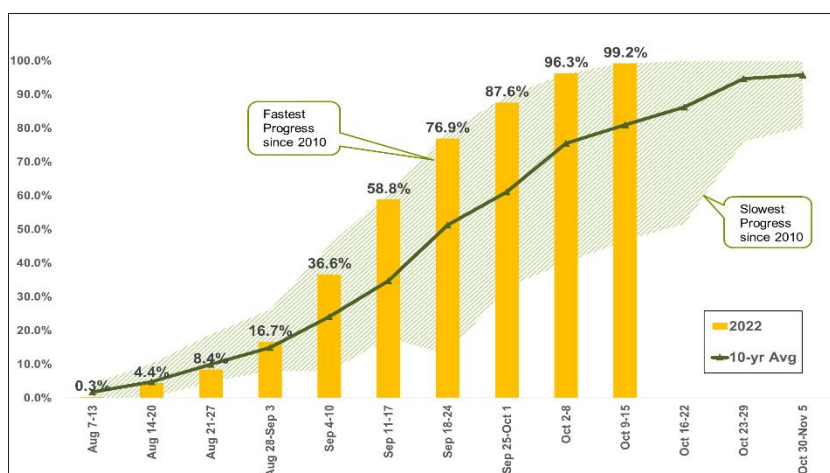
Harvest is practically complete for the 2022 season; two to three weeks ahead of the 10-year average (see Figure 1). Harvest is even ahead of last year, which was another advanced year with respect to harvest progress (see Table 1). Provincially, about 99 per cent of all crops have been harvested, 23 per cent ahead of the 5-year average (2017-2021) and 17 per cent ahead of the 10-year (2012-2021) average. About 0.3 per cent of major crops are in swath and 0.5 per cent remain standing.

Table 1: Estimates of Crop Harvest Progress as of October 11, 2022

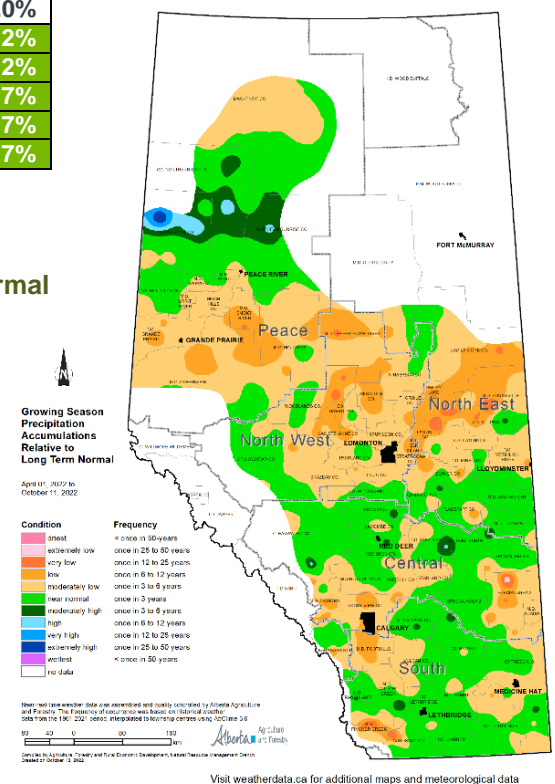
	Per cent of Crops Combined					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	99.9%	99.9%	100.0%	99.9%	99.1%	99.8%
Barley	100.0%	100.0%	99.8%	100.0%	99.3%	99.9%
Oats	100.0%	99.2%	99.7%	97.2%	98.6%	98.7%
Canola	99.9%	97.2%	98.8%	96.5%	97.3%	98.1%
Dry Peas	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	99.8%	100.0%
Major Crops, Oct 11	100.0%	99.0%	99.4%	98.3%	98.3%	99.2%
Major Crops, Oct 4	99.2%	95.7%	97.5%	89.7%	94.8%	96.2%
Major Crops, Last Year	99.5%	99.6%	99.6%	97.5%	95.4%	98.7%
5-yr (2017-2021) Avg	90.2%	75.3%	74.2%	66.7%	68.9%	76.7%
10-yr (2012-2021) Avg	93.3%	79.6%	80.3%	75.2%	80.4%	82.7%

Source: AFRED/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Figure 1: 2022 Harvest Progress in Alberta, Compared to Long-Term Normal



Source: AFRED/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey



Feed and forage availability is mostly adequate, with some livestock producers having surplus. Provincially, forage reserves are estimated at 3 per cent deficit, 12 per cent shortfall, 69 per cent adequate, and 16 per cent surplus, while feed grain supplies are 2 per cent deficit, 8 per cent shortfall, 74 per cent adequate and 16 per cent surplus.

Regional Assessments:

Region One: South (Strathmore, Lethbridge, Foremost)

- Harvest of major crops is virtually complete and temperatures are cooling down, but still very little frost is reported. Soil conditions continue to be dry, raising some concerns.
- Forage reserve estimates for this region are 10 per cent deficit, 24 per cent shortfall, 58 per cent adequate and 8 per cent surplus, while feed grain supplies are 5 per cent deficit, 17 per cent shortfall, 70 per cent adequate and 8 per cent surplus.
- Fall-seeded crops are rated as 8 per cent poor, 47 per cent fair, 44 per cent good and 1 per cent excellent.

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

- Harvest of major crops is 99 per cent complete, and fall fieldwork is near completion. Some shower activities over the past week helped to maintain and even improve soil moisture reserves in some parts of the region. No killer frost has yet been reported.
- Forage reserve estimates in this region are 2 per cent deficit, 6 per cent shortfall, 87 per cent adequate and 5 per cent surplus, while feed grain supplies are 2 per cent deficit, 2 per cent shortfall, 91 per cent adequate and 5 per cent surplus.
- Fall-seeded crops are rated as 10 per cent poor, 42 per cent fair, 47 per cent good and 1 per cent excellent.

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

- Harvest is practically complete in the region. Temperatures are cooling down, but for the most part, top soil remains dry.
- Forage reserve estimates in this region are 7 per cent shortfall, 77 per cent adequate and 16 per cent surplus, with no deficit. For feed grain, no deficit is predicted and supplies are 6 per cent shortfall, 76 per cent adequate and 18 per cent surplus.
- Fall-seeded crops are rated as 12 per cent poor, 69 per cent fair, and 19 per cent good.

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

- Harvest is nearly complete with 98 per cent of crops in the bin. Temperatures are cooling down and killing frosts have been reported in some areas. Surface soils remains dry and precipitation would be welcomed before winter.
- Forage reserve estimates in this region are 1 per cent deficit, 6 per cent shortfall, 78 per cent adequate and 15 per cent surplus, while feed grain supplies are 2 per cent shortfall, 79 per cent adequate and 19 per cent surplus, with no deficit.
- Fall-seeded crops are rated as 14 per cent fair, 71 per cent good and 15 per cent excellent.

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

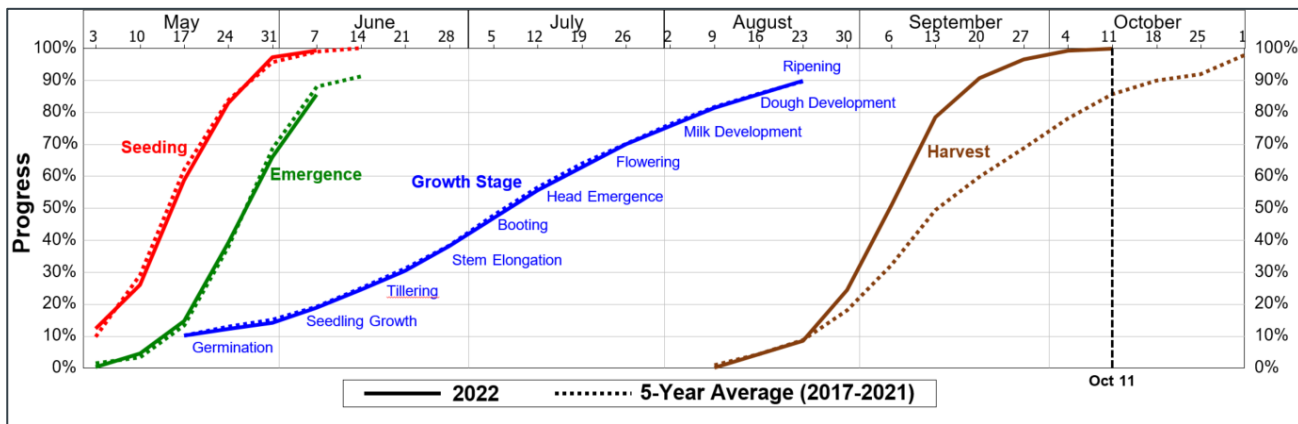
- Harvest is 98 per cent complete, with only some late seeded crops left to be combined. Good weather conditions continued, allowing producers to finish fall fieldwork.
- Forage reserve estimates in this region are 4 per cent shortfall, 42 per cent adequate and 54 per cent surplus, with no deficit. Similarly, feed grain supplies are zero deficit, 5 per cent shortfall, 48 per cent adequate and 47 per cent surplus.

2022 Growing Season Summary

The growing season in 2022 started with dry conditions and cool temperatures for most parts of the province. The Peace Region was the exception where there was a cool wet spring. By the end of May, dry conditions were the dominant weather feature in southern Alberta and there was no excess moisture anywhere in the province. June is typically the wettest month of the year in Alberta and June 2022 was wetter than normal. This was followed by above average temperatures from the beginning of July towards the end of season.

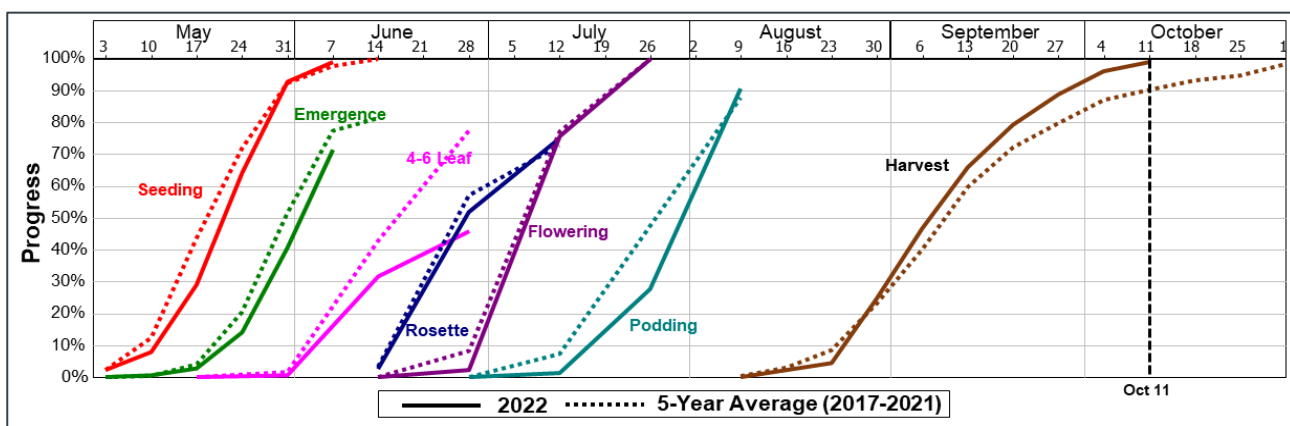
Figures 2 and 3 describe the 2022 growing season performance for spring wheat and canola, respectively, from the beginning of crop season (May 3, 2022) until the end (October 11, 2022). While spring wheat had an almost normal growth, canola had some issues, leading to delay in growth. Canola had a rough start with the dry spring, flea beetles and cut worms, flowering later in the season when heat returned, and was impacted by dry conditions in July and August. In addition, selected seed emergence was a serious issue in many fields.

Figure 2: Spring Wheat Performance over the 2022 Season



Source: AFRED/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

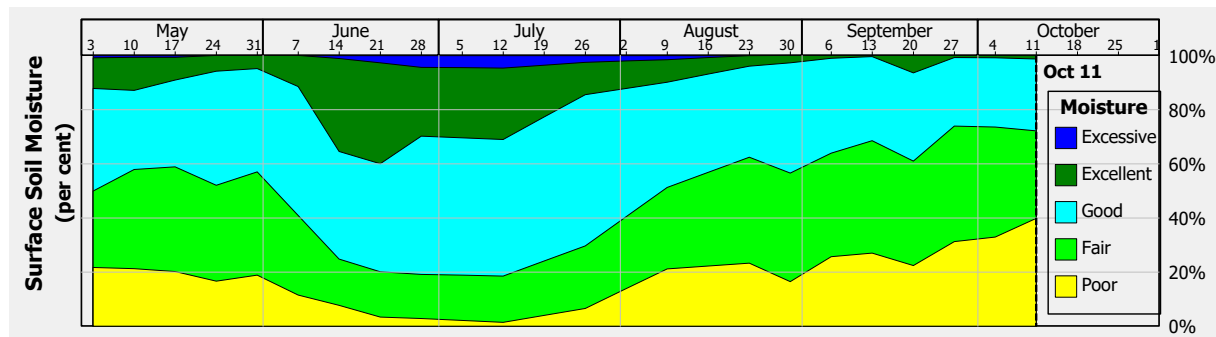
Figure 3: Canola Performance over the 2022 Season



Source: AFRED/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Precipitation during June and early July improved soil moisture reserves and benefited sub-surface soil moisture as well. However, soil moisture reserves started to deteriorate in mid-July. On May 4, 2022, provincial surface soil moisture was rated as 49 per cent good or excellent, with 1 per cent excessive, and improved to 77 per cent good or excellent with 5 per cent excessive as of July 12, 2022 (see Figure 4). Late summer and fall drying of soils continued across the province into mid-October. As of October 11, 2020, surface soil moisture was rated as 40 per cent poor, 32 per cent fair, 27 per cent good and 1 per cent excellent.

Figure 4: Alberta Surface Soil Moisture Ratings over the Season, 2022

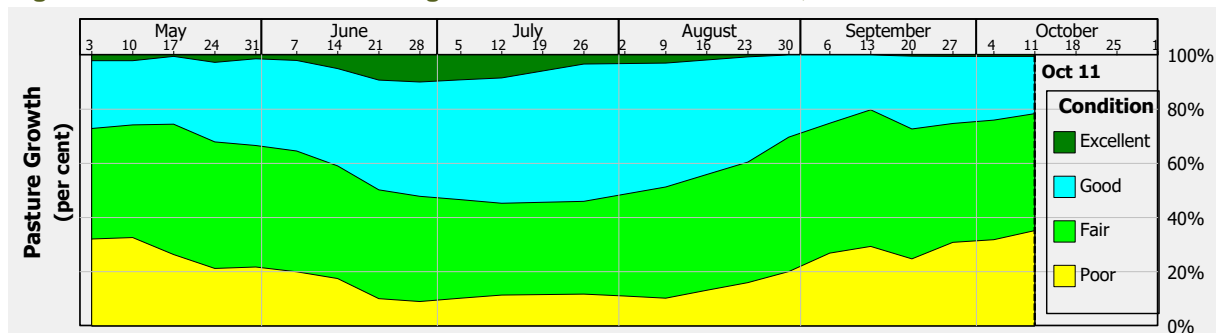


Source: AFRED/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

The weather remained warm and dry over the harvest season, advancing harvest progress by two to three weeks. As of October 11, 2022, about 99 per cent of major crops across the province were combined, with provincial dryland yields estimated at 10 per cent above the 5-year averages. Provincially, quality for hard red spring wheat, canola and dry peas was above their 5-year averages, while for durum wheat and oats, quality was lower. Quality for malt and feed barley was on par with the 5-year average.

Growing conditions for pasture and tame hay improved with timely precipitation and warmer temperatures in the month of June (see Figure 5). While qualitative rankings improved for the provincial feed supply, conditions in some areas remained poor to fair due to heavy grazing last year and challenging conditions over the past few growing seasons. Overall, livestock feed supplies are sufficient for this winter, and there is a large amount of straw baled up to complement the feed.

Figure 5: Alberta Pasture Growing Conditions over the Season, 2022



Source: AFRED/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

About 89 per cent of dryland hay in the province was from the first cut, with yield estimated at 1.6 tons per acre, above the 5-year average of 1.4 tons per acre. Some producers, particularly in the South Region, failed to harvest a second cut, or harvested very little. The remaining 11 per cent was from the second cut, with yield estimated at 1.0 ton per acre, compared to the 5-year average of 1.1 tons per acre. For irrigated hay, first cut accounted for 60 per cent of the total (with yield estimated at 2.1 tons per acre), second cut accounted for 36 per cent (with yield reported at 1.4 tons per acre), and third cut accounted for the remaining four per cent (with yield estimated at 0.4 ton per acre).

Contact

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