

# Alberta Crop Report



## Crop Conditions as of May 10, 2022 (Abbreviated Report)

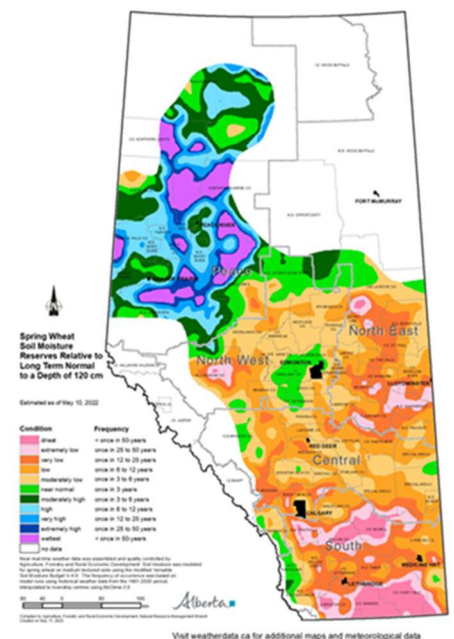
Seeding progress for the major crops is now 20 per cent complete across the province, only modestly behind the five-year average of 22 per cent and up from nine per cent this time last week. In general, seeding is ahead of the five-year average in the South and Central regions, and behind the five-year average in the North East, North West and Peace regions. In general, spring wheat, barley, and peas are seeing timely seeding progress and are in line with five-year averages, while oats and canola have significantly lower completion and are marginally behind their respective five-year averages. Emergence in the South region is in line with historical expectations at 10 per cent, while in Central and northern regions, there is minimal or no emergence reported, which is modestly behind normal.

**Table 1: Alberta Seeding Progress of Major Crops as of May 10, 2022**

	% Seeded					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	56.3	29.8	12.1	13.0	0.9	26.1
Barley	57.3	25.8	1.9	4.9	0.3	26.8
Oats	34.6	11.0	0.2	2.3	0.0	4.0
Canola	32.8	7.0	1.7	0.9	0.0	7.9
Dry Peas	64.7	56.7	45.8	9.4	0.4	42.6
<b>Average (Major Crops)</b>	<b>50.6</b>	<b>22.7</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>20.1</b>
<b>Last Year (May 11, 2021)</b>	<b>55.4</b>	<b>31.5</b>	<b>22.8</b>	<b>20.5</b>	<b>17.2</b>	<b>31.5</b>
<b>5-year Average (2017-2021)</b>	<b>45.1</b>	<b>21.3</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>22.2</b>

Source: AFRED/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Dry conditions and cold temperatures continue to dominate crop reporters' discussions throughout much of the province. Modest and localized rains were reported in the last week in many areas of the province, but not the meaningful precipitation needed. Central and northern regions have received near normal precipitation in the last 30 days, but as seen in the mapping to the right, still have significant soil moisture deficits relative to normal. Surface soil moisture continues to rank extremely poor and is of high concern in the South. Central and northern regions are all roughly 50 per cent poor to fair, whereas the Peace continues to be the only region in a strong soil moisture position with 89 per cent rated good or excellent. Province-wide 58 per cent of surface moisture and 58 per cent of subsoil moisture is rated as poor or fair and rains throughout the growing season are desperately needed in most areas except the Peace.



**Table 2: Surface Soil Moisture Ratings as of May 10, 2022**

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Excessive
South	35.1	51.2	13.5	0.2	0.0
Central	19.2	34.1	37.1	9.5	0.0
North East	21.3	25.8	39.5	12.7	0.7
North West	5.1	51.2	40.5	3.2	0.0
Peace	0.0	5.2	25.1	63.8	5.9
Alberta	21.1	36.7	29.2	12.2	0.8
5-year Average (2017-2021)	5.0	19.9	42.4	26.5	6.2

Source: AFRED/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

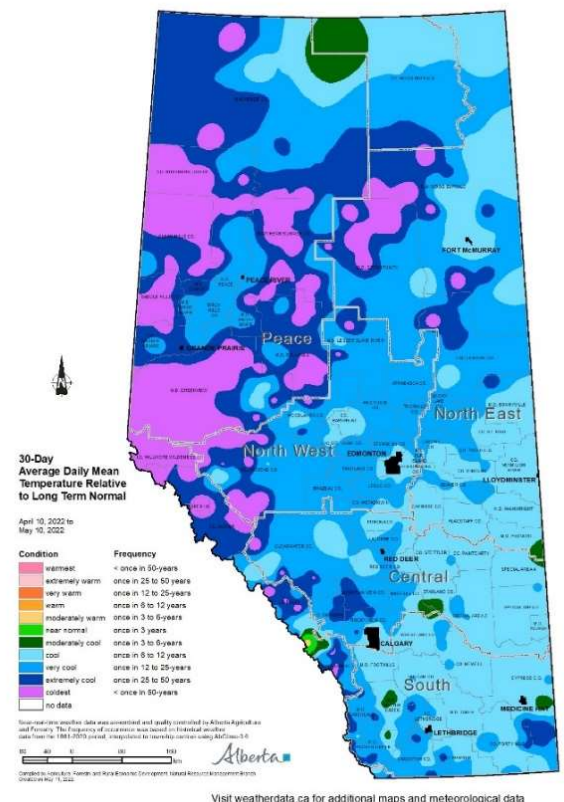
As can be seen in mapping to the right, nearly the entirety of the province is reporting well-below normal spring temperatures at a frequency that occurs largely only once in six to 25 years.

Haylands are rated at 71 per cent poor or fair. With very low feed reserves reported throughout the province, there is significant need for precipitation and heat as current-year forage production is required for this winter’s feed supply and herd retention. Pasture ratings are at 74 per cent poor or fair across the province and are commonly being reported as heavily grazed in 2021. The cold spring temperatures and low feed inventories are not providing the recovery and early growth needed.

**Table 3: Pasture Growth as of May 10, 2022**

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
South	38.0	51.3	10.4	0.3
Central	24.7	27.1	42.7	5.6
North East	46.0	42.3	11.8	0.0
North West	24.0	63.9	12.0	0.0
Peace	21.7	33.5	42.4	2.4
Alberta	32.5	41.6	23.8	2.1

Source: AFRED/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey



## Regional Assessments:

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

- Scattered showers and cool temperatures were prevalent this week with most areas receiving less than 5 mm.
- Seeding of the major crops has progressed 19 points over last week with an estimated 51 per cent of acres now in the ground, compared to the five-year average of 45 per cent. Dry bean plantings should start this week.
- Soil moisture is poor with 14 per cent of surface and eight per cent of sub-surface moisture rated good or excellent.
- Tame hay and pastures are greening up but growth continues to lag because of the cool weather and lack of precipitation. Current condition ratings are showing 17 per cent good or excellent for hay and 11 per cent for pasture.

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

- Most areas received precipitation over the last week, with accumulations of up to 20 mm occurring in some areas. Soil temperatures and cool weather are hampering crop emergence.
- Seeding of the major crops has progressed 17 points over last week with an estimated 23 per cent of acres now in the ground, compared to the five-year average of 21 per cent.
- Soil moisture is decent with 47 per cent of surface and 54 per cent of sub-surface moisture rated good or excellent.
- Cool weather has slowed hay and pasture growth. Current condition ratings are showing 44 per cent good or excellent for hay and 48 per cent for pasture.

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

- Most areas received moisture this past week with higher accumulations, up to 25 mm, occurring in the eastern part of region. Warm sunny weather is needed to promote annual and perennial plant growth.
- Seeding of the major crops has progressed seven points over last week with an estimated eight per cent of acres now in the ground, compared to the previous five-year average of 13 per cent. Reports of some producers changing their intended crops so that seeding can start.
- Soil moisture is adequate with 52 per cent of surface and 55 per cent of sub-surface moisture rated good or excellent.
- Pasture and hay fields are slow to develop due to the cold temperatures. Current condition ratings are showing 10 per cent good or excellent for hay and 12 per cent for pasture.

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

- Precipitation was spotty throughout the region, with accumulations of up to 15 mm occurring in the Edmonton area. Warmer weather would be welcome to help progress.
- Seeding of the major crops has progressed six points over last week with an estimated six per cent of acres now in the ground, compared to the previous five-year average of 12 per cent.
- Soil moisture is adequate with 44 per cent of surface and 38 per cent of sub-surface moisture rated good or excellent.
- Hay and pastures are green but lacking growth as they are looking for sunshine. Current condition ratings are showing 24 per cent good or excellent for hay and 12 per cent for pasture.

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

- Snow and rain fell throughout region this last week with southern half of the region receiving up to 25 mm and the northern half receiving 50 mm or more.
- There has been minimal seeding progress over last week with less than one per cent of acres now in the ground, compared to the five-year average of 11 per cent.
- Soil moisture is excellent with 89 per cent of surface and 82 per cent of sub-surface moisture rated good or excellent.
- Cooler temperatures have slowed pasture and hay growth. Current condition ratings are showing 41 per cent good or excellent for hay and 45 per cent for pasture.

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