

Alberta Crop Report

Crop conditions as of June 25, 2024 (Abbreviated Report)

Crop conditions rated good to excellent across the province, are 2 per cent above the 5-year average and have increased 2 per cent since last week. Conditions increased in the South Region to by 2 per cent to 74 per cent good to excellent, by 2 per cent to 79 per cent good to excellent in the Central Region, by 4 per cent to 80 per cent good to excellent in the Peace Region and by 8 per cent to 69 per cent good to excellent in the North West. Conditions decreased by 1 per cent to 69 per cent good to excellent in the North East Region. Provincially, major crops (spring wheat, barley and oats) are right on track with the provincial average at the early stages of stem elongation. Precipitation was variable over the week with the majority of it arriving in the form of thunderstorm activity. Areas in the Peace Region received 10-50 mm while some parts of the east-central Peace Region received well over 50 mm. Conditions are quite variable in areas such as the central parts of the North West Region, the western and southeastern portions of the Central Region and throughout much of the Southern Region as they have received less than 1 mm of rain. Forecasted rains will benefit these regions.

Table 1: Regional Crop Condition Ratings as of June 25, 2024

	Per cent rated in Good to Excellent Conditions					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat *	75.7%	80.1%	74.5%	72.5%	80.0%	76.6%
Barley *	71.9%	84.4%	64.4%	80.0%	77.4%	75.6%
Oats *	85.2%	85.5%	63.9%	73.2%	76.0%	73.8%
Canola *	73.7%	72.3%	65.4%	61.6%	79.7%	70.4%
Dry Peas *	76.1%	76.9%	76.0%	74.6%	80.8%	77.0%
Major Crops (*) June 25	74.3%	78.5%	69.2%	69.4%	79.5%	74.2%
Major Crops (*), June 18	72.7%	77.0%	70.0%	61.5%	75.7%	72.1%
5-year (2019-2023) Avg	60.2%	77.0%	78.9%	69.1%	70.8%	71.7%
10-year (2014-2023) Avg	66.9%	71.7%	79.2%	69.2%	69.2%	72.0%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Surface soil moisture decreased provincially this week as temperatures warmed up and days were windy across much of the province, especially in the southern half of the province. While this was good for crop development, many areas could use more rain. Provincial surface soil moisture declined 10 per cent to 66 per cent good to excellent (see Table 2). Regionally, surface soil moisture conditions declined 13 per cent to 53 per cent good to excellent in the South, 20 per cent to 60 per cent good to excellent in the Central, 2 per cent to 84 per cent good to excellent in the North East, and 4 per cent to 77 per cent good to excellent in the North West. Conditions increased by 8 per cent to 81 per cent good to excellent in the Peace Region.

Sub-surface soil moisture fell provincially as well as in the North East and Central Region. Conditions were stable in the South and North West and increased in the Peace Region. While sub-surface soil moisture conditions have been quite stable across the province, they have dropped substantially in the Central Region and are now below the 5-year average (see Figure 1). As plants approach their reproductive stage, water needs will increase and sub-surface soil moisture in the coming weeks will be crucial. Currently, sub-surface soil moisture conditions (5-year average) are rated as 54 (60) per cent good to excellent provincially, 51 (41) per cent good to excellent in the South Region, 29 (64) per cent good to excellent in the Central Region, 68 (74) per cent good to excellent in the North East Region, 70 (72) per cent good to excellent in the North West Region and 85 (70) per cent good to excellent in the Peace Region.

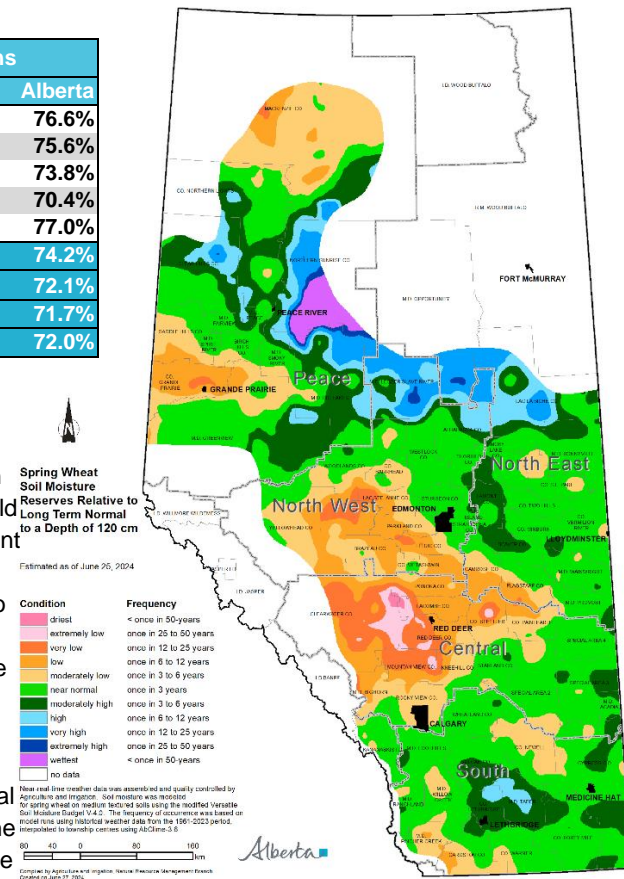


Figure 1: Surface and Sub-surface Soil Moisture Conditions, June 18 and 25, 2024

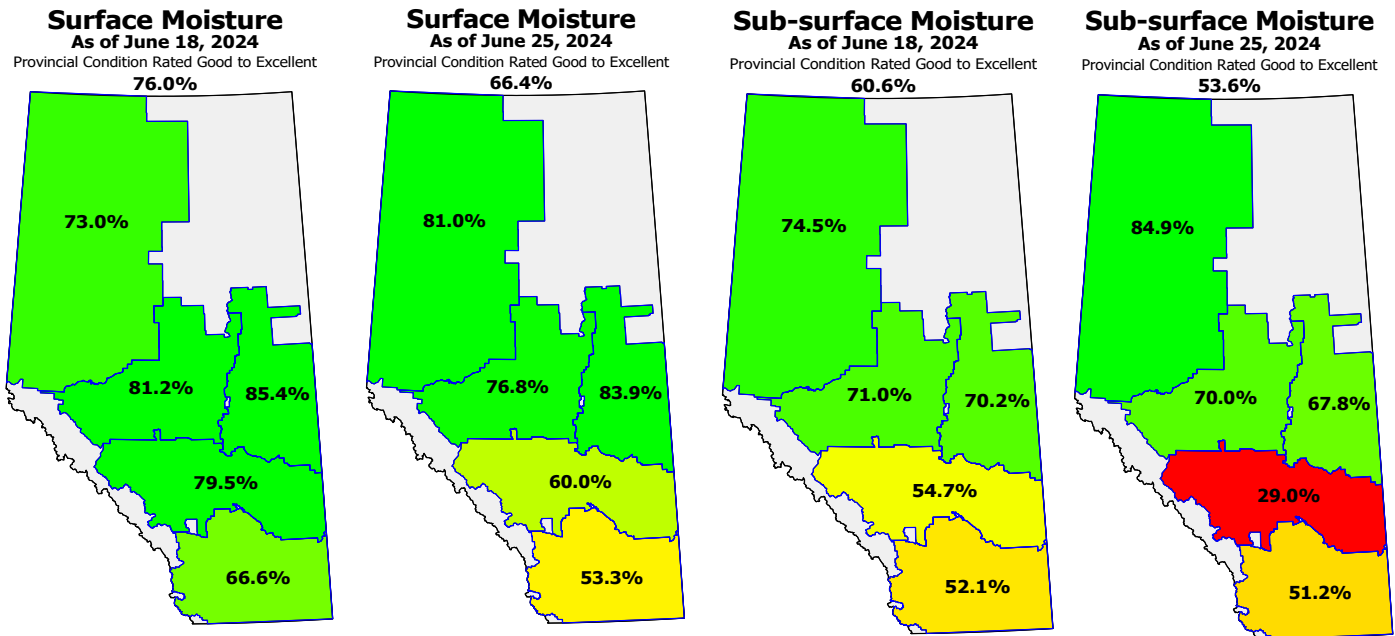


Table 2: Alberta Surface Soil Moisture Ratings as of June 25, 2024

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Excessive
South	5.9%	40.8%	49.3%	4.0%	0.0%
Central	12.4%	27.6%	58.1%	2.0%	0.0%
North East	4.5%	10.3%	69.5%	14.4%	1.3%
North West	2.1%	15.4%	47.5%	29.4%	5.7%
Peace	0.0%	6.4%	31.9%	49.0%	12.7%
Alberta	6.4%	25.0%	53.5%	12.9%	2.2%
5-year (2019-2023) Avg	8.3%	21.7%	44.5%	22.6%	2.9%
10-year (2014-2023) Avg	8.8%	21.4%	43.2%	23.5%	3.2%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Table 3: Pasture Growth Conditions as of June 25, 2024

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
South	7.0%	30.3%	57.5%	5.3%
Central	3.0%	26.4%	70.7%	0.0%
North East	2.2%	19.4%	67.1%	11.3%
North West	0.0%	18.0%	52.3%	29.7%
Peace	4.3%	23.7%	58.7%	13.3%
Alberta	4.0%	25.7%	63.0%	7.3%
5-year (2019-2023) Avg	14.9%	29.3%	47.5%	8.3%
10-year (2014-2023) Avg	14.3%	25.9%	48.4%	11.5%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

On average, pasture and tame hay ratings are strong due to growing season rains and recent warm weather. The south west portion of the South Region is in need of moisture to aid forage growth. Pasture conditions mostly decreased around the province but by no more than 10 per cent and are still rated above their 5- and 10-year average (see Table 3). Currently, pasture (last week's condition) is rated 70 (75) per cent good to excellent provincially, 63 (68) per cent good to excellent in the South, 71 (80) per cent good to excellent in the Central Region, 78 (77) per cent good to excellent in the North East, 82 (84) per cent good to excellent in the North West and 72 (70) per cent good to excellent in the Peace. Tame hay (last week's condition) is rated as 71 (76) per cent good to excellent provincially, 64 (69) per cent good to excellent in the South, 65 (81) per cent good to excellent in the Central Region, 73 (70) per cent good to excellent in the North East, 83 (85) per cent good to excellent in the North West and 72 (69) per cent good to excellent in the Peace.

Regional Assessments:

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

- Early seeded canola and mustard are starting to bolt and wheat and barley are well into stem elongation. Most crops are progressing well with recent warmth but could still use more rain.
- The South Region experienced scattered showers, winds and some hail damage over the last week. Most areas have adequate soil moisture though some areas have top soil that is struggling. Currently, surface soil (sub-surface soil) moisture is rated as 53 (51) per cent good to excellent.
- Some hay cutting has started, and the rest should begin soon. Even though pasture and tame hay conditions slightly decreased since last week, conditions are still looking good compared to the historical averages.
- Insects are out now with recent heat and areas in the north west part of the region reported re-seeding due to gopher and worm damage.

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

- While the warm weather was good for crop development, minimal rain and high winds caused many areas to have declining moisture conditions. Currently, surface soil (sub-surface soil) moisture is rated as 60 (29) per cent good to excellent.
- Frost last week hurt some canola plants but overall, there was minor damage. There have been some reports of some flea beetle, cutworm, and gopher damage.
- Haying and silaging has started, some fields are a little behind normal condition, but most are average. Tame hay (5-year average) is rated 65 (66) per cent good to excellent.

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

- A touch of frost last week hurt canola and peas but most damage is minimal. Low areas had more of an impact.
- Producers were able to catch up on crop spraying this week as winds were minimal.
- Heat has helped crops progress, but crop development is highly variable. On average, major cereals are slightly behind the 5-year average and are in late tillering.
- Moisture levels are inconsistent around the region with some areas having standing water and others needing more rain.
- Forages are progressing well, but no hay has been cut yet.

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

- Reports of canola damage from insects; cutworms and flea beetles.
- The recent heat has helped crop progress and major crop staging is only marginally behind the 5-year average and are in late tillering.
- While there are still areas that went unseeded due to standing water, south western parts of the region still need more rain.
- Forages are developing well and there have been no reports of cutting hay yet.

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

- Consistent mid 20-degree days have helped crops progress and they are now ahead of the 5-year average and are entering stem elongation.
- Precipitation this week ranged from 4-22 mm. Sub-surface soil moisture (5-year average) is rated 85 (70) per cent good to excellent.
- Tame hay conditions (5-year average) are rated 72 (57) per cent good to excellent.

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