

Alberta Crop Report

Crop conditions as of September 24, 2024

All regions across the province received precipitation which, while expected to improve soil moisture, delayed harvest progress over the past week. Harvest of pulse crops is nearing completion, while the harvest of spring wheat and barley are the current focus for most producers. Recent rains have reportedly lowered the quality expectations of unharvested cereal crops. Harvest of canola is progressing as weather permits, with producers finding themselves waiting for their crop to dry.

Despite ongoing weather delays, harvest progress continues to exceed the long-term averages for this week in all regions. Provincial harvest progress for major crops progressed to 74 per cent, an increase of 11 per cent over last week. Weekly provincial progress for major crops was 8 per cent for spring wheat, 8 per cent for barley, 13 per cent for oats, 18 per cent for canola, and 1 per cent for dry peas. The greatest harvest progress was made in the North West and Peace Regions, with slower progress reported in the South, Central and North East Regions.

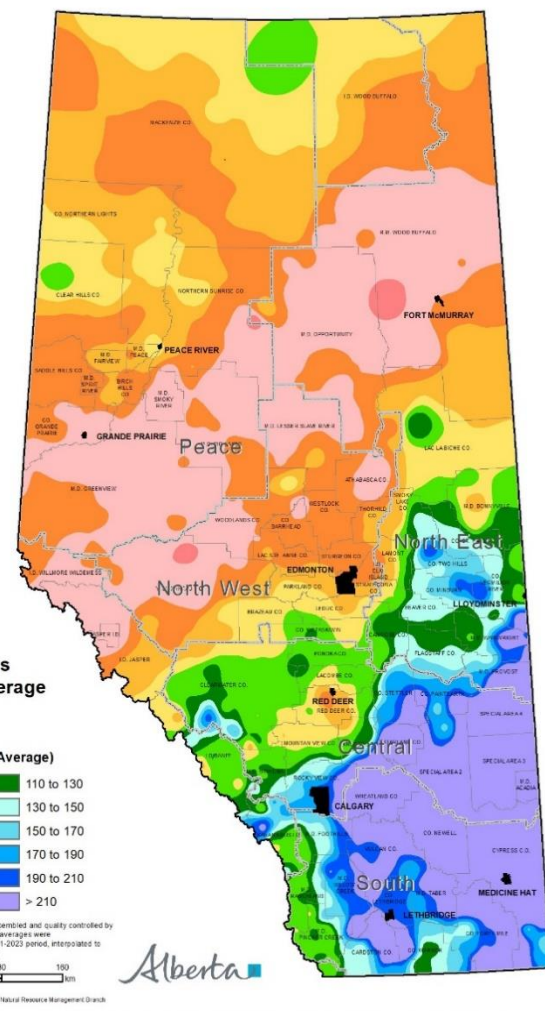
Table 1: Estimate of Crop Harvest as of September 24, 2024

	Per Cent of Crops Combined					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat *	91.3%	92.9%	80.9%	83.1%	80.4%	86.5%
Durum	91.9%	100.0%	-	-	-	93.1%
Barley *	95.7%	93.7%	67.2%	84.4%	74.5%	86.7%
Oats *	94.8%	84.4%	54.0%	73.5%	65.6%	68.6%
Canola *	64.7%	58.2%	33.0%	44.9%	50.5%	48.5%
Dry Peas *	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	98.7%	99.8%
Lentils	94.7%	97.8%	-	-	-	95.3%
Chickpeas	79.5%	100.0%	-	-	-	81.1%
Mustard	88.5%	78.7%	-	-	-	86.4%
Flax	37.8%	69.6%	0.0%	-	-	33.6%
Potatoes	15.0%	45.8%	-	49.2%	-	17.3%
Major Crops(*), September 24	86.8%	82.6%	59.5%	67.8%	67.1%	73.5%
All Crops, September 24	85.7%	83.2%	59.4%	67.9%	67.1%	74.5%
5-Year All Crops (2019-2023) Avg	84.6%	60.6%	53.2%	40.8%	43.8%	61.7%
10-Year All Crops(2014-2023) Avg	78.6%	48.8%	44.0%	33.5%	41.7%	53.9%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Provincial crop quality updates for this week continue to indicate that a smaller proportion than average of the harvested crop is expected to be graded as the highest quality. The proportion of the provincial crop estimated by grade (5-year average) for hard red spring wheat is 51 (55) per cent 1 C.W., 34 (37) per cent 2 C.W., and 11 (7) per cent 3 C.W.; for durum wheat is 42 (60) per cent 1 C.W., 29 (29) per cent 2 C.W., and 15 (8) per cent 3 C.W.; for barley 26 (32) per cent Malt, 46 (55) per cent 1 C.W., an 21 (12) 2 C.W.; for oats 32 (37) per cent 1 C.W., 40 (25) per cent 2 C.W., and 26 (37) per cent 3 C.W.; for canola 76 (90) per cent 1 Can., 14 (8) per cent 2 Can., and 7 (2) per cent 3 Can.; and for dry peas 11 (27) per cent 1 Can., 73 (59) per cent 2 Can., and 16 (12) per cent 3 Can.

Most dryland yield estimates for major crops have declined slightly since last reported two weeks ago, with the exception of oats. Provincial yield estimates in bushels per acre for major crops changed by -0.3 for spring wheat, -2.1 for barley, +0.5 for oats, -0.9 for canola, and -1.5 for dry peas. These updates have resulted in the major crops provincial yield index to be estimated at 2.9 per cent below the 5-year average and 7.4 per cent below the 10-year average (see Table 2). This represents a change since the last yield estimate update of -2.0 per cent in the 5-year yield index and -1.9 per cent in the 10-year yield index.



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Table 2: Regional Dryland Yield Estimations as of September 24, 2024

	Estimated Dryland Yields (bushels/acre) and Indexes for Major Crops					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	41.8	44.6	44.1	53.1	48.7	45.4
Barley	55.6	51.3	62.7	68.3	59.8	57.5
Oats	53.6	58.7	70.5	80.5	62.5	68.7
Canola	27.9	28.0	33.8	37.0	32.4	31.9
Dry Peas	37.8	34.1	32.6	37.1	37.6	36.0
5-year Yield Index	119.0	81.4	87.9	102.8	102.3	97.1
10-year Yield Index	107.1	79.8	87.2	93.8	100.8	92.6

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Widespread precipitation across the province has improved surface soil moisture conditions (see Table 3). Provincial surface soil moisture is at 50 per cent rated as good to excellent, an increase of 3 per cent over last week. This rating is near the historical good to excellent soil moisture rating averages for this week, with a 5-year average of 49 per cent and a 10-year average of 56 per cent. Regional surface soil moisture ratings (weekly change) are 44 (+1) per cent in the South, 64 (+9) per cent in the Central, 50 (+3) per cent in the North East, 26 (+2) per cent in the North West and 61 (+2) per cent in the Peace.

Frequent precipitation events combined with lower temperatures have continued to recharge sub-surface moisture with provincial good to excellent ratings reaching 32 per cent, a 5 per cent increase over last week. Provincial sub-surface soil moisture ratings remain below average for this week with the 5-year average at 45 per cent and the 10-year average at 51 per cent for comparison. This week's regional sub-surface moisture good to excellent ratings (weekly change) are 36 (+11) per cent in the South, 22 (+4) per cent in the Central, 31 (+2) per cent in the North East, 22 (+3) per cent in the North West and 63 (+1) per cent in the Peace.

Table 3: Alberta Surface Soil Moisture Ratings as of September 24, 2024

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Excessive
South	15.3%	40.1%	36.8%	6.8%	0.9%
Central	13.5%	22.6%	59.8%	3.8%	0.4%
North East	15.1%	35.3%	44.8%	4.8%	0.0%
North West	23.3%	50.7%	24.0%	2.0%	0.0%
Peace	1.6%	37.6%	57.9%	2.8%	0.0%
Alberta	14.2%	35.1%	45.7%	4.6%	0.4%
5-year (2019-2023) Avg	21.4%	28.5%	37.6%	10.9%	1.6%
10-year (2014-2023) Avg	17.0%	25.3%	41.0%	15.1%	1.6%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Provincial pasture good to excellent growth conditions improved across the province to 34 per cent, an increase of 5 per cent. The improvement was mainly in the South, Central, and North East Regions, with ratings declining in the North West and Peace Regions. Provincial dryland hay yields (5-year average) are estimated at 1.5 (1.4) tons per acre for the first cut and 0.9 (1.1) tons per acre for the second cut. Provincial irrigated hay yields (5-year average) are only reported for the South Region and are estimated at 2.6 (2.2) tons per acre for the first cut, 2.2 (1.6) tons per acre for the second cut, and 0.5 (0.7) tons per acre for the third cut.

Regional Assessments:

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

- In the South Region, rain showers slowed the harvest earlier in the week, but warm weather followed which allowed progress to advance by 7 per cent since last week. Total harvest of major crops is at 87 per cent.
- The 5-year yield index indicates that yields are 119.0 per cent of their 5-year average across the South Region.
- Estimates indicate that approximately 76 per cent of hard red spring wheat, 65 per cent of durum wheat, and 67 per cent of oats are grading in the top two grades. Around 27 per cent of barley qualifies for Malt, while 36 per cent is grading as 1 C.W. For canola, 58 per cent is achieving a 1 Can., with 31 per cent grading as 2 Can.

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

- Light showers around the Central Region have delayed some combining, but progress of 10 per cent was seen over the week and the region is now 83 per cent complete harvest for major crops.
- The crop yield index estimates crop yields are averaging 81.4 per cent of the 5-year average.
- Nearly 90 per cent of hard red spring wheat, 100 per cent of durum wheat, and 58 per cent of oats are estimated to grade within the top two categories. For barley, 41 per cent is eligible for Malt and 36 per cent is grading as 1 C.W. Canola shows promising results, with 88 per cent grading as 1 Can., and 7 per cent as 2 Can.

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

- Harvest progressed 9 per cent in the North East Region, despite some wet conditions over the week, and is now 60 per cent complete. Dry pea harvest is complete, and spring cereals are making significant progress. Canola is 33 per cent combined and 38 per cent in the swath. More dry and warm weather will be conducive to these swaths drying.
- The crop yield index estimates that yields in the North East Region are 87.9 per cent of their 5-year average.
- Estimates indicate that 94 per cent of hard red spring wheat and 74 per cent of oats will grade in the top two grades. For barley, around 23 per cent is expected to grade as Malt, and 63 per cent as 1 C.W. Canola demonstrates strong quality, with 91 per cent expected to grade as 1 Can. and 5 per cent as 2 Can.

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

- In the North West Region, light to moderate showers delayed the harvest this week. Despite the delay, the harvest progressed by 18 per cent and is now 68 per cent complete for major crops. Spring wheat and barley are 83 and 84 per cent combined, respectively, while 45 per cent of canola is combined. Harvest of dry peas is complete in the North West.
- The 5-year yield index indicates that yields are 102.8 per cent of the 5-year average across the region.
- Estimates suggest that 74 per cent of hard red spring wheat and 67 per cent of oats are grading in the top two grades. For barley, 14 per cent is eligible for Malt, and 54 per cent is classified as 1 C.W. Canola quality stands at 75 per cent rated as 1 Can. and 9 per cent as 2 Can.

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

- Despite precipitation causing harvest delays in the Peace Region over the past week, the harvest has progressed by 17 per cent, reaching 67 per cent completion in the region. Dry peas are leading the harvest, with 99 per cent combined, followed by spring wheat at 80 per cent. Canola is 51 percent combined, with 33 percent still in the swath.
- The crop yield index estimates that yields in the Peace Region are 102.3 per cent of their 5-year average.
- Estimates indicate that about 81 per cent of hard red spring wheat and 88 per cent of oats are grading in the top two grades. Only 2 per cent of barley qualifies for Malt, while 74 per cent is grading as 1 C.W. For canola, 56 per cent is achieving a 1 Can. grade, with 25 per cent grading as 2 Can.

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