

Alberta Crop Report

Crop conditions as of July 9, 2024 (Abbreviated Report)

Warm temperatures have finally arrived in all regions of the province. Despite scattered rains occurring throughout the past week, the reduced amount of standing water in fields is providing a visual indication of an ongoing reduction in surface moisture. Soil moisture reserves remain varied across the province (see map). The warmer temperatures and dry conditions are ideal for haying, with significant progress being made in all regions over the past week. Fungicide applications have continued when temperatures cool, resulting in most spraying occurring throughout the evenings. Provincial major crop conditions remain above average for this week (see Table 1). Warmer than ideal evening and overnight temperatures are not providing crops with a break from the hot days, which could stress crops that have begun flowering over the last week. Slightly cooler temperatures and additional moisture in the weeks ahead would be beneficial as the spring crops progress through flowering and into seed development, and as hay fields begin regrowth after the first cut completes.

Table 1: Regional Major Crops Condition Ratings as of July 9, 2024

	Per Cent Rated in Good to Excellent Condition					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	78.8%	79.6%	77.6%	70.9%	83.8%	78.4%
Barley	78.7%	78.7%	66.5%	78.2%	83.1%	76.9%
Oats	81.1%	76.8%	65.3%	72.3%	82.6%	73.9%
Canola	69.9%	70.1%	66.7%	63.1%	66.3%	67.4%
Dry Peas	78.7%	83.5%	76.8%	73.2%	69.1%	77.4%
Major Crops, July 9	76.5%	76.7%	71.3%	69.1%	74.2%	74.0%
Major Crops, July 2	72.9%	81.6%	70.4%	68.0%	74.9%	74.0%
5-year (2019-2023) Avg	54.5%	69.8%	71.9%	55.4%	54.6%	62.5%
10-year (2014-2023) Avg	61.4%	66.3%	73.4%	61.2%	60.0%	65.4%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

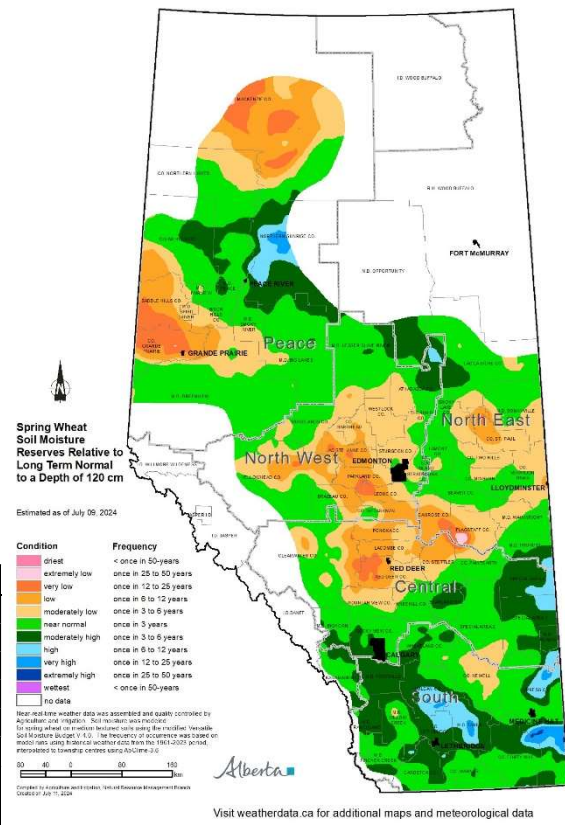
Major spring cereals continue to develop at a rate near historical averages. On average, spring wheat is reported as at the early stages of head emergence, barley is at the late stages of booting (i.e. head development within the stem) and oats are at the early stages of booting.

Table 2: Alberta Surface Soil Moisture Ratings as of July 9, 2024

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Excessive
South	5.6%	32.9%	55.1%	6.4%	0.0%
Central	8.3%	33.9%	54.3%	3.5%	0.0%
North East	3.6%	18.6%	65.5%	10.9%	1.3%
North West	7.3%	21.0%	40.7%	28.8%	2.2%
Peace	0.5%	11.2%	54.4%	29.5%	4.4%
Alberta	5.7%	26.9%	55.1%	11.3%	0.9%
5-year (2019-2023) Avg	14.0%	22.2%	41.8%	18.5%	3.5%
10-year (2014-2023) Avg	13.3%	22.2%	40.9%	20.4%	3.3%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Limited precipitation over the last week combined with warm air temperatures have led to a weekly decrease in surface moisture across all regions of the province. Provincial surface soil moisture good-to-excellent ratings (see Table 2) are reported as 66 per cent, above the 5-year average of 60 per cent and the 10-year average of 61 per cent. Regional surface soil moisture good-to-excellent ratings (change from last week) are reported at 62 (-7) per cent in the South Region, 58 (-15) per cent for the Central Region, 76 (-6) per cent for the North East Region, 70 (-7) per cent for the North West Region, and 84 (-5) per cent for the Peace Region (See Figure 1).



Sub-surface soil moisture ratings over the last week have also declined across the province. Provincial sub-surface moisture good-to-excellent ratings were reported as 54 per cent, which is below the 5-year average of 55 per cent and the 10-year average of 58 per cent. Regional sub-surface soil moisture good-to-excellent ratings (change from last week) are reported as 55 (-10) per cent in the South Region, 29 (-17) per cent for the Central Region, 65 (-1) per cent for the North East Region, 67 (-1) per cent for the North West Region, and 87 (-4) per cent for the Peace Region (See Figure 1).

Warm temperatures have led to minimal pasture growth over the past week with only the Peace Region reporting an improvement in conditions. Provincial good-to-excellent pasture growth conditions (see Table 3) are 67 per cent, a 7 per cent decrease over last week while still ahead of the 5-year average of 52 per cent and 10-year average of 56 per cent. Regional pasture good-to-excellent growth conditions (change from last week) are reported as 65 (0) per cent for the South Region, 59 (-18) per cent for the Central Region, 77 (-3) per cent for the North East Region, 80 (-3) per cent for the North West Region, and 75 (+2) per cent for the Peace Region (See Figure 1).

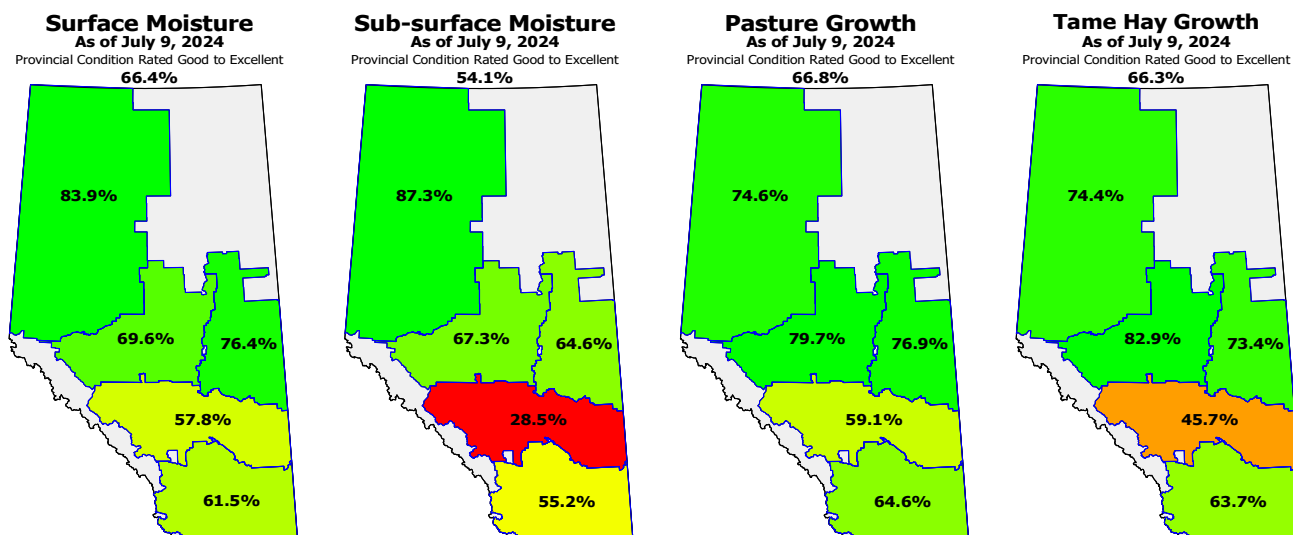
Table 3: Pasture Growth Conditions as of July 9, 2024

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
South	8.1%	27.3%	51.1%	13.5%
Central	6.1%	34.8%	59.1%	0.0%
North East	2.2%	20.9%	67.7%	9.3%
North West	1.1%	19.2%	49.1%	30.7%
Peace	4.3%	21.1%	61.6%	13.0%
Alberta	5.6%	27.6%	56.9%	9.9%
5-year (2019-2023) Avg	17.5%	30.3%	43.7%	8.5%
10-year (2014-2023) Avg	17.2%	26.6%	44.8%	11.5%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Tame hay growth conditions have also slowed under the recent heat with a provincial good-to-excellent rating of 66 per cent which, while 8 per cent lower than last week, is still higher than the 5-year average of 57 per cent for this week. Regional tame hay growth conditions (change from last week) are reported as 64 (+1) per cent for the South Region, 46 (-29) per cent for the Central Region, 73 (-2) per cent for the North East Region, 83 (-1) per cent for the North West Region, and 74 (+2) per cent for the Peace Region (See Figure 1).

Figure 1: Regional Good to Excellent Condition Maps, July 9, 2024



Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Regional Assessments:

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

- The warm weather was beneficial for crop development this week. Spring wheat, barley and oats are all reported to be mainly at the early stages of head emergence.
- Crop conditions rated as good to excellent are 77 per cent for major crops. Specifically, regional major crops are currently rated 1 per cent poor, 22 per cent fair, 60 per cent good and 17 per cent excellent.
- Gophers and grasshoppers have caused damage in certain areas, primarily affecting canola fields.
- Hay operation is well underway with significant progress over the past week. Conditions of tame hay are reported as 7 per cent poor, 30 per cent fair, 51 per cent good, and 13 per cent excellent.

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

- Producers have been spraying fungicide during cooler temperature windows over the past week, and crop development is progressing smoothly due to the recent heat. Spring cereal crop development ranges from early booting to head emergence.
- Central major crop conditions is matching the South Region with good to excellent ratings reported at 77 per cent. Detailed regional ratings are 1 per cent poor, 22 per cent fair, 66 per cent good and 11 per cent excellent.
- Crops are generally progressing well. Canola in certain fields is facing challenges due to increasing concerns about gopher infestations.
- Warmer temperatures are ideal for haying, leading to substantial progress over the past week. Tame hay conditions are reported as 7 per cent poor, 47 per cent fair, 42 per cent good, and 4 per cent excellent.

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

- Fungicide applications are well underway over the past week. Spring wheat, barley, and oats are mostly reported to be in the late stages of booting.
- Major crops reported as in good to excellent condition are 71 per cent for major crops, based on a regional rating of 3 per cent poor, 26 per cent fair, 66 per cent good and 5 per cent excellent
- Warmer temperatures are optimal for haying, and considerable progress has been achieved over the past week. Conditions of tame hay are reported as 2 per cent poor, 24 per cent fair, 64 per cent good, and 9 per cent excellent.

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

- Crops are now growing rapidly with warmer temperatures, and fungicide applications are underway. Spring cereals are mostly at the head emergence stage of development.
- The proportion of major crops rated in good to excellent condition is at 69 per cent, with regional ratings at 0 per cent poor, 30 per cent fair, 54 per cent good and 15 per cent excellent.
- The hay operation is progressing smoothly and is well underway. Tame hay conditions are reported as 1 per cent poor, 15 per cent fair, 48 per cent good, and 35 per cent excellent.

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

- Spring wheat, barley, and oats are mostly reported to be in the late stages of booting.
- Good to excellent ratings for major crops are reported at 74 per cent, with current ratings of 5 per cent poor, 21 per cent fair, 61 per cent good and 13 per cent excellent.
- Hay operation is well underway, and warmer temperatures are perfect for haying. Tame hay conditions are reported as 4 per cent poor, 21 per cent fair, 63 per cent good, and 12 per cent excellent.

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