

Alberta Crop Report

Crop conditions as of August 20, 2024 (Abbreviated Report)

Harvest has progressed around the province and is at 8 per cent complete for major crops, up 6 per cent from last week. This is above the 10-year average of 5 per cent and slightly below the 5-year average. Harvest of major crops is most advanced in the South at 15 per cent complete (behind the 5-year average of 24 per cent), followed by the Central Region with 12 per cent complete (5-year average of 7 per cent) while the North West, North East and Peace Region all have less than 3 per cent complete (all near their historical average). Among major crops, harvest progress is furthest along for dry peas with 47 per cent complete provincially, followed by barley with 12 per cent.

Major cereals are near the end of dough development and are starting to ripen for most of the province. This is only slightly ahead of the 5-year average. Major crops are rated 40 per cent good to excellent, below the 5- and 10-year average of 55 and 57 per cent, respectively. Crop conditions are rated the highest in the Peace (54 per cent good to excellent) and the South (52 per cent good to excellent) even though the South declined since last week. Conditions rated good to excellent in the Central (21 per cent good to excellent), North West (28 per cent good to excellent) and the Peace are stable since last week. The North East (44 per cent good to excellent) declined by 6 per cent.

Table 1: Harvest Progress (Major Crops) as of August 20, 2024

	Estimated Per Cent of Major Crops Combined					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat *	6.6%	10.0%	1.0%	0.7%	2.4%	4.7%
Barley *	19.1%	15.4%	2.0%	2.6%	3.6%	11.7%
Oats *	5.3%	7.4%	0.0%	0.1%	2.3%	2.1%
Canola *	1.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.2%
Dry Peas *	53.4%	60.8%	47.6%	20.8%	22.8%	46.7%
Major Crops (*) August 20	14.5%	11.8%	3.1%	1.5%	3.4%	7.7%
Major Crops (*), August 13	5.4%	2.7%	0.1%	0.2%	2.1%	2.3%
5-year (2019-2023) Avg	24.2%	6.6%	1.6%	2.2%	1.3%	8.1%
10-year (2014-2023) Avg	15.5%	2.4%	0.8%	0.8%	1.4%	4.8%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Precipitation averaged less than 2 mm in eastern areas of the South and Central Region and ranged between 3 and 30 mm in the rest. Areas in the Peace and majority of the North West received between 20 and 40 mm. A small strip of the Peace Region received more than 50 mm. Precipitation in the North East Region ranged from 3 mm to 50 mm, favoring the eastern half of the region. Referencing the map on the right side of the page, the majority of moderately high to very high (accumulation relative to long term normal) moisture has been received in the North West and Peace Region. Most of the North East, Central and South have received between low and near normal precipitation. Surface soil moisture was stable provincially and saw small declines in the South, North West, and North East, but increased in the Central and Peace Region by 2 and 6 per cent, respectively. Provincial surface soil moisture (last week's rating) is rated at 27 (39) per cent poor, 41 (29) per cent fair, 31 (31) per cent good, 2 (2) per cent excellent and 0 (0) per cent excessive (see Table 2). Sub-surface soil moisture rated good to excellent increased slightly in all regions except the North East. Sub-surface soil moisture for the province (last week's rating) was rated 31 (32) per cent poor, 42 (43) per cent fair, 26 (24) per cent good, 1 (1) per cent excellent and 0 (0) per cent excessive (see Figure 1).

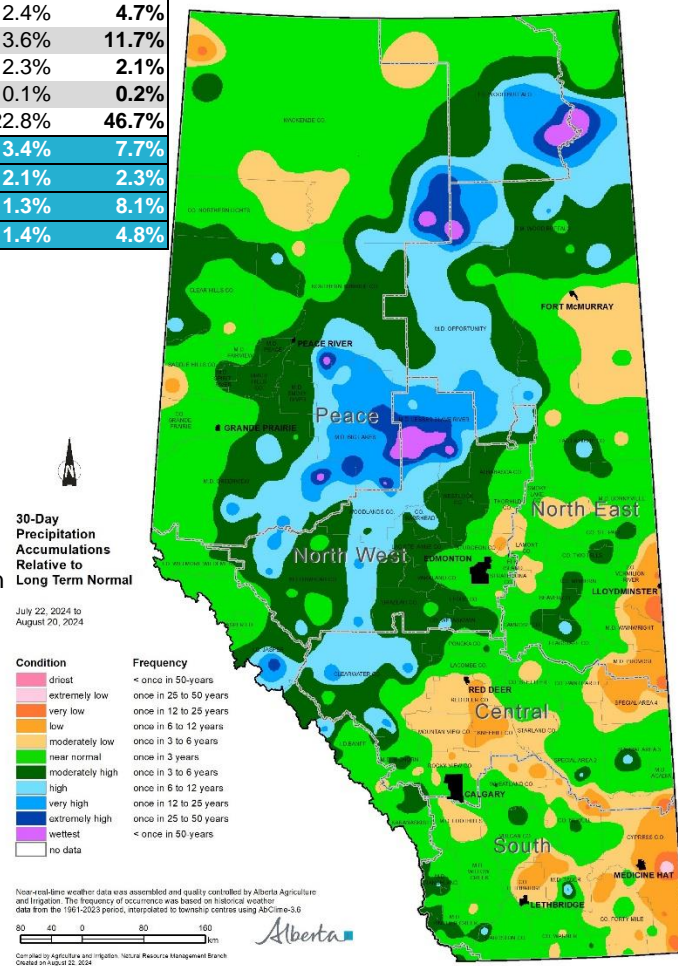


Figure 1: Surface and Sub-Surface Soil Moisture Conditions, August 13 and 20, 2024

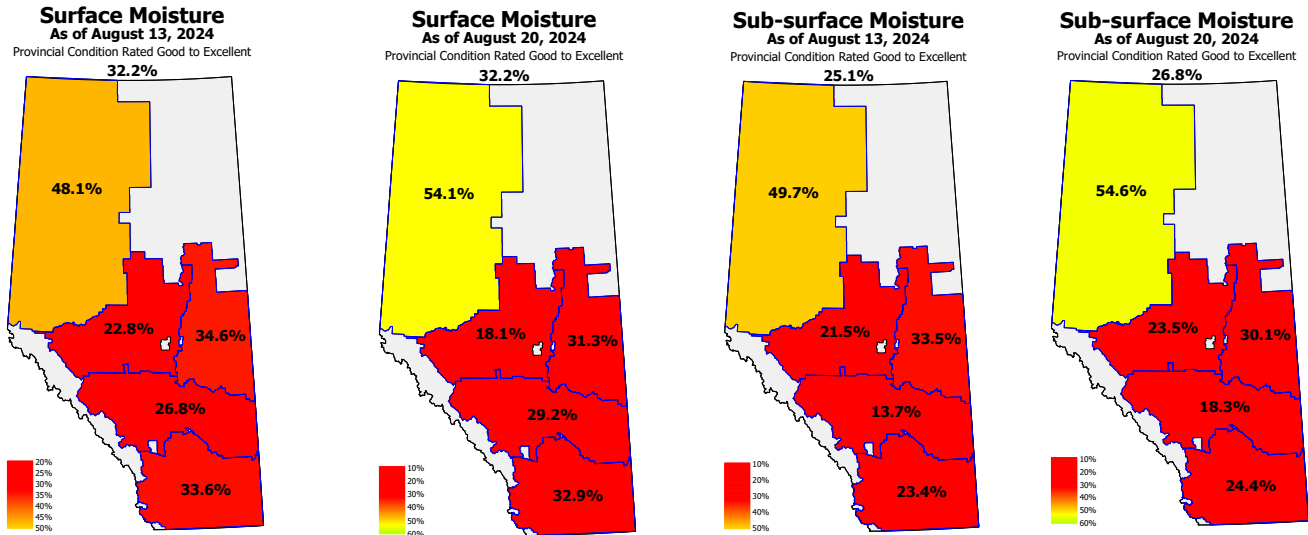


Table 2: Alberta Surface Soil Moisture Ratings as of August 20, 2024

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Excessive
South	24.2%	42.9%	32.2%	0.7%	0.0%
Central	38.6%	32.2%	28.6%	0.6%	0.0%
North East	23.4%	45.3%	30.5%	0.8%	0.0%
North West	29.4%	52.4%	16.4%	1.8%	0.0%
Peace	7.5%	38.3%	45.9%	8.2%	0.0%
Alberta	26.9%	40.9%	30.5%	1.6%	0.0%
5-year (2019-2023) Avg	22.6%	27.1%	34.2%	12.9%	3.2%
10-year (2014-2023) Avg	19.7%	26.6%	37.0%	13.9%	2.8%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Pasture growth conditions decreased from 31 per cent good to excellent to 27 per cent over the last week as heat continued to stress growth. However, light showers in the Peace Region caused pasture conditions to increase by one per cent and are currently the highest rated in the province at 59 per cent good to excellent. Many pastures remain in need of moisture to encourage fall growth to extend grazing. Regional conditions are currently rated (5-year average) as 34 (28) per cent good to excellent in the South, 13 (49) per cent good to excellent in the Central Region, 27 (54) per cent good to excellent in the North East, 22 (63) per cent good to excellent in the North West and 59 (49) per cent good to excellent in the Peace.

Table 3: Tame Hay Conditions as of August 20, 2024

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
South	36.9%	34.8%	28.2%	0.0%
Central	39.5%	49.8%	10.7%	0.0%
North East	43.0%	36.6%	20.4%	0.0%
North West	45.8%	28.5%	25.7%	0.0%
Peace	8.0%	33.7%	51.1%	7.2%
Alberta	35.1%	37.6%	26.0%	1.3%
5-year (2019-2023) Avg	21.3%	27.9%	41.7%	9.1%
10-year (2014-2023) Avg	21.2%	29.4%	40.1%	9.3%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Tame hay growth ratings dropped 2 per cent to 27 per cent good to excellent (see Table 3). Regionally, tame hay conditions (5-year average) are rated as 28 (31) per cent good to excellent in the South, 11 (55) per cent good to excellent in the Central Region, 20 (52) per cent good to excellent in the North East, 26 (67) per cent good to excellent in the North West and 58 (48) per cent good to excellent in the Peace. Reports around the province show that second cut growth has been minimal and many hay crops flowered at only 6-8 inches tall. Some areas are also still reporting cutting of poor yielding cereal crops to be used as a feed source.

Regional Assessments:

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

- More swathing is being done due to green and second growth from spotty rains, but many crops are maturing quickly.
- Crop yields are reported to have been impacted by heat and early August hail. While some crops look okay in the field there are concerns about shriveling kernels, weight loss and possible consequent grade loss.
- Scattered showers have paused combining but are not leaving moisture. There were also a few reports of hail around the region. Surface (sub-surface) soil moisture is rated 24 (29) per cent poor, 43 (46) per cent fair, 32 (24) per cent good, 1 (1) per cent excellent and 0 (0) per cent excessive.
- Pasture and tame hay growth has been halted from heat, but showers in some areas may encourage late summer/fall regrowth.

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

- While harvest is 12 per cent complete and ahead of the historical averages, recent rain showers have slowed down harvest. Wheat and barley are currently being desiccated. Heavy dew overnight and high humidity have made it hard for crops to dry down.
- Some areas reported more than 25 mm of moisture while some received none. This was enough to increase surface soil moisture and sub-surface soil moisture by 2 and 5 per cent, respectively. Some areas also reported hail. Surface (sub-surface) soil moisture is rated 39 (49) per cent poor, 32 (33) per cent fair, 29 (17) per cent good, 1 (1) per cent excellent and 0 (0) per cent excessive.
- Rain has given pasture and harvest an extra boost to continue growing as producers await a second cut.

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

- Harvest is 3 per cent complete in the North East but concerns of kernels not filling and thin canola are common. Canola staging is difficult as some are reflowering in the cooler weather. Most harvest progress is from dry peas as they are 48 per cent combined in the region.
- Some rain, mid-temperature days and smoke over the past week have assisted forage and crop growth. Producers are still taking some crops for silage due to lasting effects of heat.
- Surface (sub-surface) soil moisture is rated 23 (23) per cent poor, 45 (47) per cent fair, 31 (30) per cent good, 1 (0) per cent excellent and 0 (0) per cent excessive.

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

- Dry pea harvest is 21 per cent complete, while other crops are being desiccated and there are reports that canola is reflowering.
- Scattered showers of up to 50 mm and smoky weather has delayed crop harvest as only 2 per cent of the North West Region has been combined. One area reported heavy hail damage as well. Surface (sub-surface) soil moisture is rated 29 (30) per cent poor, 52 (47) per cent fair, 16 (23) per cent good, 2 (1) per cent excellent and 0 (0) per cent excessive.
- Second cut tame hay has struggled to grow in recent heat and was reported to flower at only 6-8 inches tall.

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

- Overall harvest in the Peace Region is 3 per cent complete, with progress mostly coming from dry peas which are 23 per cent combined.
- Surface soil moisture and sub-surface soil moisture is rated highest among the province and improved over the past week due to showers around the region. Surface (sub-surface) soil moisture is rated 8 (5) per cent poor, 38 (41) per cent fair, 46 (48) per cent good, 8 (6) per cent excellent and 0 (0) per cent excessive.

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