

Alberta Crop Report

Crop conditions as of October 8, 2024

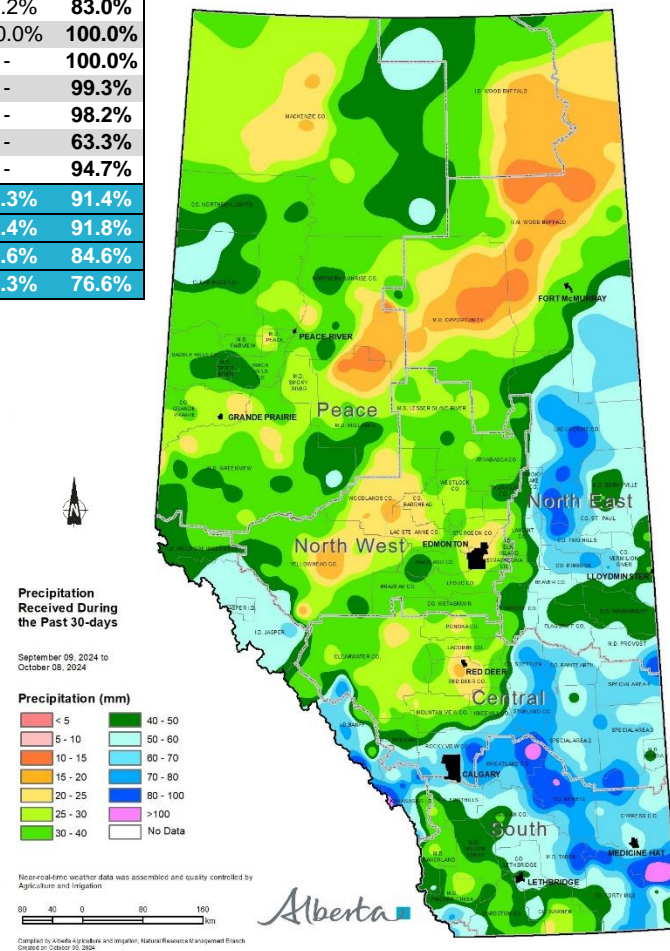
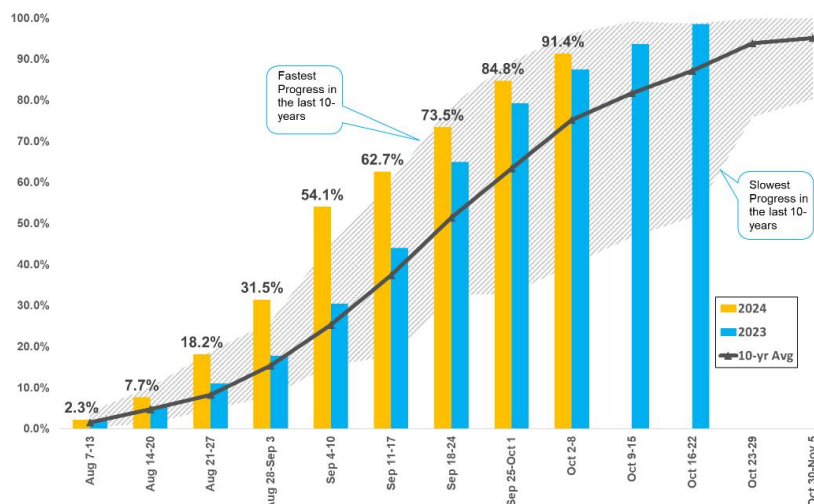
Compared to the previous week, which saw scattered showers across most the province, especially in the North West, North East and Peace, this week's light rains focused on the edge of the North West Region and the Peace Region though farmers were still able to significantly progress combining. Very few areas in these regions received above 10 mm. As well, most of the North East, Central and South Region received less than 1 mm of rain and combining progressed as normal. Since last week, provincial harvest progressed 7 per cent to 91 per cent combined of major crops, and all crop harvest is at 92 per cent complete. The most harvest progress is in the South with 97 per cent complete combining of all crops followed by the Central at 96 per cent complete. The Peace Region has the most left to combine as farmers are only 84 per cent complete, followed by the North East at 87 per cent and the North West at 89 per cent complete. All regions are ahead of their 5-year average combining progress (See Table 1). Provincially, durum, winter wheat, fall rye, dry peas, lentils, chickpeas, and mustard harvest are virtually complete. Many other crops are near completion as well. Crops such as oats, mixed grain, canola, flax, dry beans and sugar beets still have more than 10 per cent left to combine. While combining of canola has the most left to combine (of major crops), the majority of crop left is currently swathed.

Table 1: Estimate of Crop Harvest as of October 8, 2024

	Per Cent of Crops Combined					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat *	97.9%	98.1%	94.6%	94.4%	92.4%	96.0%
Durum	98.5%	100.0%	-	-	-	98.7%
Barley *	99.6%	98.4%	90.1%	95.3%	88.2%	95.9%
Oats *	99.3%	96.5%	79.5%	90.2%	83.0%	86.8%
Canola *	93.9%	91.2%	77.4%	80.5%	75.2%	83.0%
Dry Peas *	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Lentils	100.0%	100.0%	-	-	-	100.0%
Chickpeas	99.2%	100.0%	-	-	-	99.3%
Mustard	99.9%	92.2%	-	-	-	98.2%
Flax	72.7%	100.0%	0.0%	-	-	63.3%
Potatoes	95.0%	87.5%	-	98.1%	-	94.7%
Major Crops (*), October 8	97.6%	96.1%	86.8%	88.9%	84.3%	91.4%
All Crops, October 8	97.0%	96.2%	86.5%	88.9%	84.4%	91.8%
5-year All Crops (2019-2023) Avg	95.8%	82.7%	80.9%	72.7%	78.6%	84.6%
10-year All Crops (2014-2023) Avg	92.0%	73.2%	69.6%	61.0%	73.3%	76.6%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Figure 1: Harvest Progress of Major Crops as of October 8, 2024



While minimal precipitation was seen over the past week, the majority of the province has experienced frost so far this harvest season. Hard frosts were recorded across most of the northern half of the Peace Region and through a significant portion of the Southern and Central Regions. However, most of the harvest season has been quite warm. Cooler temperatures over the last week and light rain improved surface soil moisture conditions in all regions, except the North East. This week, surface soil moisture rated good to excellent (change since last week) is rated 46 per cent (+2) in the South, 64 per cent (+4) in the Central Region, 39 per cent (-8) in the North East, 36 per cent (+2) in the North West, and 91 per cent (+24) in the Peace. Overall, provincial surface soil moisture is rated (5-year average) 13 (23) per cent poor, 33 (31) per cent fair, 49 (35) per cent good, 5 (10) per cent excellent, 0 (1) per cent excessive (See Table 2). Regional sub-surface soil moisture rated good to excellent (change since last week) is rated 30 per cent (-18) in the South, 18 per cent (-1) in the Central Region, 23 per cent (-8) in the North East, 25 per cent (+1) in the North West and 93 per cent (+24) in the Peace. Overall, provincial sub-surface soil moisture is rated (5-year average) 27 (27) per cent poor, 42 (30) per cent fair, 28 (32) per cent good, 4 (11) per cent excellent, 0 (1) per cent excessive.

As more crop is combined, estimated quality ratings continue to be updated and are more accurate since first being projected in early August. As of October 8, estimates indicate 49 per cent of hard red spring is rated 1 C.W. (less than the 5-year average of 54 per cent, 34 per cent is rating 2 C.W. (less than the 5-year average of 37 per cent), and 5 per cent is rating Can Fd (more than the 5-year average of 2 per cent). As for durum, 41 per cent (5-year average of 57 per cent) is rating 1 C.W., 31 (29) per cent is rating 2 C.W. and 14 per cent (10) is rating 3 C.W. For barley, 26 (32) per cent is rating malt quality, and 45 (56) per cent is rating 1 C.W. Reports indicate 32 (33) per cent of oats are rating 1 C.W. and 38 (26) per cent are rating 2 C.W. For canola, 74 (89) per cent is rating 1 Can. and 17 (9) per cent is rating 2 Can. Lastly, 11 (26) per cent of dry peas are rating 1 Can. and 73 (58) per cent are rating 2 Can.

Table 2: Alberta Surface Soil Moisture Ratings as of October 8, 2024

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Excessive
South	14.6%	39.5%	42.9%	2.9%	0.0%
Central	14.5%	20.9%	60.7%	3.5%	0.4%
North East	10.6%	50.5%	38.8%	0.0%	0.0%
North West	22.1%	41.3%	26.1%	9.9%	0.4%
Peace	0.8%	7.6%	75.2%	15.4%	0.9%
Alberta	13.2%	33.1%	48.8%	4.6%	0.2%
5-year (2019-2023) Avg	23.2%	30.7%	35.4%	9.6%	1.0%
10-year (2014-2023) Avg	15.9%	25.6%	41.1%	16.1%	1.3%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

After slowly declining, since the first estimate in the beginning of August, the 5-year dryland yield index for major crops slightly increased from the last report and is currently at 98 (See Table 3). This implies that provincially, major crop yields may only be 2 per cent below their 5-year average yield. The South Region remains having the highest index as yields are expected to be 21.9 per cent above their 5-year average yield. The North West and Peace Region are expected to yield 4 and 2 per cent above their 5-year average, respectively. Both Central (19 per cent below) and the North East (11 per cent below) are expected to be below their 5-year average. Looking at major crops, the highest yield estimates for spring wheat (53.2 bu/ac), barley (69.1 bu/ac), oats (80.6 bu/ac) and canola (37.2 bu/ac) are all found in the North West Region. The highest dry pea yield (38.3 bu/ac) is found in the Peace Region.

Table 3: Regional Dryland Yield Estimations as of October 8, 2024

	Estimated Dryland Yield (bushels/acre) and Index for Major Crops					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	43.0	44.4	44.4	53.2	48.5	45.7
Barley	56.7	51.3	61.8	69.1	59.8	57.8
Oats	53.4	57.4	71.0	80.6	61.0	68.3
Canola	29.1	27.5	34.7	37.2	32.3	32.2
Dry Peas	36.7	34.1	35.1	37.1	38.3	36.2
5-year Yield Index	121.9	80.9	89.3	103.5	102.2	98.0
10-year Yield Index	109.7	79.3	88.5	94.3	100.7	93.5

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Pasture growth conditions were quite stable around the province from last week with the North East seeing the biggest change (a 7 per cent decrease). Regionally, pasture growth conditions are rated as (5-year average) 51 (26) per cent good to excellent in the South, 27 (35) per cent good to excellent in the Central Region, 18 (24) per cent good to excellent in the North East, 19 (35) per cent good to excellent in the North West and 56 (41) per cent good to excellent in the Peace.

Regional Assessments:

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

- Combining is 97 per cent complete in the South, ahead of the 5-year average of 96 per cent. Crops with the most left to combine include canola at 94 per cent complete and flax at 73 per cent combined.
- Any precipitation was dried up by heavy winds. Sub-surface soil moisture (5-year average) is rated as 21 (44) per cent poor, 49 (38) per cent fair, 27 (18) per cent good, 3 (1) per cent excellent and 0 (0) per cent excessive.
- Some fall chemical application is happening as many farmers are done combining.

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

- All crop harvest is 96 per cent complete, ahead of the 5-year average of 83 per cent. Mixed grains (79 per cent complete), potatoes (88 per cent complete) and canola (91 per cent complete) have the most left to combine.
- Some parts of the region voiced concerns of lightweight grain while other areas remain content with quality ratings.
- While weather has been supportive of combining, some areas are experiencing heavy dew in the mornings and onsetting dew in the evenings. Central Region sub-surface soil moisture is currently rated (5-year average) as 42 (25) per cent poor, 39 (32) per cent fair, 16 (40) per cent good, 2 (4) per cent excellent, and 1 (0) per cent excessive.

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

- All crop harvest is 87 per cent complete, ahead of the 5-year average of 81 per cent. Canola (77 per cent complete) and oats (80 per cent complete) have the most left to combine.
- Some later harvested wheat is starting to show grade loss and regrowth in canola is slowing harvest and increasing green count.
- Sub-surface soil moisture is currently rated (5-year average) as 24 (19) per cent poor, 53 (23) per cent fair, 23 (33) per cent good, 0 (24) per cent excellent, and 0 (1) per cent excessive.

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

- Combining is 89 per cent complete, ahead of the 5-year average of 73 per cent. Canola (81 per cent complete) and mixed grains (89 per cent complete) have the most left to combine. Many are waiting for canola to dry down or freeze as it is still tough and green.
- Many cattle are still on pasture due to mild weather and late season rain, some drier areas are moving cattle to harvested fields.
- While there has been favourable combining weather around most of the region there was some precipitation in the north western part of the region which required multiple days or corresponding warm weather to initiate harvest again. Sub-surface soil moisture is currently rated (5-year average) as 32 (6) per cent poor, 44 (19) per cent fair, 20 (35) per cent good, 4 (36) per cent excellent, and 0 (5) per cent excessive.

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

- Rain of up to 25 mm slowed harvest progress in some areas and was also accompanied by hail and frost in some parts of the Region. Combining of all crops in the Peace is 84 per cent complete, behind the 5-year average of 79 per cent. Canola (75 per cent complete) and oats (83 per cent complete) have the most left to combine.
- Sub-surface soil moisture is currently rated (5-year average) as 0 (18) per cent poor, 7 (24) per cent fair, 77 (43) per cent good, 16 (14) per cent excellent, and 0 (1) per cent excessive.

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