

Alberta Crop Report



Crop Conditions as of July 2, 2019

Weather conditions over the past week ranged from cool days with light rainfall to some hot days bringing thunder showers and hail storms. Significant rainfall was recorded in the relatively wet areas of the province mainly in the southern part of the Peace region, most of the North West, portions of the North East as well as the western part of the Central Region since the last report on June 25th. Small parts of the dry areas in the eastern portion of the Central and Southern Regions received sizable rainfall of 30 to 50 mm. On the other hand precipitation was not consistent throughout the area and moisture is still needed to support the areas overall crop health.

Currently, soil moisture reserves under Spring wheat varied from near normal to very high in the southern corner of the Peace region as well as in the Northern and Central regions along the southern Foothills. The Southern and Peace region varied from moderately low to isolated pockets of very to extremely low. Across the province, surface soil moisture ratings are 8 per cent poor, 21 fair, 59 good, with 10 excellent and 2 estimated as excessive. Sub-surface soil moisture ratings are 12 per cent poor, 27 fair, 52 good, 9 excellent and none rated as excessive (see map on page 2)

For the most part, the moisture has improved crop growth and potential. Many dry areas could use more while wet stretches are showing signs of yellowing and a buildup of moisture. Crop conditions rated as good to excellent are lower in the Peace region at 52 and the South at 54 as compared to the provincial 5 year average of 68 per cent. The conditions in the North West are 88, followed by the North East at 82 and the Central at 80 per cent, which all surpass that same 5 year average (See Table 1).

Table 1: Regional Crop Condition Ratings as of July 2, 2019

	Per cent rated in Good to Excellent Condition					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat*	54.5%	79.5%	84.6%	92.3%	55.4%	73.3%
Durum Wheat	39.6%	20.8%	---	---	---	37.1%
Winter Wheat	46.4%	39.8%	90.0%	---	---	46.2%
Barley*	60.0%	86.5%	76.5%	87.8 %	65.7%	75.2%
Oats*	62.6%	71.7%	72.9%	89.0%	60.6%	74.0%
Fall Rye	80.2%	63.7%	90.0%	---	---	69.8%
Spring Triticale	45.0%	47.4%	---	---	---	47.0%
Canola*	59.3%	85.2%	79.6%	84.3%	46.0%	71.4%
Dry Peas*	57.1%	75.5%	87.9%	91.2%	63.5%	69.5%
Lentils	29.3%	37.2%	---	---	---	30.6%
Chickpeas	27.2%	5.0%	---	---	---	26.6%
Mustard	35.3%	21.0%	---	---	---	30.3%
Flax	59.0%	43.7%	100.0%	---	---	59.0%
All Crops	54.0%	79.8%	81.6%	88.1%	52.4%	69.9%
Major Crops (*)	57.4%	82.6%	81.5%	88.0%	52.4%	72.6%
All Crops, 5-year Average	69.6%	62.3%	74.3%	65.5%	66.0%	68.2%
All Crops, 10-year Average	70.7%	66.9%	69.3%	64.8%	70.5%	68.8%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Table 2: Pasture Growth Conditions as of July 2, 2019

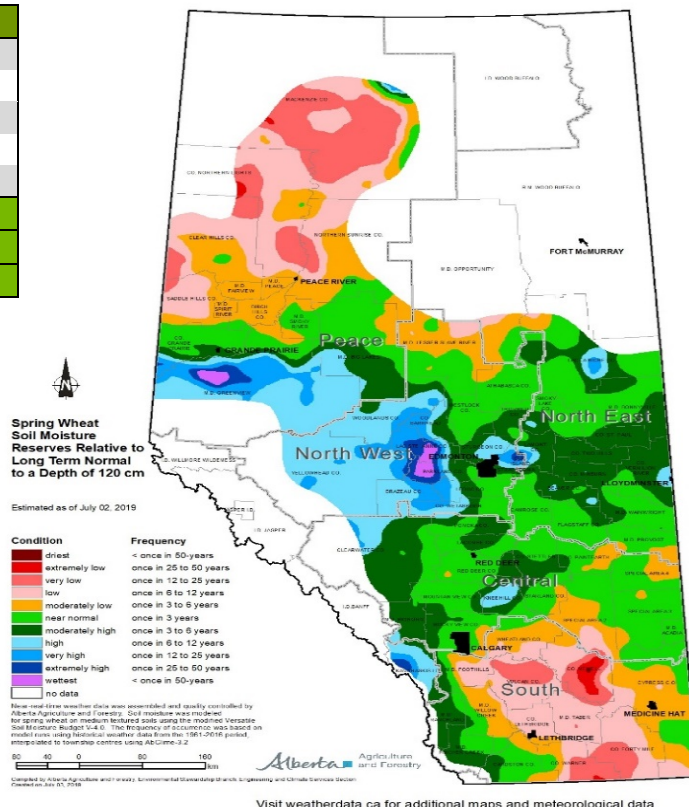
	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
South	23.1%	33.3%	40.0%	3.6%
Central	23.6%	24.6%	50.1%	1.8%
North East	6.3%	42.0%	46.2%	5.5%
North West	0.5%	14.7%	81.9%	2.9%
Peace	8.0%	43.2%	40.6%	8.2%
Alberta	17.1%	31.4%	47.7%	3.7%
5-year Average	16.2%	22.7%	46.4%	14.7%
10-year Average	15.6%	19.0%	45.5%	19.8%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Pasture growth in the South and Central regions saw little change over last week while other regions did improve. Current poor estimates are 17, fair 31, good are at 48 with 4 per cent excellent. The provincial good pasture condition ratings of 48 are slightly above both the 5 and 10 year average. (See Table 2).

Tame hay growth conditions rated as poor are 11, fair 30, and good 55 with excellent growth rated at 4 per cent.

Dryland first cut hay is now 7 per cent complete across the province with the South raising the average at 27 per cent done. Quality estimates are 13 poor, 20 fair, 57 good and 10 excellent.



Regional Assessments:

The 2019 Alberta Crop Report Series continues to provide summaries for the following five regions:

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

- Canola, peas and most cereals are behind the provincial good to excellent condition rating average aside from fall rye, durum and winter wheat. Potatoes are at 93, sugar beets 86 and dry beans are at 75 per cent.
- At this time first cut dryland hay is 27 per cent complete and irrigated hay is at 32 per cent complete.
- First cut dryland and irrigated hay quality (irrigated ratings shown in parentheses) are 14 (4) poor, 40 (16) fair, 36 (64) good and 10 (16) per cent excellent. Tame hay growth poor ratings are 14, fair 30, good 52 and 4 excellent.
- Surface and sub-surface soil ratings (sub-surface ratings shown in parentheses) are 18 (24) poor, 36 (43) fair, 44 (32) good followed by 2 (1) per cent excellent.
- Pasture growth and tame hay growth respectively are 23 (14) poor, 33 (30) fair, 40 (52) good and 4 (4) per cent excellent.
- Evidence of moderate gopher damage at 14 per cent with 8 per cent over the threshold.

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

- Some crops are in line with the provincial average with the exception of durum wheat which is behind by 16 points, flax 15, winter wheat 6 points back, mustard 9, oats 2, fall rye 6, and chickpeas are 22 points behind.
- Hay crops are looking strong. Rain has delayed cutting. Warmer weather needed to dry the hay once it is cut.

- First cut dryland hay is at 4 percent complete. Quality ratings are 21 poor, 5 fair, and 74 percent good.
- Surface and sub-surface soil ratings (sub-surface ratings shown in parentheses) are 7 (13) poor, 14 (19) fair, 70 (65) good followed by 8 (3) excellent and 1 (0) per cent excessive.
- Pasture growth and tame hay growth respectively are 24 (21) poor, 24 (19) fair, 50 (59) good and 2 (1) per cent excellent.
- Evidence of moderate gopher damage, flea beetles, army cutworms and wireworms.

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

- All crops good to excellent condition rating estimates are above the provincial average, oats are in line with it.
- First cut dryland hay is just underway. Quality estimates are 50 per cent good and 50 per cent excellent.
- Surface and sub-surface soil ratings (sub-surface ratings shown in parentheses) are 1 (0) poor, 10 (19) fair, 63 (52) good followed by 24 (28) excellent and 2 (1) per cent excessive.
- Pasture growth and tame hay growth respectively are 6 (10) poor, 42 (48) fair, 46 (39) good and 6 (3) per cent excellent.
- A few reports of grasshoppers, diamondback moths and moderate reports of gophers.

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

- All crops good to excellent condition rating estimates exceed the provincial average except 1 point off for oats.
- First cut dryland hay is in the early stages due to rain. Quality estimates are 50 good and 50 per cent excellent.
- Surface and sub-surface soil ratings (sub-surface ratings shown in parentheses) are 0 (1) poor, 3 (12) fair, 78 (83) good followed by 16(4) excellent and 3 (0) per cent excessive.
- Pasture growth and tame hay growth respectively are 0 (0) poor, 15 (15) fair, 82 (81) good and 3 (4) per cent excellent.
- A few reports of grasshoppers and moderate gopher damage with neither over the threshold.

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

- All crops are good to excellent condition ratings are less than the average. The recent rain has helped some canola, but is still below the provincial average by 25 points, spring wheat is back 18, oats by 13 and barley 10. Peas are only 6 points back.
- First cut dryland hay has just begun. Quality ratings are 3 poor, 26 fair, 58 good and 13 per cent excellent.
- Surface and sub-surface soil ratings (sub-surface ratings shown in parentheses) are 5 (6) poor, 30 (25) fair, 47 (48) good followed by 13 (20) excellent and 5 (1) per cent excessive.
- Pasture growth and tame hay growth respectively are 8 (6) poor, 43 (45) fair, 41 (41) good and 8 (8) per cent excellent.
- Very low numbers reported for grasshoppers, wireworms and army cutworms.

Contacts

Agriculture Financial Services Corporation
Business Risk Management Products Unit
Lacombe, Alberta
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Zsuzsanna Sangster
Product Coordinator
Email: Zsuzsanna.sangster@afsc.ca

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