

Alberta Crop Report



Crop Conditions as of June 7, 2016 (Abbreviated Report)

Crops and forages throughout the province benefitted from the warmer weather of the past week as temperatures rose into the mid to high 20's and even the low 30's in southern Alberta. The warm temperatures enhanced crop emergence to 91% germinated (see Table #1) and allowed emerged crops and forages to take advantage of the good moisture conditions of the past several weeks to advance crop development. Seeding is 99.4% complete compared to the 5 year average of 98.4% with only a small amount of acres remaining to finish due to excessive moisture or reseeded.

Surface moisture ratings improved in all regions with the exception of the South. Provincially, surface moisture was rated at 81% good or excellent compared to 77% last week with the ratings improvement due principally to the reduction in excessive soil moisture (see Table #2). A year ago, only 20% of the province was rated good or excellent. Sub soil moisture ratings improved in all regions to 67% rated good or excellent compared to 64% last week. The area of moderate to severe precipitation deficit along the west portion of the South and Central regions (see map) expanded this week and is starting to extend into the central portions of both regions.

Pasture and hay crops showed significant improvement with the warmer temperatures. Ratings improved in all regions to 67% good or excellent from 54% last week. Last year, only 20% of pastures and hay in the province were rated as good or excellent. Haying has started in a few areas of southern Alberta and should become more general over the next week or so. Forage crops across the province are showing damage from the delayed start to growth and there is some anticipation that producers may opt to harvest their 1st cut early in hope of getting a better 2nd cut.

Table 1: Alberta Emergence Progress as of June 7, 2016

	% Emergence					Average
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	
Spr. Wheat	99.5%	96.7%	95.7%	100%	93.9%	97.1%
Barley	98.3%	88.1%	71.8%	71.9%	89.2%	86.4%
Oats	96.9%	81.0%	72.7%	70.6%	86.4%	78.0%
Canola	98.3%	94.4%	79.8%	66.5%	89.2%	86.1%
Dry Peas	99.7%	98.5%	100%	100%	96.9%	99.1%
Average	98.9%	93.6%	85.5%	79.1%	91.2%	90.8%
Last Week	91.2%	78.6%	65.5%	63.6%	80.8%	77.5%
Last Year	93.6%	92.7%	95.6%	97.9%	96.2%	94.7%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

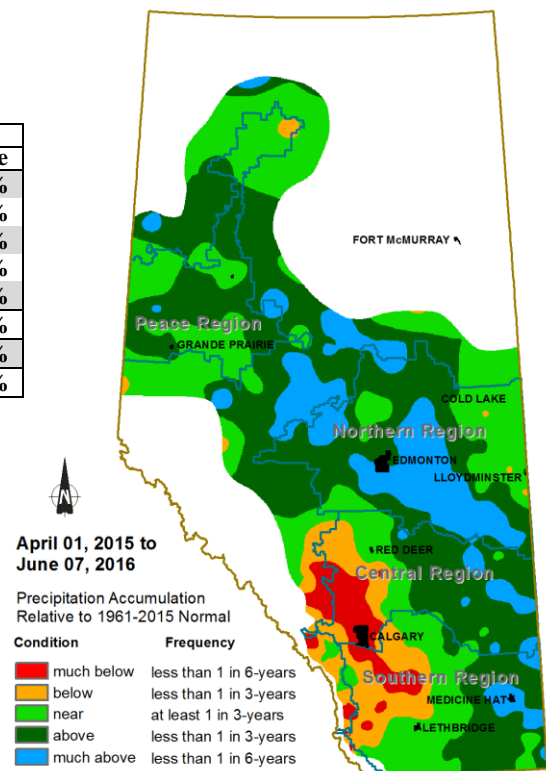
Table 2: Surface Soil Moisture Ratings as of June 7, 2016

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Excessive
South	4.6%	26.8%	60.6%	8.0%	0%
Central	2.5%	15.9%	46.8%	32.8%	2.1%
N East	0%	3.1%	36.9%	53.1%	6.9%
N West	0%	0%	27.1%	68.4%	4.4%
Peace	0%	16.5%	46.9%	33.5%	3.1%
Average	1.9%	14.2%	46.2%	34.6%	3.1%
Last Week	1.9%	15.0%	39.2%	37.3%	6.7%
Last Year	43.4%	36.5%	18.5%	1.5%	0.1%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Our thanks to Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen, staff of AFSC and the Alberta Ag-Info Centre for their partnership and contribution to the Alberta Crop Reporting Program.

The precipitation map is compiled by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Environmental Stewardship Branch, Engineering and Climate Services Section.



REGIONAL ASSESSMENTS:

The 2016 Alberta Crop Report Series continues to provide summaries for the following five regions:

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

- Warm weather throughout the region has crops growing rapidly. Seeding is completed and virtually all crops have emerged. The most common growth stage for cereals is completed tillering.
- Surface soil moisture ratings declined to 69% good or excellent (73% last week); sub soil ratings showed a small improvement to 67% good or excellent (65% last week)
- Pasture and hay ratings improved marginally to 56% good or excellent from 54% last week.

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

- Warm temperatures with some light, spotty showers reported. Crops and forages showing significant improvement with the warmer weather. Seeding is virtually completed at 99.7%.
- 94% of crops have emerged with most common stage for cereals being early tillering.
- Surface soil moisture ratings improved slightly to 80% good or excellent (79% last week). Sub soil ratings were unchanged at 76% good or excellent.
- Pasture and hay ratings rose to 78% good or excellent from 76% last week.

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

- Warm temperatures with some spotty light precipitation reported. Seeding nearing completion at 99% in the ground and 86% of the crops emerged. Most common stage of crop development has cereals entering the tillering stage.
- Surface soil moisture ratings improved substantially to 90% good or excellent (72% last week) largely due to the significant reduction in excessive moisture from last week's ratings. Sub soil moisture improved to 66% good or excellent (63% last week).
- Pasture and hay ratings improved greatly to 85% good or excellent (55% last week) with to the heat.

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

- Seeding is 99.2% completed with 79% of crops emerged. The most common crop stage is 6-8 leaf stage.
- Soil moisture ratings showed small improvements with surface moisture at 95% good or excellent (91% last week) and sub soil moisture at 61% good or excellent (58% last week).
- Pasture and hay ratings showed substantial improvement to 56% good or excellent (24% last week).

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

- Warm temperatures and spotty light precipitation throughout the region.
- Seeding is wrapping up with 99.4% completed. 91% of crops have emerged. The most common stage for cereals is early tillering.
- Surface soil moisture ratings showed a small improvement to 80% rated good or excellent (77% last week). Sub soil ratings rose 6 points to 55% good or excellent (49% last week).
- Pasture and hay ratings improved with the warm weather to 49% good or excellent (45% last week).

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