

# November 2021 Estimates Crop Production Alberta Highlights

Agri-Food Statistics Update: Issue CR21-2

## Release Information

On December 3, 2021, Statistics Canada released their final estimates of crop production for 2021, which were derived from a survey of 8,275 Alberta producers, conducted in October and November.

Detailed data is available on the Statistics Canada website, table number 32-10-0359-01:

[Data - Statistics Canada](#)

## Highlights

### November estimates of production for principal field crops in 2021

- In 2021, seeding was advanced over the month of May, while precipitation across much of the province was close to normal or better, facilitating germination. In some parts of the province, dry conditions prevailed in the first week of June, while for the rest, it started in mid-June and continued over the month in all regions.
- Alberta experienced prolonged record-breaking temperatures, which peaked at the end of June and continued into early July. The extremely high temperatures coupled with limited precipitation during the season impacted crop yields, while dry conditions throughout the fall advanced harvest.
- In 2021, total production of selected field crops (including forages) in Alberta was 22 million tonnes, the lowest since 2002, and 35.9 per cent

### For more information:

Please visit the [Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development](#) website or contact:

Ashan Shooshtarian, Crop Statistician  
Alberta Agriculture, Forestry and Rural  
Economic Development  
Intergovernmental and Trade Relations Branch  
Statistics and Data Development Section  
[ashan.shooshtarian@gov.ab.ca](mailto:ashan.shooshtarian@gov.ab.ca)

below 2020. The decline was largely attributed to lower yields for most crops.

- Excluding forages, selected field crops production was 17 million tonnes, the lowest since 2009 and 34.2 per cent below 2020.
- All wheat production is estimated at 6.3 million tonnes, the lowest since 2007, and down 42.9 per cent from 2020.
- Total barley production fell 32.4 per cent to 3.6 million tonnes, the lowest since 2002.
- Total canola production was the lowest since 2009 at 4.2 million tonnes, down 19.9 per cent from a year ago.
- Pulse production fell 47.6 per cent from 2020 to 1.2 million tonnes. This was driven by lower production of dry peas (down 50.3 per cent), fababeans (down 18.3 per cent), and lentils (down 54.2 per cent). For dry beans, production increased 37.1 per cent.

<https://www.alberta.ca/agri-food-statistics-update.aspx>

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The logo for the Government of Alberta, featuring the word "Alberta" in a stylized script font with a small green square to the right.

## Alberta crop production down in 2021

In 2021, the production of selected field crops (including forages) in Alberta was 22 million tonnes (see Table 1), the lowest since 2002. Total production of crops and forages was down 35.9 per cent from 2020 and 31.2 per cent below the 10-year (2011-2020) average. Excluding forages, selected field crops production was the lowest since 2009, totalling 17 million tonnes, 34.2 per cent below

2020, and down 27.7 per cent from the 10-year average. Driving the decline was mainly lower yields for most crops (see Table 2). In 2021, total forage production was down significantly by 41 per cent from last year to five million tonnes, and 40.8 per cent below the 10-year average. Total seeded area of principal field crops showed a marginal increase (up 0.7 per cent) from 2020, while the total harvested area remained unchanged. Alberta producers also allocated 314,000 acres to summerfallow, down 49.4 per cent from 2020.

Crops	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021p	10-year Average	% change	
								21 vs 20	21 vs Avg
Winter Wheat	318.4	176.9	100.4	103.1	160.4	107.0	213.8	-33.3%	-50.0%
Spring Wheat	8,204.4	8,720.0	8,771.6	9,512.8	9,555.9	5,713.1	8,593.9	-40.2%	-33.5%
Durum Wheat	1,583.9	1,083.2	1,134.1	647.3	1,324.7	485.3	952.1	-63.4%	-49.0%
All Wheat	<b>10,106.6</b>	<b>9,980.1</b>	<b>10,006.1</b>	<b>10,263.2</b>	<b>11,041.0</b>	<b>6,305.3</b>	<b>9,759.7</b>	<b>-42.9%</b>	<b>-35.4%</b>
Oats	624.6	609.2	700.1	834.8	802.0	475.5	636.5	-40.7%	-25.3%
Barley	4,398.0	3,906.0	3,996.3	4,955.2	5,283.0	3,570.7	4,563.6	-32.4%	-21.8%
All Rye	59.7	33.5	30.0	26.8	107.4	83.6	44.6	-22.2%	87.5%
Mixed Grains	30.6	33.0	-	-	68.0	41.8	32.5	-38.5%	28.6%
Flaxseed	59.8	62.2	60.5	81.5	78.6	59.6	69.8	-24.1%	-14.5%
Canola	6,157.5	6,826.6	5,870.6	5,320.1	5,212.1	4,173.1	5,764.9	-19.9%	-27.6%
Corn for Grain	98.0	152.9	118.3	63.3	108.6	59.1	91.3	-45.6%	-35.3%
Dry Beans	61.6	61.5	72.8	65.3	73.0	100.1	58.5	37.1%	71.1%
Fababeans	54.4	45.4	43.4	38.5	41.0	33.5	58.8	-18.3%	-43.0%
Dry Peas	2,271.2	1,991.5	1,608.4	1,685.9	1,799.2	894.6	1,548.1	-50.3%	-42.2%
Lentils	451.8	264.4	199.6	167.6	370.6	169.6	196.9	-54.2%	-13.9%
Mustard Seed	73.3	27.1	36.7	27.6	36.5	12.0	39.2	-67.2%	-69.5%
Triticale	30.2	23.2	32.0	29.2	21.6	15.9	22.6	-26.5%	-29.7%
Sugar Beets	811.9	771.1	854.5	520.7	833.1	1,024.8	677.6	23.0%	51.2%
<b>All Crops</b>	<b>25,289.2</b>	<b>24,787.7</b>	<b>23,629.3</b>	<b>24,079.7</b>	<b>25,875.7</b>	<b>17,019.1</b>	<b>23,531.4</b>	<b>-34.2%</b>	<b>-27.7%</b>
Tame Hay	7,239.3	7,175.8	6,035.7	6,674.7	6,379.3	3,632.1	6,835.9	-43.1%	-46.9%
Fodder Corn	1,814.4	1,564.9	1,660.4	1,687.6	2,018.2	1,326.1	1,546.3	-34.3%	-14.2%
<b>All Forages</b>	<b>9,053.7</b>	<b>8,740.7</b>	<b>7,696.1</b>	<b>8,362.3</b>	<b>8,397.5</b>	<b>4,958.2</b>	<b>8,382.2</b>	<b>-41.0%</b>	<b>-40.8%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>34,342.9</b>	<b>33,528.4</b>	<b>31,325.4</b>	<b>32,442.0</b>	<b>34,273.2</b>	<b>21,977.3</b>	<b>31,946.9</b>	<b>-35.9%</b>	<b>-31.2%</b>

p - Preliminary - Not available 10-year average refers to 2011-2020  
 Source: Statistics Canada Prepared by: Alberta Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development, Statistics and Data Development Section

Crops	2020		2021p		2020		2021p		10-year Avg Yld	Yield % change	
	Seeded	Harvested	Seeded	Harvested	Yield	Yield	Yield	Yield		21 vs 20	21 vs Avg
	('000 acres)		('000 acres)		(bu/acre)						
Winter Wheat	91.7	89.4	102.8	92.8	65.9	42.4	59.0	42.4	59.0	-35.7%	-28.1%
Spring Wheat	6,314.1	6,183.1	5,849.8	5,717.1	56.8	36.7	53.2	36.7	53.2	-35.4%	-31.0%
Durum Wheat	1,012.0	1,003.9	988.5	919.6	48.5	19.4	42.7	19.4	42.7	-60.0%	-54.5%
<b>All Wheat</b>	<b>7,448.4</b>	<b>7,276.4</b>	<b>6,961.2</b>	<b>6,729.5</b>	<b>55.8</b>	<b>34.4</b>	<b>52.0</b>	<b>34.4</b>	<b>52.0</b>	<b>-38.4%</b>	<b>-33.8%</b>
Oats	881.2	605.5	769.0	525.7	85.9	58.7	85.8	58.7	85.8	-31.7%	-31.6%
Barley	3,661.7	3,458.1	3,866.9	3,458.1	74.0	47.4	69.8	47.4	69.8	-35.9%	-32.1%
All Rye	102.8	60.1	91.9	60.1	58.7	54.8	48.3	54.8	48.3	-6.6%	13.4%
Mixed Grains	171.0	66.4	152.9	45.4	50.2	45.1	59.3	45.1	59.3	-10.2%	-24.0%
Flaxseed	97.1	93.3	141.6	139.2	33.2	16.9	30.3	16.9	30.3	-49.1%	-44.2%
Canola	5,876.0	6,647.8	6,725.8	6,647.8	40.2	27.7	40.4	27.7	40.4	-31.1%	-31.4%
Corn for Grain	40.8	30.3	17.3	16.3	141.1	143.1	120.0	143.1	120.0	1.4%	19.3%
Dry Beans	54.9	76.0	79.9	76.0	49.5	48.3	43.7	48.3	43.7	-2.4%	10.6%
Fababeans	32.5	42.9	44.2	42.9	52.0	28.7	47.8	28.7	47.8	-44.9%	-40.0%
Dry Peas	1,650.1	1,388.2	1,427.6	1,388.2	41.5	23.7	40.9	23.7	40.9	-42.9%	-42.0%
Lentils	422.9	507.7	510.5	507.7	32.5	12.3	27.6	12.3	27.6	-62.2%	-55.5%
Mustard Seed	80.0	64.7	68.5	64.7	20.2	8.2	17.3	8.2	17.3	-59.5%	-52.7%
Triticale	40.3	20.2	43.4	20.2	48.6	31.0	52.7	31.0	52.7	-36.2%	-41.1%
Sugar Beets	34.5	32.6	33.3	32.6	31.7	34.6	30.8	34.6	30.8	9.3%	12.5%
Tame Hay	3,982.5	3,451.5	3,871.0	3,451.5	1.8	1.2	1.8	1.2	1.8	-37.0%	-34.8%
Fodder Corn	217.6	104.2	162.4	104.2	18.3	14.0	17.1	14.0	17.1	-23.4%	-18.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,794.3</b>	<b>23,310.1</b>	<b>24,967.4</b>	<b>23,310.1</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>---</b>

p - Preliminary --- Not applicable 10-year Avg Yld refers to 2011-2020 average yield  
 Source: Statistics Canada Prepared by: Alberta Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development, Statistics and Data Development Section

## Production by crop type, Alberta

Total **spring wheat** production fell 40.2 per cent to 5.7 million tonnes and was 33.5 per cent below the 10-year average. The drop in production was attributed to a 35.4 per cent decline in yield and harvested area down 7.5 per cent. The provincial average yield is estimated at 36.7 bushels per acre, with harvested area at 5.7 million acres.

For **durum wheat**, production was down from a year ago to 485,000 tonnes. This was 63.4 per cent lower than in 2020 and 49 per cent below the 10-year average. Triggering the decline was a 60 per cent drop in yield to 19.4 bushels per acre, and harvested area decreasing by 8.4 per cent to 919,600 acres.

**Winter wheat** production decreased to 107,000 tonnes, down 33.3 per cent from 2020, and 50 per cent lower than the 10-year average. This was the result of a 35.7 per cent decline in yield to 42.4 bushels per acre, which more than offset the increase in harvested area by 3.8 per cent to 92,800 acres.

Overall, **all wheat** production is estimated at 6.3 million tonnes, the lowest since 2007. Production was down 42.9 per cent from 2020, and 35.4 per cent below the 10-year average. This stemmed from a 38.4 per cent decline in yield to 34.4 bushels per acre, as well as harvested area down 7.5 per cent to 6.7 million acres.

Total **barley** production fell 32.4 per cent to 3.6 million tonnes, the lowest since 2002, and 21.8 per cent below the 10-year average. The decline in production was due to a 35.9 per cent decrease in yield to 47.4 bushels per acre, despite a 5.5 per cent increase in harvested area to 3.5 million acres.

Total production of **oats** was down 40.7 per cent from 2020 to 475,500 tonnes, and 25.3 per cent below the 10-year average. This was attributed to a 31.7 per cent decline in yield, coupled with a 13.2 per cent drop in harvested area. Harvested area is estimated at 525,700 acres and average yield at 58.7 bushels per acre.

Total **canola** production was the lowest since 2009 at 4.2 million tonnes, 19.9 per cent lower than in 2020, and 27.6 per cent below the 10-year average. Driving the decline was a lower yield at 27.7 bushels per acre (down 31.1 per cent), more than offsetting a 16.3 per cent increase in harvested area to 6.6 million acres.

**Dry peas** production decreased to 894,600 tonnes, down 50.2 per cent from a year ago and 42.2 per

cent below the 10-year average. The drop in production was due to a 42.9 per cent decline in average yield to 23.7 bushels per acre, as well as a 12.8 per cent reduction in harvested area to 1.4 million acres.

For **lentils**, production decreased to 169,600 tonnes, 54.2 per cent lower than 2020 and 13.9 per cent below the 10-year average. The lower production was attributed to a 62.2 per cent decline in yield to 12.3 bushels per acre (or 736 pounds per acre), more than offsetting a 21.1 per cent increase in harvested area to 507,700 acres.

**Dry beans** production increased to a new record high at 100,100 tonnes, up 37.1 per cent from 2020 and 71.1 per cent higher than the 10-year average. The higher production was driven by an increase in harvested area (up 40 per cent) to 76,000 acres, despite a slight decline in yield (down 2.4 per cent), to 2.9 tonnes per acre or 48.3 bushels per acre.

**Corn for grain** production fell to 59,100 tonnes, down 45.6 per cent from 2020 and 35.3 per cent below the 10-year average. This stemmed from a 46.2 per cent decline in harvested area to 16,300 acres, which more than offset the 1.4 per cent increase in yield to 143.1 bushels per acre.

**Sugar beets** production increased 23 per cent from 2020, to a new record high of one million tonne and was 51.2 per cent higher than the 10-year average. The higher production was attributed to a 12.4 per cent increase in harvested area to 32,600 acres, and yield up 9.3 per cent to 34.6 tons per acre.

**Total forage** production was significantly down by 41 per cent from 2020 to five million tonnes, and 40.8 per cent below the 10-year average. The decline was due to a 43.1 per cent drop in tame hay production and a 34.3 per cent decrease in fodder corn production.

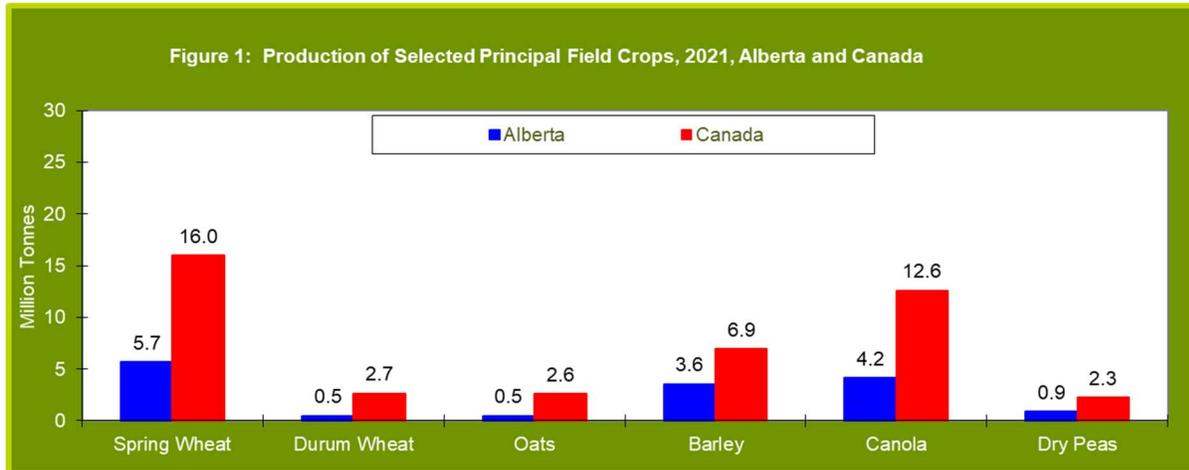
**Tame hay** production decreased 43.1 per cent to 3.6 million tonnes, the lowest since 2002, and 46.9 per cent below the 10-year average. This was as a result of a 37 per cent reduction in average yield to 1.2 tons per acre, and harvested area falling 9.7 per cent to 3.5 million acres.

**Fodder corn** production fell 34.3 per cent to 1.3 million tons, the lowest since 2014, and 14.2 per cent below the 10-year average. The lower production was due to average yield down 23.4 per cent to 14 tons per acre, and harvested area declining 14.2 per cent to 104,200 acres.

## 2021 Crop Production, Canada

Total 2021 Canadian production for selected major field crops declined from last year. Total Canadian production was 16 million tonnes for spring wheat,

2.7 million tonnes for durum wheat, 2.6 million tonnes for oats, 6.9 million tonnes for barley, 12.6 million tonnes for canola, and 2.3 million tonnes for dry peas (see Figure 1).



Source: Statistics Canada