

Alberta Crop Report



Crop Conditions as of June 16, 2020

More rain fell over the last weekend, tornadoes, hail and severe storms hit some areas across the southern half of the province, followed by another system impacting both south and north. Over this period, a large area mainly in the Central, North West and Peace Regions along with the western parts of the North East Region received well over 30 mm of precipitation, with many areas getting up to 80 mm (see map on the following page). The southern and eastern borders of the province as well as central areas in the Southern Region did not receive more than 2-3 mm of precipitation. Rainfall in the areas with already near or at the field moisture capacity resulted in excessive soil moisture and flooding out in crop and in some cases in tame hay fields. Due to saturated fields, some producers need to re-seed their fields with cereals for greenfeed and silage. For some other producers mainly in the North West and Peace Regions, as well as in some areas in the North East Region, the excessive soil moisture, along with the challenges they have faced to harvest overwintered crops from the 2019 crop season are expected to have unseeded acres.

Wet spring and available moisture for germination in most parts of the province have resulted to generally better than normal growth conditions, especially in the Southern and Central Regions. As of June 16, crop growing conditions are rated as 81 per cent good to excellent, compared to the provincial 5-year average of 69 per cent and the 10-year average of 74 per cent (See Table 1). Regionally, growing condition ratings are better than normal for all regions, except in the North West Region, due to excess moisture. However, cool temperatures and too much moisture slowed crop development, particularly in the northern parts of the province. Crop development is near normal in the Southern, Central and North East Regions and is behind in the North West and Peace Regions.

Table 1: Regional Crop Condition Ratings as of June 16, 2020

	Per cent rated in Good to Excellent Condition					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat*	84.7%	96.6%	88.0%	43.8%	81.0%	83.2%
Durum Wheat	85.3%	87.3%	---	---	---	85.6%
Winter Wheat	84.9%	75.0%	90.0%	---	---	84.4%
Barley*	84.8%	97.2%	82.5%	41.7%	73.9%	82.9%
Oats*	85.1%	95.1%	83.4%	40.8%	76.4%	73.1%
Fall Rye	85.9%	75.7%	90.0%	---	---	82.9%
Canola*	78.0%	95.4%	80.5%	36.6%	77.6%	76.6%
Dry Peas*	81.8%	94.7%	90.4%	39.9%	71.4%	80.5%
Lentils	83.2%	88.3%	---	---	---	84.0%
Chickpeas	81.6%	90.0%	---	---	---	81.9%
Mustard	68.7%	79.6%	---	---	---	72.4%
Flax	75.1%	87.2%	100.0%	---	---	79.7%
All Crops, Jun 16, 2020	82.5%	95.6%	84.1%	39.9%	77.2%	80.6%
Major Crops (*), Jun 16, 2020	82.4%	96.1%	84.3%	40.1%	77.5%	80.2%
All Crops, Jun 18, 2019	54.1%	70.7%	71.9%	71.1%	50.1%	63.4%
All Crops, 5-year Average	69.9%	67.8%	75.8%	58.3%	62.5%	68.7%
All Crops, 10-year Average	73.6%	75.9%	76.8%	68.8%	71.6%	74.2%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey



Our thanks to Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen and staff of AFSC for their partnership and contribution to the Alberta Crop Reporting Program.



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

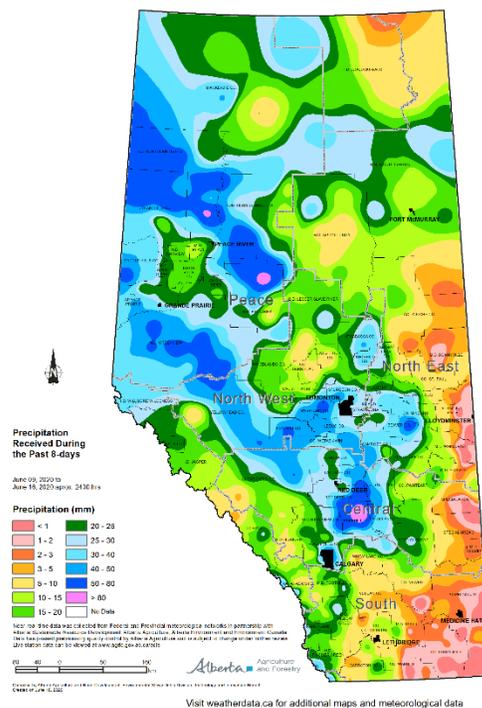
Provincial surface soil moisture ratings (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) was rated at 1 (2) per cent poor, 7 (9) per cent fair, 38 (42) per cent good and 43 (38) per cent excellent, with 11 (9) per cent excessive. Regionally, excessive soil moisture are reported at 1 per cent in the Central Region, 9 per cent in the North East, 59 per cent in the North West and 25 per cent in the Peace Region.

Pasture and tame hay fields are mainly in good shape across the province and look the best in last five years, except for small low areas that had flooding. Pasture conditions (tame hay conditions are in brackets) across the province are now reported as 0 (1) per cent poor, 9 (6) per cent fair, 68 (64) per cent good and 23 (29) per cent excellent (see Table 2).

Table 2: Pasture Growth Conditions as of June 16, 2020

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
South	0.4%	10.6%	71.8%	17.1%
Central	0.0%	9.1%	78.5%	12.4%
North East	0.0%	6.5%	70.9%	22.6%
North West	0.0%	0.0%	13.7%	86.3%
Peace	2.9%	10.5%	63.4%	23.2%
Alberta	0.4%	8.5%	67.7%	23.3%
5-year Average	18.0%	24.5%	44.6%	12.9%
10-year Average	11.2%	19.6%	49.7%	19.4%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey



Regional Assessments:

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

- Over the past week, weather in different areas of the region was a mix of cool temperatures, followed by hot days, with precipitation in format of rain, thunderstorm and hail, depending on the location. Hail damage was reported in some areas, but damaged crops are expected to recover, as they are still in early stage of development.
- Spring seeded crops are mostly in the beginning of the stem elongation stage of development, while fall seeded crops are in the head emergence stage. About 64 per cent of canola, 79 per cent of dry peas and 70 per cent of lentils are in the 4-6 leaf/node stage.
- Post-emergence spraying is 74 per cent complete and still occurring, but due to wet and windy conditions it has been delayed. Gopher and flea beetles infestations are a concern in some fields.
- Surface soil moisture is rated (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) at 1 (2) per cent poor, 14 (17) per cent fair, 59 (62) per cent good and 26 (19) per cent excellent.
- Hay and pastures look healthy, with first cut hay in both dryland and irrigated fields starting in the region. Tame hay growing conditions are reported as 1 per cent poor, 9 per cent fair, 64 per cent good and 26 per cent excellent.

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

- Lots of rain has been reported for the region, with one small area receiving more than 80 mm of rain. Some hail damage was reported, but crops are expected to recover, as they are not advanced enough. The majority of crop fields look good and are progressing well. However, there may be some drowned out.
- Growth is slightly behind the 5-year averages. Spring seeded cereals are either at the end of the seedling growth stage or starting the tillering, while fall seeded crops are at the beginning of the booting stage. About 58 per cent of canola are still in the 1-3 leaf/node stage, while 40 per cent of canola, 61 per cent of dry peas and lentils are in the 4-6 leaf/node stage.
- Post-emergence spraying has been delayed due to windy conditions over the months of May and June and now is 47 per cent complete. Army cutworms and gopher infestations are concerns in some areas.

- Surface soil moisture is rated (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) at 2 (3) per cent poor, 7 (12) per cent fair, 53 (65) per cent good and 37 (20) per cent excellent, with 1 (0) per cent excessive.
- Tame hay conditions are reported as 6 per cent fair, 81 per cent good and 13 per cent excellent.

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

- Due to more precipitation over the past week, soils in low area fields are saturated, resulting in poor plant conditions. It is expected that some acres will be left as unseeded in the region, while some producers are still hoping to seed more greenfeed and silage crops.
- Growth is slightly behind normal in the region. While fall seeded crops are in the booting stage, spring seeded crops are mostly at the end of seeding growth stage of development. About 54 per cent of canola are still in the 1-3 leaf/node stage with another 46 per cent reported in the 4-6 leaf/node stage. For dry peas, about 28 per cent are in the 1-3 leaf/node stage, 61 per cent in the 4-6 leaf/node stage and 11 per cent in the 7-12 leaf/node stage.
- Post-emergence spraying has been slow due to wet conditions and is now 35 per cent completed. Some gopher and flea beetles infestations have been reported.
- Surface soil moisture is rated (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) at 1 (1) per cent fair, 21 (17) per cent good and 69 (76) per cent excellent, with 9 (6) per cent excessive.
- Tame hay growing conditions are reported as 6 per cent fair, 70 per cent good and 24 per cent excellent.

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

- More rainfall resulted in flooding out fields in some parts of the region and it is expected to lead to some unseeded acreage. Some producers still plan to seed cereals for feed, weather permitting.
- Excessive rainfall and lack of heat has slowed crop progress. Spring cereals are mostly at the end of seedling growth stage of development, while 68 per cent of canola and 66 per cent of dry peas are still in the 1-3 leaf/node stage.
- Post-emergence spraying is only at 12 per cent complete, with no over threshold pest infestation concerns as yet.
- Surface soil moisture is rated (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) at 2 (4) per cent good, 39 (47) per cent excellent and 59 (49) per cent excessive.
- Hay and pasture fields are in great shape, but in some areas they are starting to show large flooded out areas. Tame hay growing conditions are now rated as 1 per cent fair, 35 per cent good and 64 per cent excellent.

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

- One to three inches of precipitation was reported for the region over the past week and excess moisture continues to be an issue, resulting in some unseeded acres. Some crops are showing signs of excess moisture.
- Crop development is behind normal in the region. Most cereals are still in the late stages of the seedling stage of development, while 86 per cent of canola and 80 per cent of dry peas are in the 1-3 leaf/node stage.
- Post-emergence spraying is 24 per cent complete, with no over-threshold pest infestation concerns.
- Surface soil moisture is rated (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) at 1 (1) per cent fair, 8 (17) per cent good and 66 (60) per cent excellent, with 25 (22) per cent excessive.
- Tame hay conditions are reported as 4 per cent poor, 10 per cent fair, 63 per cent good and 23 per cent excellent.

Contact

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