

Alberta Crop Report



Crop Conditions as of July 28, 2020

Alberta's weather has been trending warmer the past two weeks, with normal to moderately warm temperatures recorded. Rains are still fairly persistent across Central, North West, North East and the southern portion of Peace regions, with widespread thunderstorm activity generating localized moisture and hail activity.

Provincial forage crop growth ratings remain high with tame pasture at 89 per cent good or excellent and hay reported as 90 per cent good or excellent. First-cut dryland hay is behind the five-year average of 72 per cent complete with just 56 per cent completed across Alberta, with yields estimated at 1.9 ton per acre and quality rated as 55 per cent good and 10 per cent excellent. Quite a bit of hay has been put up as haylage or high-moisture bales due to continued wet conditions in many areas. First-cut irrigated hay is also behind the five-year average of 96 per cent done with 88 per cent complete, with yields of 2.4 ton per acre and quality rated as 59 per cent good and 19 per cent excellent. Second-cut has not yet begun for dryland, while irrigated hay is approximately 26 per cent harvested with yields estimated at 2.1 tons per acre.

Table 1: Regional Crop Condition Ratings as of July 28, 2020

	Per cent rated in Good to Excellent Condition					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat*	88.7%	93.5%	86.0%	49.8%	64.7%	81.6%
Durum Wheat	92.1%	69.6%	---	---	---	88.3%
Barley*	87.6%	94.5%	75.5%	22.2%	53.1%	78.0%
Oats*	88.5%	90.9%	82.0%	33.8%	63.2%	67.7%
Winter Wheat	87.4%	66.6%	91.8%	---	---	86.3%
Mixed Grain	90.0%	93.8%	---	32.2%	---	85.2%
Canola*	83.9%	94.3%	74.9%	29.4%	60.5%	71.6%
Dry Peas*	88.9%	90.3%	80.1%	29.0%	57.4%	76.7%
Lentils	90.1%	73.2%	---	---	---	87.6%
Chickpeas	89.5%	60.0%	---	---	---	88.5%
Mustard	70.3%	70.0%	---	---	---	70.2%
Flax	80.0%	82.3%	100%	---	---	82.5%
Potatoes	90.0%	98.5%	---	40%	---	87.1%
All Crops	87.7%	92.5%	79.7%	35.4%	60.8%	77.5%
Major Crops (*)	87.2%	93.7%	79.7%	35.4%	60.8%	76.6%
Last Year	51.0%	78.7%	84.6%	55.0%	66.4%	67.8%
5-year Average	49.3%	60.5%	74.5%	58.6%	63.7%	60.9%
10-year Average	66.2%	72.3%	79.7%	70.7%	63.2%	71.1%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Annual crop conditions by region have experienced mixed changes as compared to the last report, with an overall result for the provincial rating staying a static 78 per cent good or excellent (Table 1). North West region remains well below the five- and 10-year averages with Peace three points lower, while the North East is five points above the five-year average and on par with the 10-year average. South and Central regions are experiencing good or excellent crop conditions well above the five- and 10-year normal. Damage to crop condition and quality in wet areas is becoming more evident with time, primarily affecting peas, canola and barley. Crop staging for spring cereals is mid-way through flowering while fall cereals are in early dough, as compared to the five-year averages of early milk and hard dough respectively. Oilseeds and pulses are 44 per cent podding compared to the five-year average of 57 per cent podding.

Table 2: Dryland Yield Estimates (Major Crops) as of July 28, 2020

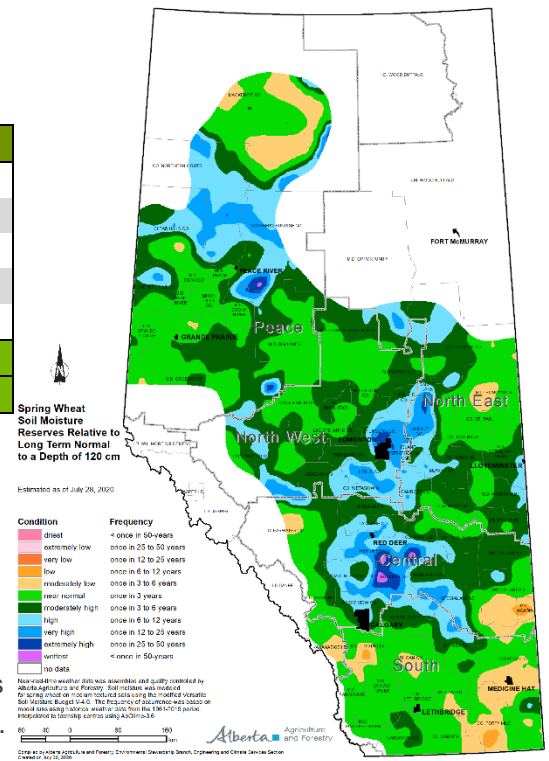
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	48.1	64.4	55.4	57.6	42.1	54.6
Barley	63.0	84.1	80.0	44.1	52.6	70.4
Oats	57.8	81.7	93.6	83.1	76.2	82.7
Canola	41.4	48.8	42.8	32.6	31.9	40.4
Dry Peas	45.5	46.6	45.3	33.2	28.5	41.2
5-Year Index	132.1%	121.1%	111.8%	84.2%	92.1%	113.1%
10-Year Index	119.5%	121.8%	113.6%	82.3%	91.9%	110.5%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Early dryland yield estimates are in. Provincially, these estimates are above both the five- and 10-year averages based on the current conditions (Table 2).

The southern regions of the province are well above the five-year norm ranging from 112 to 132 per cent above, while North West and Peace regions are lower at 84 and 92 per cent respectively.

Soil moisture reserves relative to the long-term normal remain high across parts of Alberta (blue areas on Map), with a few pockets now moderately low (yellow).



Regional Assessments:

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

- Warm temperatures with minimal rainfall reported throughout the region.
- Overall, crop conditions are 38 per cent ahead of the five-year average of 49 per cent good and excellent. Conditions rating for sugar beets are 90 per cent, potatoes 90 per cent and dry beans at 89 per cent good or excellent.
- Crop stages for spring cereals have almost completed flowering, while fall-seeded cereals are entering soft dough stage. Oilseed and pulse crops are over 60 per cent podding. Harvest of processing peas has begun.
- Tame pasture is currently rated as nine per cent fair, 74 per cent good and 17 per cent excellent.
- First-cut dryland hay is reported as 93 per cent completed with estimated yields of 1.6 ton per acre and quality rated as 76 per cent good and excellent. First-cut irrigated hay is 94 per cent completed with estimates of 2.4 ton per acre yields, and 80 per cent rated as good and excellent quality. Second-cut irrigated hay is 30 per cent complete with 2.1 ton per acre yield estimates and quality rating are at 94 per cent good or excellent.
- Soil moisture ratings are estimated as 80 per cent good or excellent with less than one per cent is rated excessive for surface, and 81 per cent good or excellent with zero per cent excessive for sub-surface.

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

- Warm temperatures along with hail, sometimes severe, reported across much of the region.
- Overall, crop conditions are 32 per cent ahead of the five-year average of 61 per cent good and excellent.
- Crop stages for spring cereals are mid-way through flowering, while fall-seeded cereals are entering early dough stage. Oilseed and pulse crops are over 30 per cent podding.
- Tame pasture is currently rated as six per cent poor, 10 per cent fair, 69 per cent good and 15 per cent excellent.
- First-cut dryland hay reported as 51 per cent completed with estimated yields of 1.8 ton per acre and quality rated as 59 per cent good and excellent. First-cut irrigated hay is 50 per cent completed with estimates of 2.5 ton per acre yields, and 65 per cent rated as good and excellent quality. Harvest of second-cut irrigated hay has not started.
- Soil moisture ratings are estimated as 83 per cent good or excellent with two per cent rated excessive for surface, and 89 per cent good or excellent and less than one per cent rated excessive for sub-surface.

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

- Warmer temperatures along with spotty localized showers and hail reported over most of the region.
- Overall, crop conditions are five per cent ahead of the five-year average of 75 per cent good and excellent.
- Crop stages for spring cereals are mid-way through flowering, while fall-seeded cereals are just entering the dough stage. Oilseed and pulse crops are over 40 per cent podding.
- Tame pasture is currently rated as two per cent poor, six per cent fair, 61 per cent good and 31 per cent excellent.
- First-cut dryland hay is reported as 27 per cent completed with estimated yields of 1.8 ton per acre and quality rated as 76 per cent good and excellent.
- Soil moisture ratings are estimated as 90 per cent good or excellent, with eight per cent rated excessive for surface and 91 per cent good or excellent and seven per cent rated excessive for sub-surface.

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

- Heavy rain reported in the western half of the region.
- Overall, crop conditions are 23 per cent behind the five-year average of 59 per cent good and excellent.
- Crop stages for spring cereals are close to mid-way through flowering. Oilseed and pulse crops are over 50 per cent podding.
- Tame pasture is currently rated as seven per cent poor, two per cent good and 91 per cent excellent.
- First-cut dryland hay is reported as 53 per cent completed with estimated yields of 2.5 ton per acre and quality rated as 51 per cent good and excellent.
- Soil moisture ratings are estimated as 47 per cent good or excellent, with 53 per cent rated excessive for surface, and 40 per cent good or excellent and 60 per cent rated excessive for sub-surface.

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

- Heavy rain reported in the southwestern part of the region. Spotty showers reported in the remainder of region.
- Overall, crop conditions are three per cent behind the five-year average of 64 per cent good and excellent.
- Crop stages for spring cereals are just beginning to flower. Oilseed and pulse crops are over 25 per cent podding.
- Tame pasture is currently rated as two per cent poor, 10 per cent fair, 75 per cent good and 13 per cent excellent.
- First-cut dryland hay is reported as 50 per cent completed with estimated yields of 1.7 ton per acre and quality rated as 63 per cent good and excellent.
- Soil moisture ratings are estimated as 84 per cent good and excellent, with 11 per cent rated excessive for surface, and 93 per cent good or excellent and four per cent rated excessive for sub-surface.

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