

Alberta Crop Report



Crop Conditions as of May 12, 2020 (Abbreviated Report)

A week of variable weather was experienced across Alberta, which supported soil drying in some areas and added more moisture in others. Field operations are still impacted in many areas of the North East, North West and Peace regions due to waterlogged soil conditions. Of the acres left unharvested in fall of 2019, 14 per cent of spring wheat acres, 12 per cent of barley, 29 per cent of oats and 16 per cent of the canola acres remain in the field (see Table 1). In areas where the spring harvest nears completion, producers have been able to make considerable seeding progress. Almost half of the acres are now seeded in the South and a quarter of the acres in the Central area (see Table 2). The North East and Peace are approaching 10 per cent of the crop in the ground. Parts of the North West area reported some snow and rain during the week that has hampered the 2019 harvest, as well as the 2020 plantings, which are currently estimated as three per cent done. If we compare this spring to 2017, all areas are ahead of where they were that year, with provincial seeding progress eight points ahead, at an estimated 21 per cent of crop acres in the ground.

Table 1: 2019 Unharvested Crops as of May 12, 2020

	% of Overwintered Acres Still In Field					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	0.1%	7.7%	8.0%	52.1%	25.3%	13.9%
Barley	0.0%	3.5%	9.4%	44.0%	23.6%	12.2%
Oats	---	0.0%	10.5%	59.0%	25.8%	29.0%
Canola	0.0%	1.1%	4.2%	49.1%	28.9%	15.5%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Table 2: Alberta Seeding Progress as of May 12, 2020

	% Seeded					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	52.0%	34.9%	13.0%	5.4%	7.2%	26.0%
Barley	45.5%	21.5%	0.4%	2.1%	2.1%	21.7%
Oats	40.5%	15.5%	0.6%	0.6%	0.7%	6.6%
Canola	27.9%	9.1%	3.0%	1.4%	7.5%	9.2%
Dry Peas	73.6%	59.3%	34.0%	7.2%	9.9%	45.9%
Average	47.1%	25.0%	8.5%	3.2%	7.2%	20.7%
Last Week	28.1%	4.0%	0.9%	0.0%	0.6%	9.4%
Last Year	66.7%	39.8%	32.0%	38.9%	28.8%	42.4%
5-year Average	56.2%	33.0%	20.3%	19.9%	16.8%	31.5%
May 9, 2017	39.6%	10.2%	2.1%	0.2%	0.9%	12.8%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

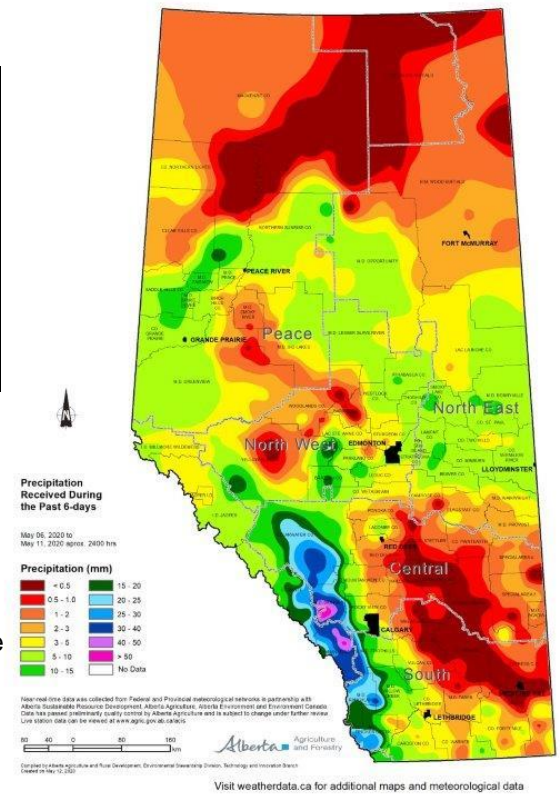
Surface soil moisture ratings are mostly unchanged in all areas of the province compared to last week, with the North West still reporting over 14 per cent of the acres having excessive moisture (see Table 3). Warm dry weather is needed to allow the soils to dry and support the weight of harvesting and seeding equipment. Observers estimate 77 per cent of the province as having good or excellent surface soil moisture, which will support germination and provide crops with an excellent start to the growing year.

Table 3: Surface Moisture Rating as of May 12, 2020

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Excessive
South	3.9%	35.8%	50.9%	9.2%	0.2%
Central	1.5%	16.6%	56.4%	24.5%	1.0%
North East	---	4.8%	32.0%	60.6%	2.6%
North West	---	4.7%	8.1%	72.7%	14.5%
Peace	0.2%	2.9%	24.3%	64.6%	8.0%
Average	1.7%	17.7%	41.0%	36.3%	3.3%
5-year Average	8.4%	25.6%	39.5%	20.8%	5.7%
May 9, 2017	0.7%	11.5%	25.0%	44.5%	18.3%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

All areas reported cool temperatures through the week, resulting in delayed emergence of the 2020 crop. The pasture and hay fields are starting to show reasonable growth but would benefit from warmer temperatures. Precipitation over the six days leading up to this survey period tells a varied tale across Alberta (see Map). The foothills received in excess of 20 mm (blue and purple shaded areas) while over half the province received six mm or less (yellow to red areas).



Regional Assessments:

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

- The last week has seen fairly dry weather across much of the region, with some scattered showers in the western area. Cool nights are not supportive of ideal growing conditions, and have slowed crop emergence.
- Seeding has progressed 21 points over last week with an estimated 47 per cent of acres now in the ground, compared to the five-year average of 56 per cent. Reports predict that seeding will be finished in this area by last week of May. Sugar Beets are now 98 per cent planted with potatoes following closely behind at 85 per cent in the ground. Dry Beans planting operations will be underway within the week.
- Surface soil moisture ratings remain in respectable shape with 60 per cent rated good or excellent.

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

- The last week has seen warmer, drier weather allowing the standing water to dry up and producers to get in the field.
- Seeding has progressed 21 points over last week with an estimated 25 per cent of acres now in the ground compared to the five-year average of 33 per cent. Reports predict that seeding in this area will be finished by end of May.
- Surface soil moisture ratings remain in great shape with 81 per cent rated good or excellent.
- Decent progress is being made on the unharvested acres, with less than one per cent of 2019 acres remaining in the field. Of the unharvested acres, an estimated one per cent canola, eight per cent spring wheat and four per cent barley acres remain in the field, in contrast with last week's stats of 10 per cent, 19 per cent and 12 per cent respectively.

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

- Reports indicate that the counties of Lamont and Smoky Lake, and parts of Lac La Biche, had snow and rain last week while Two Hills and Minburn have quite a bit of standing water in the low spots hampering field activity.
- Seeding is now underway with an estimated nine per cent of acres in the ground compared to the five-year average of 20 per cent. Reports predict that seeding in this area will be finished by June 6.

- Surface soil moisture ratings of excessive remain unchanged from last week at three per cent.
- Substantial progress is being made on the unharvested acres, with one per cent of 2019 acres remaining in the field. Of the unharvested acres, an estimated four per cent canola, eight per cent spring wheat, 11 per cent oats and nine per cent barley acres remain in the field, in contrast with last week's stats of 23 per cent, 34 per cent, 37 per cent and 37 per cent respectively.

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

- Much of this area remains too wet to achieve any considerable seeding or harvesting progress. Last week brought snow to many counties in the western portion of the region, with rain scattered throughout the area.
- Seeding is underway with an estimated three per cent of acres in the ground compared to the five-year average of 20 per cent. Reports predict that seeding in this area will be finished by late May or the first week of June.
- Surface soil moisture ratings of excessive remain unchanged from last week at just over 14 per cent.
- Moderate progress is being made on the unharvested acres, with less than four per cent of 2019 acres remaining in the field. Of the unharvested acres, an estimated 49 per cent canola, 52 per cent spring wheat, 59 per cent oats and 44 per cent barley acres remain in the field, in contrast with last week's stats of 58 per cent, 68 per cent, 74 per cent and 57 per cent respectively. Recent snow may result in some acres now being unrecoverable.

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

- The last week has seen warmer, drier weather allowing the standing water to dry up and producers to get in the field.
- Seeding has progressed six points with an estimated seven per cent of acres now in the ground compared to the five-year average of 17 per cent. Reports predict that seeding in this area will be finished within the first few days of June.
- Surface soil moisture ratings of excessive has declined from 11 per cent last week to eight per cent this week.
- Significant progress is being made on the unharvested acres with 10 per cent of 2019 acres remaining in the field. Of the unharvested acres, an estimated 29 per cent canola, 25 per cent spring wheat, 26 per cent oats and 24 per cent barley acres remain in the field, in contrast with last week's stats of 76 per cent, 80 per cent, 81 per cent and 82 per cent respectively.

Contacts

Agriculture Financial Services Corporation
Business Risk Management Products Unit
Lacombe, Alberta

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Jackie Sanden – Product Coordinator
Ken Handford – Product Development Analyst
Email: MediaInquiry@afsc.ca

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