

Alberta Crop Report



Crop Conditions as of May 26, 2020 (Abbreviated Report)

By the end of last week, a major weather system brought a significant amount of moisture to many parts of the province and halted both seeding and harvesting operations across the province for a couple of days, depending on the amount of rainfall. The precipitation ranged from less than 5 mm in the northern parts of the Peace Region to over 80 mm through the western and central parts of the North West Region and some parts of the Southern Region (see map).

Seeding was in full swing over the past week before the rain slowed progress. Producers in the North East Region made the most seeding progress at 27 per cent, followed by the North West and Central Regions at 22 and 19 per cent progress, respectively. Seeding progress was lowest in the Southern and Peace Regions, at 14 per cent progress. Provincially, as of May 26, about 80 per cent of crops have been seeded (see Table 1), up 20 per cent of major crops from a week ago and just behind the 5-year average (2015-2019) of 81 per cent. Compared to the 5-year averages, seeding in all regions is ahead, except for the Peace and North West Regions which are still behind.

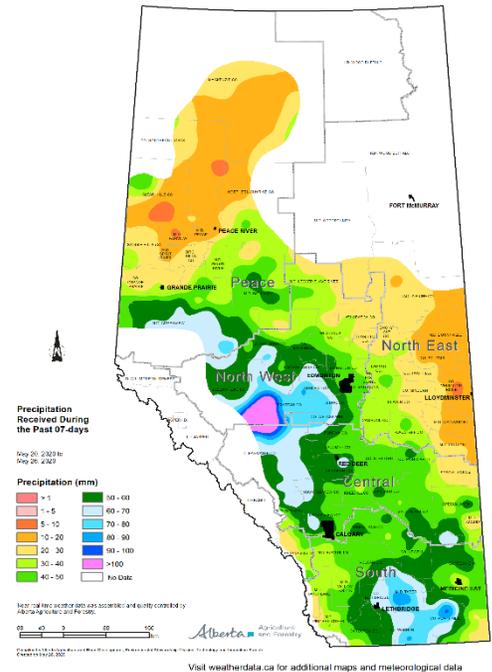


Table 2: 2019 Unharvested Crops as of May 26, 2020

	% of Overwintered Acres Still In Field					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	0.0%	0.7%	0.6%	8.9%	1.6%	1.6%
Barley	0.0%	0.0%	0.6%	8.7%	1.3%	1.5%
Oats	0.0%	0.0%	1.5%	11.5%	1.5%	4.6%
Canola	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%	5.9%	5.2%	2.2%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Precipitation received since the beginning of the 2020 crop season has improved soil moisture reserves across the province. Currently, compared to both short-term and long-term normals, most fields across the province are in good to excellent condition in terms of soil moisture. Overall, provincial surface soil moisture is rated (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) at 0 (3) per cent poor, 10 (13) per cent fair, 54 (47) per cent good, 32 (36) per cent excellent and 4 (1) per cent excessive (see Table 3). With day length approaching a maximum, evaporation rates should increase, provided there are more sunny and dry days in the forecast. Soil moisture ratings can change quickly.

Table 3: Surface Soil Moisture Ratings as of May 26, 2020

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Excessive
South	0.0%	15.2%	61.6%	22.3%	0.9%
Central	0.3%	12.7%	57.4%	29.6%	0.0%
North East	0.0%	4.6%	62.7%	29.7%	3.0%
North West	0.0%	5.2%	25.8%	46.8%	22.2%
Peace	0.0%	4.9%	35.7%	52.9%	6.6%
Alberta	0.1%	10.3%	54.0%	31.7%	4.0%
5-year Average	10.0%	24.3%	40.5%	21.2%	3.9%
10-year Average	7.3%	20.7%	43.3%	25.2%	3.5%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Regional Assessments:

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

- All parts of the region received at least 40 mm of rain, with the southern parts receiving up to 100 mm. The rain contributed to germination, boosted soil moisture and improved pasture and tame hay fields conditions.
- Overall, seeding is estimated at 94 per cent completed, up 14 per cent of major crops from a week ago, with about 46 per cent of crops emerged. About 97 per cent of spring wheat, 93 per cent of barley and oats, 90 per cent of canola and 99 per cent of dry peas have been seeded.
- Pasture conditions (tame hay shown in brackets) are rated as 15 (12) per cent fair, 75 (78) per cent good and 10 (10) per cent excellent.
- Fall seeded crops are rated as 1 per cent poor, 15 per cent fair, 66 per cent good and 18 per cent excellent.

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

- The rain in the region ranged from 30 mm in the eastern parts to 70 mm in the western areas. Although the precipitation over the past week slowed seeding progress, it was needed for crop germination, pastures and forages. Harvest of overwintered crops from the 2019 crop season is virtually completed.
- Seeding advanced to 91 per cent completed, up 19 per cent from a week ago, with about 29 per cent of crops emerged. About 93 per cent of spring wheat, 88 per cent of barley, 79 per cent of oats, 91 per cent of canola and 97 per cent of dry peas are reported as seeded.
- Pasture conditions (tame hay shown in brackets) are rated as 1 (1) per cent poor, 22 (15) per cent fair, 71 (78) per cent good and 6 (6) per cent excellent.
- Fall seeded crops are rated as 1 per cent poor, 16 per cent fair, 82 per cent good and 1 per cent excellent.

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

- Most parts of the region received at least 10 mm of rain, with the western parts receiving up to 40 mm.
- Seeding is estimated at 82 per cent completed, up 27 per cent from a week ago, with about 33 per cent of crops emerged. Nearly 90 per cent of spring wheat, 68 per cent of barley, 54 per cent of oats, 77 per cent of canola and almost all dry peas have now been seeded.
- Only less than one per cent of overwintered spring wheat, barley and canola and nearly two per cent of overwintered oats remain in the fields.
- Pasture conditions (tame hay shown in brackets) are rated as 2 (2) per cent poor, 31 (24) per cent fair, 64 (72) per cent good and 3 (2) per cent excellent.
- For fall seeded crops, conditions are reported as 26 per cent fair and 74 per cent good.

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

- Both seeding and harvest progressed well until May 21, when the rain brought all operations to a standstill. Precipitation in the region ranged from 30 mm to over 100 mm in different parts and added moisture to the soil, resulting in saturated fields in some areas. There may be some unseeded acres in the areas with excessive soil moisture.
- Seeding is estimated at 62 per cent completed, up 22 per cent from a week ago, with about six per cent of crops emerged. About 73 per cent of spring wheat, 42 per cent of barley, 35 per cent of oats, 61 per cent of canola and 72 per cent of dry peas are seeded.
- More overwintered crops in the region have been removed from fields through combining or other methods. Currently, about 9 per cent of spring wheat and barley, 12 per cent of oats and 6 per cent of canola are left in the fields. The quality of combined 2019 cereals ranges from 41 per cent of oats rated as good feed to 70 per cent of spring wheat rated as good feed. About 88 per cent of canola is graded at No. 3 Canada or better.
- With warmer temperatures, hay and pasture fields are starting to grow. Pasture conditions (tame hay shown in brackets) are rated as 3 (4) per cent poor, 21 (25) per cent fair, 55 (51) per cent good and 21(20) per cent excellent.

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

- Over the past week precipitation in the region varied from less than 5 mm in the northern parts to over 80 mm in the southern parts.
- Seeding for the region is now at 47 per cent complete, up 14 per cent from a week ago, with only one per cent emerged. About 45 per cent of spring wheat, 42 per cent of barley, 44 per cent of oats, 46 per cent of canola and 57 per cent of dry peas have now been seeded.
- Producers removed more overwintered crops through combining or other methods over the previous week. There are now two per cent of overwintered spring wheat and oats, one per cent of barley and five per cent of canola left in the fields. The quality of combined 2019 cereals ranges from 81 to 88 per cent good feed, while 88 per cent of canola is graded at No. 3 Canada or better.
- Pasture conditions (tame hay shown in brackets) are rated as 4 (4) per cent poor, 15 (16) per cent fair, 73 (73) per cent good and 8 (7) per cent excellent.

Contact

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry
Economics and Competitiveness Branch
Statistics and Data Development Section
May 29, 2020

Ashan Shooshtarian
Crop Statistician
Phone: 780-422-2887
Email: ashan.shooshtarian@gov.ab.ca

Note to Users: The contents of this document may not be used or reproduced without properly accrediting AFSC and Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Economics and Competitiveness Branch, Statistics and Data Development Section