

# Alberta Crop Report



## Crop Conditions as of October 13, 2020 (Abbreviated Report)

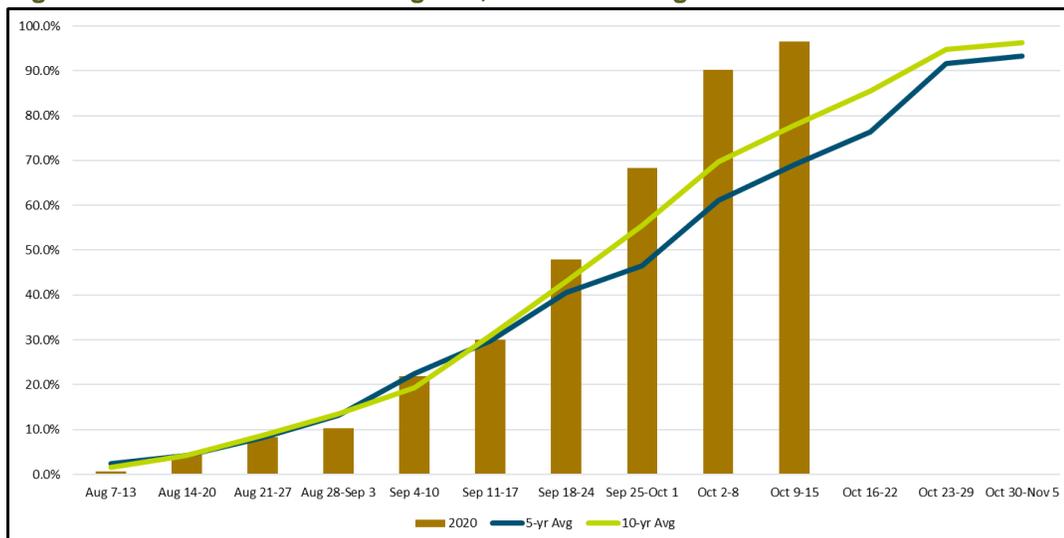
Precipitation over the past week slowed harvesting operations. However, it wasn't too wet to either stop producers from harvesting or improve soil moisture reserves. Producers across the province took advantage of another week of relatively good weather (see the map on the next page) to harvest as much crop as possible. Provincially, about 97 per cent of major crops have now been harvested (up seven per cent from a week ago), one per cent are in swath and another two per cent are standing (see Table 1). When compared to the 5-year or 10-year averages, harvest in Alberta is 2-3 weeks ahead (see Figure 1). About two per cent of spring wheat, one per cent of barley, four per cent of oats and two per cent of canola across the province are still standing. Also, one per cent of spring wheat and barley, two per cent of oats and three per cent of canola have been swathed.

Regionally, compared to the previous week, producers in the North West Region were able to make the most progress, combining an additional 16 per cent of their crops, followed by the Peace Region where harvest advanced nine per cent. Harvest progress moved up in the Central Region by seven per cent and in the North East Region by six per cent. Harvest of major crops in the Southern Region advanced by two per cent.

**Table 1: Estimates of Crop Harvest Progress as of October 13, 2020**

	Per cent of Crops Combined					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	99.7%	97.0%	98.0%	96.5%	91.8%	97.3%
Barley	99.7%	97.3%	98.6%	95.7%	92.2%	97.8%
Oats	98.8%	96.1%	96.8%	92.7%	90.3%	94.4%
Canola	98.1%	95.1%	96.0%	94.3%	90.6%	95.0%
Dry Peas	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	99.9%	99.5%	99.9%
<b>Major Crops, Oct 13</b>	<b>99.1%</b>	<b>96.4%</b>	<b>97.2%</b>	<b>95.4%</b>	<b>92.0%</b>	<b>96.5%</b>
<b>Major Crops, Oct 6</b>	<b>97.1%</b>	<b>89.9%</b>	<b>90.8%</b>	<b>79.5%</b>	<b>82.9%</b>	<b>89.8%</b>
<b>5-yr (2015-2019) Avg</b>	<b>87.5%</b>	<b>64.3%</b>	<b>64.4%</b>	<b>55.2%</b>	<b>65.9%</b>	<b>69.1%</b>
<b>10-yr (2010-2019) Avg</b>	<b>88.6%</b>	<b>74.2%</b>	<b>76.0%</b>	<b>69.9%</b>	<b>75.3%</b>	<b>77.9%</b>

**Figure 1: Provincial Harvest Progress, 2020 vs Averages**

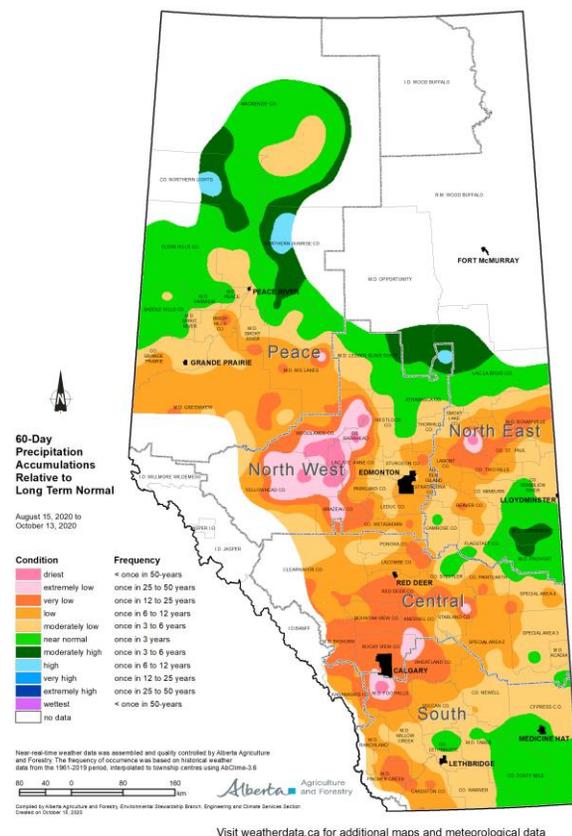


Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Overall soil moisture reserves have deteriorated, as a result of lower than normal fall precipitation. However, soil moisture reserves vary among regions, with the North West Region and some areas in the Peace and North East Regions having adequate reserves. Additionally, sub-surface soil moisture reserves have not deteriorated as much as surface soil moisture has. Although fall showers or winter snow can help the soil moisture situation when plants are not growing, spring precipitation will be a major factor for the success of 2021 crops. It is far too soon to determine if the 2021 will be a dry year as a result of low surface soil moisture in the fall. Surface soil moisture conditions in Alberta (5-year averages are shown in brackets) are now rated as 14 (6) per cent poor, 24 (20) per cent fair, 44 (47) per cent good and 17 (24) per cent excellent, with 1 (3) per cent excessive. Provincial sub-surface soil moisture conditions (5-year averages are shown in brackets) are currently rated as 13 (12) per cent poor, 18 (26) per cent fair, 43 (42) per cent good and 23 (19) per cent excellent, with 3 (1) per cent excessive.

Pastures are going into dormancy, with the conditions across Alberta rated as 21 per cent poor, 31 per cent fair, 45 per cent good and 3 per cent excellent.

Fall-seeded crop conditions are slightly better than normal. Fall seeded crop conditions (5-year averages are in brackets) are reported at 2 (4) per cent poor, 22 (27) per cent fair, 73 (61) per cent good and 3 (8) per cent excellent.



## Regional Assessments:

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

- Harvest in the region is virtually complete for major crops. Some small acreage has been left in low spots. Sugar beets are still being harvested and about one per cent of canola is still standing, with another one per cent swathed.
- Fall-seeded crops are rated as 3 per cent poor, 34 per cent fair, 58 per cent good and 5 per cent excellent.
- Surface soil moisture conditions (sub-surface ratings shown in brackets) are rated as 36 (34) per cent poor, 36 (32) per cent fair, 27 (33) per cent good and 1 (1) per cent excellent.

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

- Over the past week, scattered showers slowed harvest operations, but producers still were able to harvest an additional seven per cent of their major crops. Currently, harvest is mostly complete, expect for the later seeded crops or some acres that had hail and are still green.
- For the Region, about 96 per cent of major crops have now been harvested, two per cent are in swath and another two per cent are still standing.
- About two per cent of spring wheat, oats and canola and one per cent of barley are still standing, with two per cent of barley and oats and three per cent of canola in swath.
- Fall-seeded crops are rated as 2 per cent poor, 11 per cent fair, 83 per cent good and 4 per cent excellent.

- Surface soil moisture conditions (sub-surface ratings shown in brackets) are rated as 6 (7) per cent poor, 16 (13) per cent fair, 75 (78) per cent good and 3 (2) per cent excellent.

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

- Another week of good weather helped producers to combine an additional six per cent of their major crops. Harvest is nearing completion with 97 per cent of the crops now in the bin. About two per cent of crops have been swathed and only one per cent is still standing.
- About one per cent of spring wheat, oats and canola are still standing, with two per cent of oats and three per cent of canola in swath.
- Fall seeded crops are rated as 14 per cent fair and 86 per cent good.
- Surface soil moisture ratings (sub-surface ratings in brackets) are rated as 2 (3) per cent poor, 23 (7) per cent fair, 49 (26) per cent good and 25 (63) per cent excellent, with 1 (1) per cent excessive.

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

- Good weather over the past week allowed producers to advance harvest by an additional 16 per cent over the past week. Unharvested crops are still green either due to late seeding or set back in maturity as a result of excessive moisture.
- For the region, about 95 per cent of major crops are now in the bin, two per cent are in swath and three per cent still standing.
- About three per cent of spring wheat, barley and canola and six per cent of oats are still standing, with three per cent of canola in swath.
- Fall seeded crops are rated as 28 per cent fair and 72 per cent good.
- Surface soil moisture ratings (sub-surface ratings in brackets) are rated as 13 (6) per cent fair, 2 (6) per cent good and 76 (66) per cent excellent, with 9 (22) per cent excessive.

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

- Showers, sleet and frost have slowed harvesting operations and in some areas have halted harvest and delayed harvest completion. Yet, producers were able to combine an additional seven per cent of their crops.
- Regionally, 92 per cent of crops have been harvested, two per cent are in swath and six per cent still standing.
- About eight per cent of spring wheat, seven per cent of barley, nine per cent of oats and six per cent of canola are still standing, with four per cent of canola in swath.
- Surface soil moisture ratings (sub-surface ratings in brackets) are rated as 2 (0) per cent poor, 17 (18) per cent fair, 57 (60) per cent good and 23 (21) per cent excellent, with 1 (1) per cent excessive.

## Contact

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