

# Alberta Crop Report



## Crop Conditions as of October 6, 2020

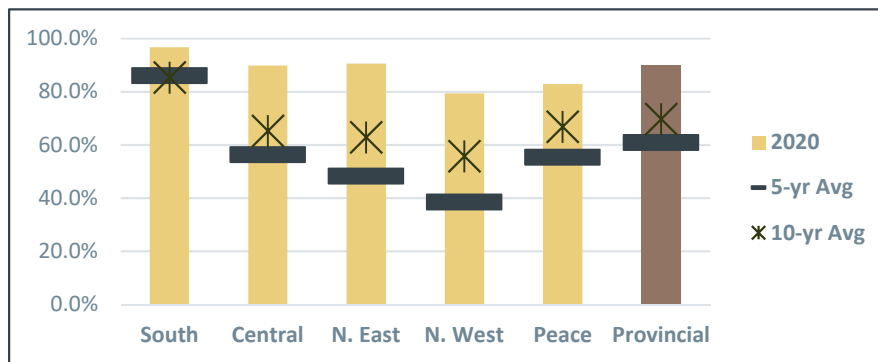
Precipitation across the province has been lower than normal since September 1, 2020. Most areas in the North East, North West and Peace Regions received only 15-20 mm of rain, which was extremely low, with the probability of happening once in 25 to 50 years. For a large area within these regions, precipitation has been even lower, with the probability of once in 50 years (see the map). Low precipitation along with the warmer than average temperatures has allowed producers across the province to make significant harvest progress by the first week of October.

Provincially, as of October 6, 2020, about 90 per cent of crops have been harvested, 29 per cent ahead of the 5-year and 20 per cent ahead of the 10-year average (see Table 1). The 2020 harvest progress for the first week of October was the highest over the past decade, following 2012 when harvest was 96 per cent complete. Regionally, when compared to the 5-year averages, harvest is the most advanced in the North East and North West Regions, where combining is respectively 42 and 41 per cent ahead of the average. Harvest in the Central Region is 33 per cent ahead and in the Peace Region 27 per cent. For the Southern Region, harvest is nearly complete and 10 per cent ahead of the average (see Figure 1). An additional five per cent of crops are in swath, while another five per cent are still standing.

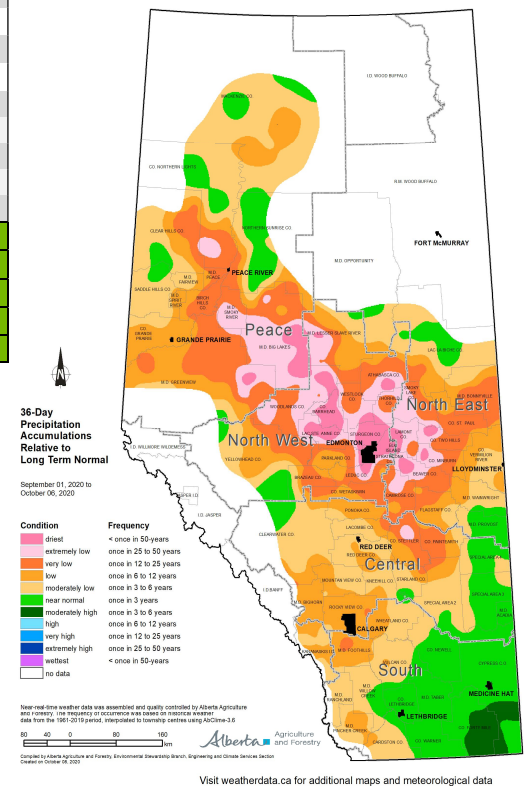
**Table 1: Estimates of Crop Harvest Progress as of October 6, 2020**

	Per cent of Crops Combined					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat*	98.1%	91.6%	94.0%	83.5%	84.0%	92.0%
Durum Wheat	99.6%	96.2%	---	---	---	99.1%
Winter Wheat	99.8%	100.0%	100.0%	---	---	99.8%
Barley*	99.6%	93.5%	94.0%	84.7%	86.0%	94.0%
Oats*	97.6%	88.0%	90.4%	71.1%	84.9%	84.2%
Canola*	95.1%	85.6%	87.0%	73.5%	79.7%	85.0%
Dry Peas*	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	99.7%	96.2%	99.2%
Lentils	100.0%	100.0%	---	---	---	100.0%
Chickpeas	91.8%	100.0%	---	---	---	92.1%
Flax	90.1%	76.0%	---	---	---	78.3%
Potatoes	99.0%	100.0%	---	85.0%	---	98.1%
Sugar Beets	32.5%	---	---	---	---	32.5%
<b>All Crops, Oct 6</b>	<b>96.7%</b>	<b>89.9%</b>	<b>90.6%</b>	<b>79.4%</b>	<b>82.9%</b>	<b>90.2%</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>Major Crops (*), Sep 22</b>	<b>90.4%</b>	<b>70.6%</b>	<b>65.6%</b>	<b>52.2%</b>	<b>42.6%</b>	<b>68.4%</b>
<b>5-yr (2015-2019) Avg</b>	<b>86.3%</b>	<b>56.5%</b>	<b>48.5%</b>	<b>38.7%</b>	<b>55.5%</b>	<b>61.1%</b>
<b>10-yr (2010-2019) Avg</b>	<b>85.4%</b>	<b>65.3%</b>	<b>62.9%</b>	<b>55.8%</b>	<b>66.9%</b>	<b>69.8%</b>

**Figure 1: Provincial and Regional Harvest Progress, 2020**



Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey



Provincial dryland yields are now estimated at 53.9 bushels per acre for spring wheat, 74.1 bushels per acre for barley, 83.9 bushels per acre for oats, 40.3 bushels per acre for canola and 42.3 bushels per acre for dry peas (see Table 2). The yields are nine per cent above both 5-year and 10-year averages. There are some reports, particularly in the North West Region, of yield loss in the swath due to shelling out. Also, for some flooded acres or late seeded crops, heads have not been filled as expected. Regionally, yields for the Southern and Central Regions are estimated 40 and 17 per cent above their 5-year averages, respectively. For the North East Region, yields are slightly above the 5-year average, by two per cent. Yields in the North West and Peace Regions are estimated at 24 per cent and 14 per cent below average.

**Table 2: Dryland Yield Estimates as of October 6, 2020**

	Estimated Yield (bushels/acre)					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	54.1	65.3	51.6	49.8	41.4	53.9
Barley	72.3	87.6	76.6	46.8	55.1	74.1
Oats	71.0	84.0	94.3	81.1	77.4	83.9
Canola	44.4	50.0	41.3	31.0	31.4	40.3
Dry Peas	49.4	46.9	41.7	32.0	31.1	42.3
5-year Yield Index	140.4%	116.9%	101.5%	75.6%	86.4%	109.3%
10-year Yield Index	126.2%	120.6%	103.8%	75.0%	94.0%	108.8%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

On average for the province, grades on the harvested portion of major crops are rated at high quality, while regional grading is variable across the province. Crop quality in the North West Region as well as in some areas of the North East and Peace Regions has been impacted by the wet spring and summer. Provincially, about 92 per cent of hard red spring wheat and 96 per cent of durum wheat are graded in the top two grades. About 43 per cent of barley is eligible for malt and 50 per cent graded as No. 1 feed. For oats, about 62 per cent is graded in the top two grades. Almost 89 per cent of canola is graded as No. 1, with another nine per cent as No. 2. For dry peas, about 29 per cent is graded as No. 1, 52 per cent as No. 2, 16 per cent as No. 3 and three per cent as feed.

## Regional Assessments:

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

- Favorable weather contributed to wrapping up the harvest for most crops. Over the past week, producers combined an additional seven per cent of their major crops. About 97 per cent of crops are now in the bin, one per cent is swathed and another two per cent is still standing. About two per cent of canola is in swath and three per cent standing. Harvest operations for sugar beets was paused last week, due to the warm temperatures.
- Crop quality for all crops is above their regional 5-year (2015-2019) averages. About 95 per cent of hard red spring wheat, 98 per cent of durum wheat and all oats are graded in the top two grades. About 67 per cent of barley is eligible for malt and 30 per cent graded as No. 1 feed. Nearly 88 per cent of canola is graded as No. 1 and 12 per cent as No. 2. For dry peas, 46 per cent are graded as No. 1, with 51 per cent as No. 2 and three per cent as No. 3.
- Fall seeded crops are rated as 1 per cent poor, 29 per cent fair, 55 per cent good and 15 per cent excellent.

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

- Producers continued harvest operations over the past week until the rain on Sunday put harvest to a halt in some areas. Since last week, producers were able to combine an additional 19 per cent of their major crops. Overall, about 90 per cent of all crops are combined, with five per cent swathed and another five per cent still standing. About eight per cent of canola is in swath and six per cent standing.
- For all crops, quality is above their regional averages. About 95 per cent of hard red spring wheat, all durum wheat and 94 per cent of oats are graded in the top two grades. Almost 50 per cent of barley is eligible for malt and 41 per

cent graded as No. 1 feed. For canola, 88 per cent is graded as No. 1, and six per cent as No. 2. About 52 per cent of dry peas is graded as No. 1, 40 per cent as No. 2, seven per cent as No. 3 and one per cent as feed.

- Fall seeded crops are rated as 2 per cent poor, 12 per cent fair, 84 per cent good and 2 per cent excellent.

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

- Compared to the large amount of rain over the summer and excessive soil moisture in parts of this region, producers have had a good fall harvest. Over the past week, they were able to advance the harvest by an additional 25 per cent. Overall, 91 per cent of all crops are now in the bin, five per cent are in swath and four per cent remain standing. About eight per cent of canola is in swath and five per cent standing.
- Crops in flooded acres are coming off with lower yield and quality. Quality for dry peas is low in the region, with no crops graded as No. 1, 63 per cent graded as No. 2 and 37 per cent as No. 3 or feed. About 87 per cent of hard red spring wheat is graded in the top two grades, which is slightly above the regional average. About 16 per cent of barley is eligible for malt and 76 per cent graded as No. 1 feed, which is on par with the average. Quality for oats and canola are above average. Nearly 67 per cent of oats are in the top two grades and 96 per cent of canola is graded as No. 1, with another three per cent as No. 2.
- Fall seeded crops are rated as 14 per cent fair and 86 per cent good.

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

- Favourable weather conditions contributed to substantial harvest progress over the past couple of weeks, but there are still some acres to be harvested. Producers were able to advance harvest progress by 27 per cent for major crops from a week ago. Overall, about 79 per cent of crops are in the bin, 10 per cent are in swath and 11 per cent remain standing. About 20 per cent of canola is in swath and seven per cent standing. Still, about 16 per cent of spring wheat, 12 per cent of barley and 24 per cent of oats remain standing.
- Crop quality for oats, dry peas and hard red spring No. 1 is below their regional averages. About 98 per cent of oats is graded as No. 3, with two per cent in the top two grades. Only 16 per cent of dry peas is graded as No. 1 and 17 per cent as No. 2, while about 67 per cent graded as No. 3. About 10 per cent of barley is eligible for malt and 86 per cent graded as No. 1 feed. Quality for hard red spring is graded as 30 per cent No. 1, with 62 per cent No. 2.
- Fall seeded crops are rated as 28 per cent fair and 72 per cent good.

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

- Ideal harvest weather contributed to quick progress in the region and producers were able to combine an additional 40 per cent of their crops over the last week. Overall, about 83 per cent of crops are in the bin, eight per cent are in swath and nine per cent are standing. About 14 per cent of canola is in swath and seven per cent standing. Still, 15 per cent of spring wheat, 13 per cent of barley, 14 per cent of oats and four per cent of dry peas remain standing.
- Crop quality for the top two grades of oats and hard red spring and malt barley is above average. About 87 per cent of spring wheat is graded as No. 2 or better, with 50 per cent graded as No. 1. Nearly 30 per cent of barley is eligible for malt and 54 per cent graded as No. 1 feed. For oats, 86 per cent is graded in the top two grades. About 97 per cent of canola is graded in the top two grades, with 76 per cent graded as No. 1. Quality for dry peas is graded as eight per cent No. 1, 71 per cent as No. 2, 16 per cent as No. 3 and six per cent as feed.

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