

Alberta Crop Report



Crop Conditions as of May 19, 2020

Precipitation across the province has been varied over the last month. In this period, western parts of the Southern and Central Regions as well as western and central parts of the North West Region and southern counties in the Peace Region received at least 40 mm of accumulated precipitation, with up to 80 mm in some areas (see the map on the next page). However, a large area in the Peace Region, the eastern parts of the North West and most parts of the Southern, Central and North East Regions have seen less than 20 mm of rain. The rain in the forecast is welcome in the eastern half of the province to promote active growth for both crops and forages, while it is expected to increase excessive soil moisture, particularly in the Peace and North West Regions.

Over the past week, producers across the province benefited from favourable dry weather conditions to advance seeding, with the most progress occurring in the Central Region with 32 per cent, followed by the North East and Southern Regions with 23 and 14 per cent progress, respectively. Seeding progress was lowest in the North West and Peace Regions, respectively, with nearly two and four per cent. Provincially, as of May 19, about 62 per cent of all crops have been seeded, above the 5-year average (2015-2019) of 59 per cent (see Table 1). Regionally, seeding progress is ahead of the 5-year average in the Central, North East and Southern Regions (respectively by 13, 6 and 5 per cent), while it is behind in the Peace and North West Regions (respectively by 17 and 10 per cent). Both provincial and regional seeding progress are well ahead of 2017, which was a similar spring in Alberta, with both seeding of new crops and harvesting overwintered crops at the same time.

Table 1: Alberta Seeding Progress as of May 19, 2020

	% Seeded					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	85.5%	80.3%	65.6%	51.9%	31.7%	68.1%
Durum Wheat	87.9%	62.1%	---	---	---	84.4%
Barley	79.4%	65.3%	35.0%	27.3%	28.6%	57.4%
Oats	77.6%	50.6%	23.3%	20.1%	29.2%	33.1%
Canola	68.5%	65.4%	46.1%	36.6%	32.3%	50.1%
Dry Peas	93.8%	87.1%	89.6%	46.0%	39.0%	77.1%
Mustard	79.4%	51.6%	---	---	---	70.0%
Flax	64.0%	45.8%	30.0%	---	---	57.4%
Potatoes	97.7%	24.3%	---	11.7%	---	87.3%
Dry Beans	50.0%	---	---	---	---	50.0%
Chickpeas	89.1%	85.0%	---	---	---	89.0%
Lentils	90.1%	79.4%	---	---	---	88.5%
Corn	83.0%	60.7%	---	---	---	67.4%
All Crops, May 19, 2020	81.8%	71.5%	54.5%	40.2%	32.6%	61.8%
All Crops, 5-year Average	76.4%	58.8%	48.7%	50.2%	49.8%	59.2%
Major Crops, May 19, 2020	80.7%	72.1%	54.7%	40.4%	32.6%	60.0%
Last week, May 12, 2020	47.1%	25.0%	8.5%	3.2%	7.2%	20.7%
Last year, May 21, 2019	82.9%	73.3%	67.2%	65.0%	65.7%	72.6%
May 16, 2017	63.9%	33.1%	8.2%	5.0%	18.1%	30.6%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Good weather conditions over the past week also led to additional combining of overwintered acres from the 2019 crop season, but it is still challenging in some areas, particularly in the North West Region and some parts of the Peace Region. As of May 19, about four per cent of unharvested spring wheat acres across the province, 3 per cent of barley, 10 per cent of oats and 5 per cent of the canola acres still remain in the field (see Table 2).

Pasture and tame hay are generally in good shape across the province. Compared to the 5-year averages, both pasture and tame hay conditions have improved by 15 per cent. Pasture conditions (tame hay conditions are in brackets) across the province are now reported as 7 (7) per cent poor, 24 (26) per cent fair, 64 (62) per cent good and 5 (5) per cent excellent (see Table 3). The rain in the forecast and the expected warmer temperatures are welcome to promote growth in pasture and tame hay fields.

Table 2: 2019 Unharvested Crops as of May 19, 2020

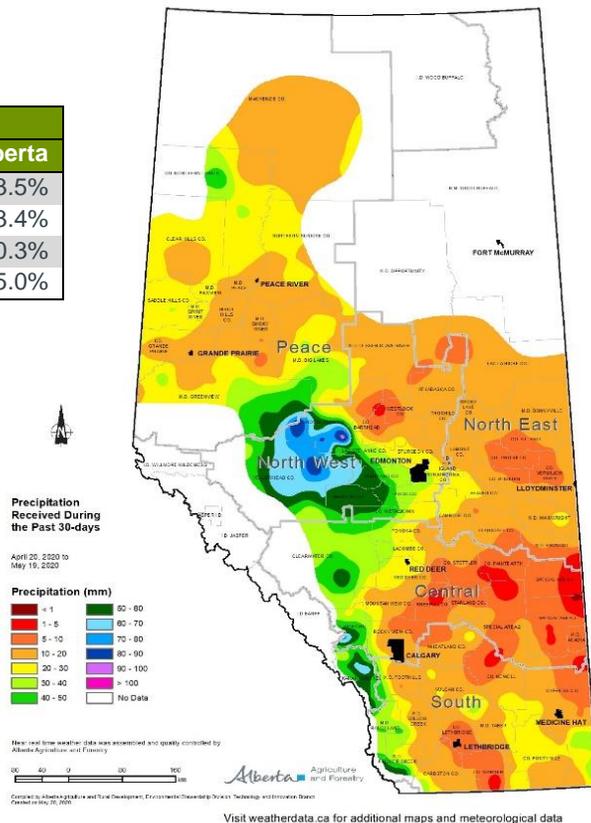
	% of Overwintered Acres Still In Field					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	0.0%	1.9%	1.4%	17.7%	3.9%	3.5%
Barley	0.0%	0.2%	1.5%	18.6%	2.7%	3.4%
Oats	0.0%	0.0%	3.5%	25.6%	2.9%	10.3%
Canola	0.0%	0.1%	1.4%	17.1%	8.4%	5.0%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Table 3: Pasture Growth Conditions as of May 19, 2020

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
South	2.0%	21.5%	69.7%	6.8%
Central	3.9%	24.4%	67.6%	4.1%
North East	17.4%	18.8%	61.6%	2.2%
North West	3.4%	54.3%	31.3%	11.0%
Peace	22.9%	13.4%	60.7%	3.0%
Alberta	7.0%	24.1%	63.6%	5.3%
5-year Average	15.1%	30.9%	45.2%	8.8%
10-year Average	9.3%	26.5%	52.1%	12.2%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey



Regional Assessments:

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

- Seeding is underway and crops are emerging in most areas, but in some western counties of the region, crop emergence has been slowed, due to cooler temperatures. The ground surface is getting dry and the rain in the forecast is welcome by producers. Pasture and tame hay fields look good and should be improved with the moisture in the forecast.
- Seeding is estimated at 82 per cent completed for all crops and 25 per cent have emerged. For major crops, seeding progress was reported at 81 per cent, up 14 per cent from a week ago.
- About 86 per cent of spring wheat, 88 per cent of durum, 79 per cent of barley, 69 per cent of canola, 94 per cent of dry peas, 83 per cent of corn and 99 per cent of sugar beets have now been seeded.
- Surface soil moisture is rated at 6 per cent poor, 43 per cent fair, 43 per cent good and 8 per cent excellent.
- Fall seeded crops are rated as 2 per cent poor, 20 per cent fair, 65 per cent good, and 13 per cent excellent.

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

- Seeding is in full swing in the region and progressed by 32 per cent over the past week to 72 per cent of all crops now completed, with six per cent emerged. Warmer temperatures and rain are needed for germination of crops.

- Nearly 80 per cent of spring wheat, 65 per cent of barley and canola, 87 per cent of dry peas, 85 per cent of chickpeas and 79 per cent of lentils are reported as seeded.
- Overwintered crops in the region have almost been harvested, with only two per cent of spring wheat left. The quality of combined 2019 cereals ranges from 50 to 86 per cent good feed, while 81 per cent of canola is graded at No. 3 Canada or better.
- Surface soil moisture is rated at 4 per cent poor, 19 per cent fair, 59 per cent good and 18 per cent excellent.
- Fall seeded crops are rated as 1 per cent poor, 17 per cent fair, 81 per cent good and 1 per cent excellent.

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

- Favourable weather conditions contributed to seeding advancement with 55 per cent of all crops complete, up 23 per cent from a week ago, while three per cent of crops have emerged. Warmer temperatures are needed for crop and pasture growth.
- Nearly 66 per cent of spring wheat, 35 per cent of barley, 23 per cent of oats, 46 per cent of canola and 90 per cent of dry peas have now been seeded.
- More overwintered crops in the region have been harvested during the prior week. Currently, about one per cent of spring wheat, barley and canola and four per cent of oats are left in the fields. The quality of combined 2019 cereals ranges from 71 to 78 per cent good feed, while 86 per cent of canola is graded at No. 3 Canada or better.
- Surface soil moisture is rated at 1 per cent poor, 9 per cent fair, 61 per cent good and 27 per cent excellent, with 2 per cent excessive.
- For fall seeded crops, conditions are reported as 24 per cent fair and 76 per cent good.

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

- Over the past week, seeding advanced to 40 per cent complete, up two per cent from the previous week. In some areas, cold temperatures have slowed pasture and tame hay growth.
- About 52 per cent of spring wheat, 27 per cent of barley, 20 per cent of oats, 37 per cent of canola and 46 per cent of dry peas are reported as seeded.
- Combining of unharvested crops continued over the last week. There are still 18 per cent of overwintered spring wheat, 19 per cent of barley, 26 per cent of oats and 17 per cent of canola left in the fields.
- Surface moisture is rated at 11 per cent fair, 28 per cent good and 56 per cent excellent, with 5 per cent excessive.

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

- Seeding for the region is now at 33 per cent complete, up four per cent from a week ago, with one per cent emerged. Cooler weather and cold soil temperatures have slowed germination and pasture growth.
- Almost 32 per cent of spring wheat, 29 per cent of barley and oats, 32 per cent of canola and 39 per cent of dry peas have now been seeded.
- More unharvested crops from the 2019 season have been removed from the fields. There are still four per cent of overwintered spring wheat, three per cent of both barley and oats and eight per cent of canola left in the fields.
- Surface soil moisture is rated at 2 per cent fair, 39 per cent good and 56 per cent excellent, with 3 per cent excessive.

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