

Alberta Crop Report



Crop Conditions as of June 29, 2020

NOTE – For the months of July and August, Crop Reports will be released bi-weekly.

Temperatures across Alberta have been normal to moderately warm relative to long term, while precipitation has been quite persistent again this past week. The South and much of Central regions received widespread rain or showers and some scattered hail. The rainfall is replenishing the low sub-soil moisture reserves experienced in the South and parts of Central region this past year. The southern portion of Peace region also recorded some significant precipitation along with the southwest and northeast areas of North West region, and north west part of the North East region. Producers across much of Alberta would welcome some hot, arid days to dry out soil, advance crop development and allow time to finish post-emergent spraying.

Overall, crop conditions are 80 per cent good to excellent and above average in the South, Central and North East regions, on par in the Peace, while the North West is definitely lagging compared to the historical normal (Table 1). The Central region is currently reporting more than 30 per cent above the five-year average, South just under 20 per cent above, North East over 10 per cent above and Peace nearing five per cent above the five-year average. North West region conditions are estimated at over 15 per cent behind the five-year average resulting from the excessive moisture conditions prevalent since last fall. Peas sown in the low spots in South and Central regions are showing early signs of stress from too much moisture, while the wet conditions are causing yellowing off for many crops all across the North West region, as well in the north-west portion of North East region, and the south and east counties of Peace.

Table 1: Regional Crop Condition Ratings as of June 29, 2020

	Per cent rated in Good to Excellent Condition					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat*	82.1%	95.4%	87.6%	49.1%	72.1%	81.7%
Durum Wheat	83.8%	85.5%	---	---	---	84.0%
Barley*	82.2%	97.2%	81.4%	44.5%	61.0%	81.3%
Oats*	85.9%	95.1%	82.2%	43.1%	70.5%	72.3%
Winter Wheat	86.6%	76.2%	93.2%	---	---	86.1%
Mixed Grain	90.0%	96.9%	---	42.1%	---	89.2%
Canola*	75.2%	95.6%	81.1%	46.8%	68.1%	76.0%
Dry Peas*	85.0%	93.8%	85.9%	46.1%	63.9%	79.6%
Lentils	93.7%	85.5%	---	---	---	92.5%
Chickpeas	93.6%	90.0%	---	---	---	93.5%
Mustard	70.0%	76.7%	---	---	---	72.2%
Flax	79.2%	83.5%	100%	---	---	82.1%
Potatoes	90.4%	100%	---	50%	---	88.2%
All Crops	81.7%	95.1%	83.8%	46.9%	68.0%	79.7%
Major Crops (*)	80.7%	95.7%	83.9%	47.1%	68.3%	79.1%
Last Year	54.0%	79.8%	81.6%	88.1%	52.4%	69.9%
5-year Average	62.8%	62.8%	72.4%	64.0%	63.7%	65.5%
10-year Average	73.1%	74.4%	76.8%	73.3%	70.7%	74.1%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

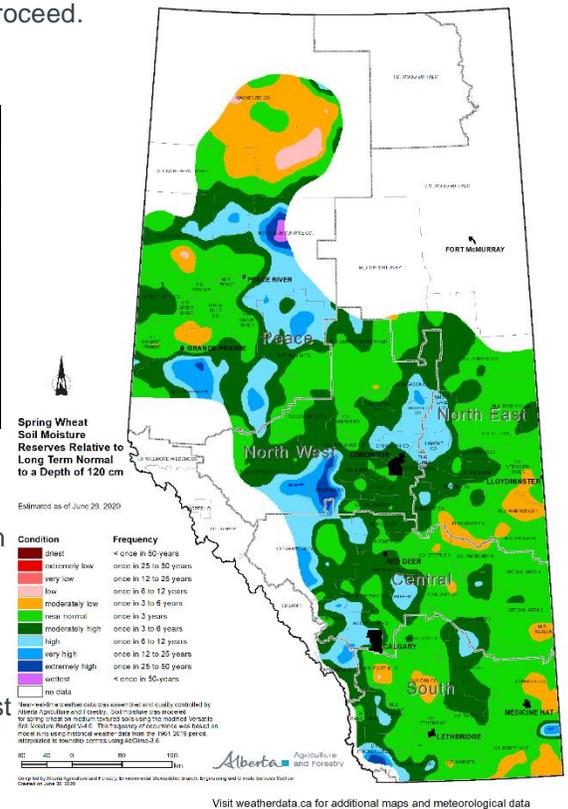
Forage crops are generally in good to excellent condition across the province. Tame hay growth rated as good or excellent is at 93 per cent compared to the five-year average of 56 per cent. Pasture growth is rated 91 per cent good or excellent compared to the province's five-year average of 55 per cent. While haying is underway in the South, the other regions have barely begun and are waiting for an opening in the weather to proceed.

Table 2: Surface Moisture Rating as of June 29, 2020

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Excessive
South	0.6%	14.7%	55.1%	29.1%	0.5%
Central	1.5%	6.0%	63.3%	28.5%	0.8%
North East	---	2.1%	40.0%	51.3%	6.6%
North West	---	---	6.6%	40.8%	52.5%
Peace	0.3%	1.0%	16.7%	66.9%	15.1%
Average	0.6%	6.9%	44.7%	38.8%	9.0%
Last Year	8.5%	21.1%	58.8%	10.4%	1.5%
5-year Average	14.5%	24.7%	41.1%	16.9%	2.9%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Surface soil moisture is generally good throughout the province with 84 per cent rated good or excellent (Table 2). Concerns of too much moisture remain in the North West, where 53 per cent is rated as excessive, and to a lesser extent in the southern end of Peace region, with 15 per cent rated excessive. Sub-surface soil moisture reserves relative to long-term normal (Map) are moderately low in a few pockets (yellow) while much of the foothills, north east of Edmonton and south and east portions of the Peace remain high (blue).



Regional Assessments:

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

- Crop conditions within the South region are currently estimated at 82 per cent good or excellent, and are noticeably higher than the five-year average of 63 per cent and 10-year average of 73 per cent. Sugar Beets are rated as 84 per cent while dry beans are 80 per cent good or excellent. Flea Beetles are an issue for some producers.
- Spring-seeded cereals are in the early flag leaf stages, with winter cereals now flowering. Well over half of the oilseed and pulse crops are in the rosette stage, with nearly 10 per cent starting to flower.
- Surface soil moisture ratings rose two points over last week to 84 per cent rated good or excellent. Sub-surface soil moisture ratings are 81 per cent good or excellent.
- First-cut haying is underway with nearly one third of dryland acres and almost half of irrigated acres now completed. Dryland yields (irrigated in parenthesis) are estimated at 1.5 (2.4) tons per acre and 72 (82) per cent rated as good or excellent quality. Pasture growth (tame hay shown in parenthesis) is rated as nine (seven) per cent fair, 74 (69) per cent good, and 17 (23) per cent excellent.

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

- Crop conditions within the Central region are considerably above historical norms and currently estimated at 95 per cent good or excellent compared to the five-year average of 63 per cent and 10-year average of 74 per cent.
- Spring-seeded cereals are in the early stem elongation stages, with winter cereals now heading. The oilseed and pulse crop development is highly variable, with the majority of acres in the rosette stages with some pulses flowering.
- Surface soil moisture ratings stayed static from last week at 92 per cent rated good or excellent, with one per cent excessive. Sub-surface soil moisture ratings are 84 per cent good or excellent.

- Producers have just begun haying operations in this region with just over one per cent of dryland acres baled, and early yield reports of 1.3 tons per acre. Pasture growth (tame hay shown in parenthesis) is rated as 10 (six) per cent fair, 78 (81) per cent good, and 12 (13) per cent excellent.

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

- Crop conditions within the North East region are currently estimated at 84 per cent good or excellent, and above the five-year average of 72 per cent and 10-year average of 77 per cent.
- Spring-seeded cereals are in the early stem elongation stages; while fall-seeded cereals are now in head emergence. Canola has over 50 per cent in rosette stage, with peas at 85 per cent rosette stage.
- Surface soil moisture ratings stayed static from last week at 91 per cent rated good or excellent and seven per cent excessive. Sub-surface soil moisture ratings are 93 per cent good or excellent, with six per cent excessive.
- Producers are readying equipment in anticipation of some warm dry days to get haying underway. Pasture growth (tame hay shown in parenthesis) is rated as seven (eight) per cent fair, 72 (67) per cent good, and 21 (24) per cent excellent.

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

- Crop conditions within the North West region are currently estimated at 47 per cent good or excellent which is significantly below the five-year average of 64 per cent and 10-year average of 73 per cent.
- Spring-seeded cereals are in the late tillering/early stem elongation stages, while canola and peas are just over one third into the rosette stage.
- Surface soil moisture reversed the ratings from last week with 47 per cent now rated good or excellent and 53 per cent as excessive. Sub-surface soil moisture ratings are 40 per cent good or excellent, with 60 per cent excessive.
- Producers are readying equipment in anticipation of some warm dry days to get haying underway. Pasture growth (tame hay shown in parenthesis) is rated as 10 (10) per cent good and 90 (90) excellent.

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

- Crop conditions within the Peace region are currently estimated at 68 per cent good or excellent, which is comparable to the five-year average of 64 per cent and 10-year average of 71 percent. There are reports of Lygus Bug infestations in the northern parts of this region.
- Spring-seeded cereals are in the late tillering/early stem elongation stages, while canola and peas are nearing two thirds into the rosette stage.
- Surface soil moisture ratings dropped one point from last week to 84 per cent rated good or excellent, and 15 per cent excessive. Sub-surface soil moisture ratings are 86 per cent good or excellent, with 13 per cent excessive.
- Producers are readying equipment in anticipation of some warm dry days to get haying underway. Pasture growth (tame hay shown in parenthesis) is rated as three (three) per cent poor, 12 (11) per cent fair, 67 (67) per cent good, and 18 (19) excellent.

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