

# Alberta Crop Report

NOTE – Crop Reports will be released bi-weekly in July and August



## Crop Conditions as of August 9, 2022

Over the past two weeks, precipitation in the central and northern parts of the province has been variable, but even the driest areas have received 10 to 20 mm, and for many widely scattered areas, well over 30 mm (see the map). In contrast, several areas in the South Region and the southern half of the Central Region have received less than 10 mm, with some receiving less than 5 mm of moisture. During this period, temperatures in Alberta have generally remained above normal, which contributed to crop development and drying out the wet areas throughout the central and northern parts of the province. However, conditions across the south have dried significantly.

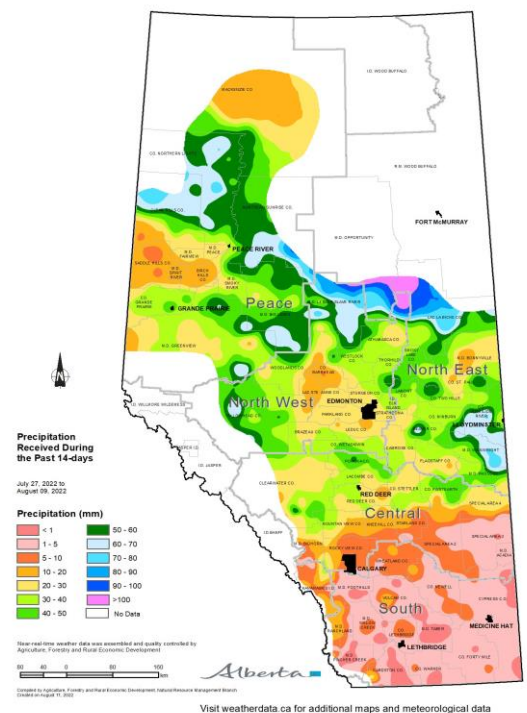
From beginning of July, crop development was accelerated by the above normal temperatures and, at this point, is on par with the 5-year averages. Spring seeded cereals across the province are mostly in the beginning of the dough development growth stage, while fall seeded crops are in the ripening stage. About 90 per cent of canola and 99 per cent of dry peas, lentils and chickpeas are in the podding stage. Harvest operations have begun for fall-seeded crops and pulses in the South and Central Regions.

Provincial crop growing condition ratings declined slightly from the previous report (conditions as of July 26). Currently, 70 per cent of crops in Alberta are in good or excellent condition, compared to the 5-year average of 56 per cent (see Table 1). While crop growing conditions in all regions remained above their 5-year averages, compared to the previous report, growing condition ratings dropped for all regions, except for the North West. As some excessive moisture in the North West Region dried out, crop growing condition ratings in this region improved and are now the highest among regions, with 83 per cent of crops in good or excellent conditions.

Table 1: Regional Crop Condition Ratings as of August 9, 2022

	Per cent rated in Good to Excellent Condition					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat*	53.3%	85.3%	85.6%	92.2%	72.8%	76.8%
Durum Wheat	46.8%	42.4%	---	---	---	46.2%
Barley*	47.4%	86.2%	84.4%	81.5%	62.7%	70.9%
Oats*	54.5%	80.6%	88.4%	90.5%	64.0%	80.8%
Canola*	48.7%	68.8%	77.0%	77.4%	67.8%	68.6%
Dry Peas*	57.8%	80.5%	84.4%	62.7%	64.1%	68.7%
Mustard	49.2%	42.5%	---	---	---	47.3%
Flax	54.6%	85.5%	90.0%	---	---	66.9%
Potatoes	65.0%	70.0%	100.0%	88.5%	---	66.8%
Sugar Beets	65.0%	---	---	---	---	65.0%
Lentils	49.5%	58.3%	---	---	---	50.9%
<b>All Crops, Aug 9</b>	<b>50.8%</b>	<b>77.9%</b>	<b>81.8%</b>	<b>82.9%</b>	<b>68.1%</b>	<b>70.0%</b>
<b>Major Crops (*), Aug 9</b>	<b>51.1%</b>	<b>79.6%</b>	<b>81.8%</b>	<b>82.8%</b>	<b>68.1%</b>	<b>72.1%</b>
<b>All Crops, June 26</b>	<b>54.4%</b>	<b>80.4%</b>	<b>82.7%</b>	<b>79.1%</b>	<b>72.6%</b>	<b>72.0%</b>
<b>5-year (2017-2021) Avg</b>	<b>47.3%</b>	<b>60.0%</b>	<b>66.9%</b>	<b>42.5%</b>	<b>57.4%</b>	<b>55.7%</b>
<b>10-year (2012-2021) Avg</b>	<b>60.2%</b>	<b>64.9%</b>	<b>72.1%</b>	<b>58.9%</b>	<b>59.6%</b>	<b>63.9%</b>

Source: AFRED/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey



Yield estimates are above both the 5-year and 10-year averages in all regions. Provincially, the estimated dryland 5-year yield index is 115.1, indicating that provincial yields are estimated at 15 per cent above the 5-year averages (see Table 2). Regionally, the 5-year yield index is the best in the Peace Region (estimating yields 23 per cent above the 5-year averages), followed by the South Region (estimating 20 per cent above the 5-year averages). Estimated yields in the Central and North East Regions are respectively 15 and 12 per cent above their regional averages. The lowest yield estimates are reported in the North West Region, where expected yields are only six per cent above the 5-year average. Please note that these estimates are preliminary and subject to change, but they will be updated bi-weekly.

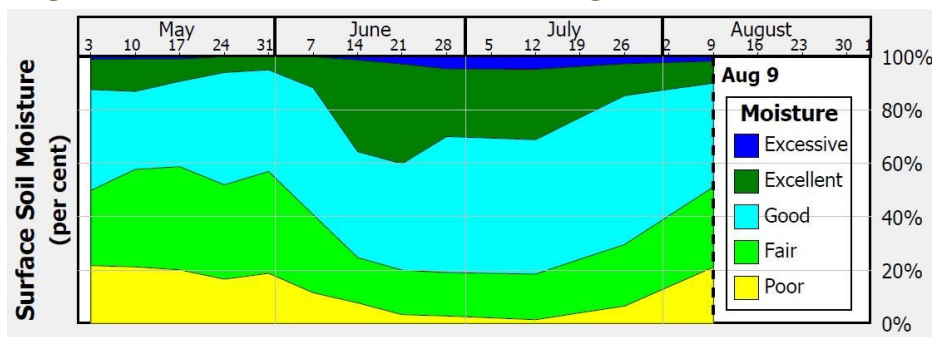
**Table 2: Dryland Yield Estimates as of August 9, 2022**

	Estimated Yield (bushels/acre)					
	South Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta	
Spring Wheat	43.7	59.6	53.7	52.4	53.6	52.8
Barley	54.8	83.8	79.8	67.9	73.5	71.8
Oats	53.1	83.4	94.5	85.2	83.1	86.0
Canola	33.5	43.1	42.4	41.5	39.7	40.5
Dry Peas	36.5	47.5	47.1	39.6	53.1	44.4
5-year Yield Index*	119.9	115.2	111.9	106.1	123.2	115.1
10-year Yield Index*	105.4	115.1	112.5	98.7	122.4	110.8

\* 5-year and 10-year yield index compare current year yields to their respective last 5-year and 10-year averages in general.  
Source: AFRED/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Provincial surface and sub-surface soil moisture reserves deteriorated from the last report (respectively by 22 and eight per cent), as a result of less precipitation, above normal temperatures and wind. Currently, surface soil moisture is rated at 39 per cent good, 8 per cent excellent and 2 per cent excessive, while 51 per cent is rated as poor or fair (see Figure 1). However, compared to the long-term, soil moisture reserves remain at least normal for most of the province.

**Figure 1: Alberta Surface Soil Moisture Ratings over the Season, 2022**



Source: AFRED/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Pasture growing condition ratings across the province declined by five per cent from two weeks ago and are now rated as 10 per cent poor, 41 per cent fair, 46 per cent good and 3 per cent excellent. First cut haying is 94 per cent complete across the province, ahead of the 5-year average of 89 per cent, and second cut is underway in some areas. Yield for first cut dryland hay is estimated at 1.6 tons per acre (above the 5-year average of 1.4 tons per acre), with quality rated as 5 per cent poor, 22 per cent fair, 61 per cent good and 12 per cent excellent. For irrigated hay, yield is reported at 2.2 tons per acre, below the 5-year average of 2.4 tons per acre. Quality is rated at 3 per cent poor, 30 per cent fair, 62 per cent good and 5 per cent excellent. Additionally, producers are silaging a number of cereal acres, as feed reserves were depleted last season.

## Regional Assessments:

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

- Over the past two weeks, dry and hot weather with some thunder showers was the dominant pattern in the region, with severe hail damage reported in some counties. Hot and dry weather has accelerated crop development and may have slightly lowered yield potential. In some fields, crops are in two different stages of development due to additional growth following July rains.
- Harvest has started in some counties, mostly with fall seeded crops, barley and dry peas. Yield estimates are variable across the region, but preliminary estimates are indicating higher than average yields.
- Haying operations benefited from hot weather, and first cut operations for both dryland and irrigated land are virtually complete. Average yield on dryland is estimated at 1.2 tons per acre, marginally above the 5-year average of 1.1 tons per acre, and is 2.2 tons per acre on irrigated land, lower than the 5-year average of 2.4 tons per acre. Of first cut hay, about 42 per cent of dryland hay and 64 per cent of irrigated hay is rated as good or excellent quality. Second cut haying operations are currently underway only in irrigated fields, and 10 per cent complete, with yield at 2.1 tons per acre.
- Pasture growing conditions (tame hay conditions shown in brackets) are now reported as 13 (11) per cent poor, 70 (64) per cent fair and 17 (25) per cent good.
- Surface soil moisture is rated (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) at 43 (20) per cent poor, 43 (57) per cent fair, 13 (23) per cent good and 1 (0) per cent excellent.

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

- Crops in most areas are still in good conditions, but more rain is needed to improve soil moisture and fill the crops. Hot weather benefited crops that were behind due to the dry spring, although some canola fields are still in late flowering stage. A hail storm on August 1 caused severe damage in a few counties. Haying and silaging have been progressing quickly to build up feed reserves.
- Producers are wrapping up first cut hay, with 90 per cent completion for both dryland and irrigated hay, slightly behind normal. For dryland, first cut average yield is estimated at 1.5 tons per acre, and for irrigated, at 2.3 tons per acre (both above the 5-year averages). Quality is rated as 81 per cent good to excellent for dryland hay and 85 per cent good or excellent for irrigated.
- Pasture growing conditions (tame hay conditions shown in brackets) are reported as 12 (10) per cent poor, 23 (21) per cent fair, 61 (64) per cent good and 4 (5) per cent excellent.
- Surface soil moisture is rated (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) at 13 (11) per cent poor, 26 (31) per cent fair, 45 (41) per cent good, and 12 (13) per cent excellent, with 4 (4) per cent excessive.

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

- Crops are generally developing well in the region. The hot and dry weather two weeks ago advanced, but hurt some crops. However, it was followed by some cooler wet weather last week, helping with filling crops. Although some dry pea fields have yellowed due to excess moisture, producers are starting to desiccate them.
- First cut haying is 92 per cent complete, ahead of the 5-year average of 82 per cent completed at this time. Yield is reported at 1.5 tons per acre, on par with the 5-year average and quality is rated as 19 per cent poor and fair, 81 per cent good and excellent. Second cut hay has not started yet.
- Pasture growing conditions (tame hay conditions shown in brackets) are reported as 5 (9) per cent poor, 32 (26) per cent fair, 56 (58) per cent good and 7 (7) per cent excellent.
- Surface soil moisture is reported (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) at 5 (12) per cent poor, 26 (28) per cent fair, 55 (50) per cent good, and 13 (8) per cent excellent, with 1 (2) per cent excessive.

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

- Most parts of the region only received scattered showers, providing time to dry up excess soil moisture, slowing the progression of deterioration in wet spots and drowned out acres, although it is late for some of those crops. Counties in the western and northern parts of the region received more rain. Yields remain variable across the region, as in some areas head size and kernel counts are down. This is attributed to a tough start to the season, drowned out acres, and now lodging in certain acres (mostly barley). Many producers are silaging cereals for feed with a good yield.
- First cut haying is 94 per cent complete (ahead of the average of 82 per cent) with higher than normal yield and better than normal quality. The yield for first cut hay is reported at 1.9 tons per acre, compared to the 5-year average of 1.7 tons per acre, and quality is estimated at 15 per cent poor or fair, 85 per cent good or excellent.
- Pasture growing conditions (tame hay conditions shown in brackets) are reported as 4 (1) per cent poor, 17 (13) per cent fair, 73 (79) per cent good and 6 (7) per cent excellent.
- Surface soil moisture is reported (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) at 3 (0) per cent poor, 13 (15) per cent fair, 63 (72) per cent good, and 19 (13) per cent excellent, with 2 (0) per cent excessive.

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

- Over the past two weeks, most parts of the region received at least 30 mm of rain. Also, there were hail storms reported for some areas, with light to severe damage.
- First cut haying operations are now 98 per cent complete (ahead of the 84 per cent average), with the average yield estimated at 2.1 tons per acre, well above the 5-year average of 1.3 tons per acre. Quality is rated as 23 per cent poor or fair and 77 per cent good or excellent. Second cut hay is underway and 14 per cent is completed, with yield estimated at 1.5 tons per acre.
- Pasture growing conditions (tame hay conditions shown in brackets) are reported as 9 (11) per cent poor, 32 (31) per cent fair, 57 (56) per cent good and 2 (2) per cent excellent.
- Surface soil moisture is rated (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) at 24 (12) per cent poor, 26 (26) per cent fair, 47 (54) per cent good and 3 (8) per cent excellent.

## Contact

Alberta Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development  
Intergovernmental and Trade Relations Branch  
Statistics and Data Development Section  
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Ashan Shooshtarian  
Crop Statistician  
Phone: 780-422-2887  
Email: [ashan.shooshtarian@gov.ab.ca](mailto:ashan.shooshtarian@gov.ab.ca)

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