

# Alberta Crop Report



## Crop Conditions as of July 12, 2022

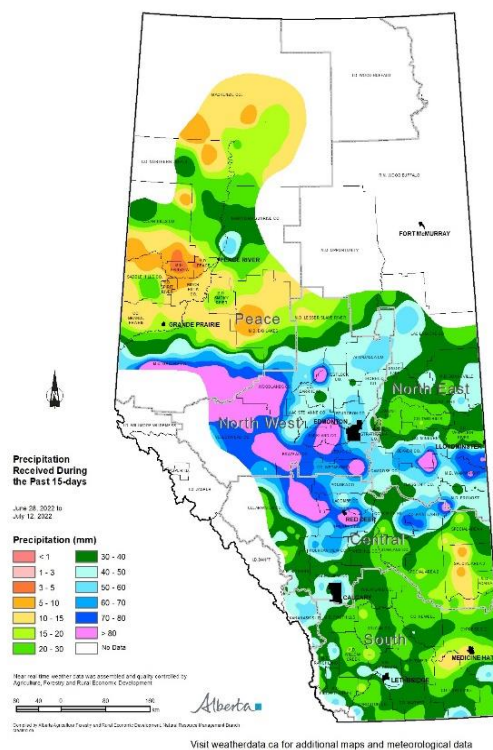
Over the past two weeks, precipitation has been highly variable throughout the province (see the map). Many areas in the Peace Region and the south eastern parts of the province received less than 10 mm of rain (see yellow and orange areas on the map), while in the central parts of the province precipitation was at least 40-50 mm (blue areas on the map), with many areas receiving more than 100 mm. For the rest of the province, precipitation has been between the above mentioned ranges. Also, some light to moderate hail damage was reported for different regions.

Compared to the last crop report (conditions as of June 27), crop growing conditions in the province remained practically unchanged, with 75 per cent of crops rated in good to excellent condition, above the provincial 5-year average of 65 per cent and the 10-year average of 69 per cent (see Table 1). Regionally, crop growing conditions are currently the best in the North East Region, with 82 per cent of all crops rated as good or excellent, while the lowest rating is reported in the South Region, at 64 per cent good or excellent. About 78 per cent of crops in the Central and Peace Regions and 76 per cent in the North West Region are rated as good or excellent.

**Table 1: Regional Crop Condition Ratings as of July 12, 2022**

	Per cent rated in Good to Excellent Condition					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat*	68.6%	86.0%	88.3%	92.6%	82.8%	82.7%
Durum Wheat	67.0%	48.3%	---	---	---	64.4%
Barley*	58.2%	87.5%	85.2%	75.3%	72.9%	75.1%
Oats*	78.5%	80.5%	88.5%	80.5%	75.6%	81.6%
Canola*	51.6%	67.8%	74.9%	63.0%	77.7%	68.2%
Dry Peas*	68.5%	77.7%	85.8%	75.3%	73.7%	74.9%
Mustard	47.9%	40.0%	---	---	---	45.6%
Flax	78.6%	80.3%	93.1%	---	---	80.7%
Potatoes	80.0%	85.0%	100.0%	80.8%	---	80.2%
Chickpeas	86.9%	41.3%	---	---	---	84.1%
Lentils	79.8%	45.7%	---	---	---	74.6%
<b>All Crops, July 12</b>	<b>63.9%</b>	<b>77.9%</b>	<b>82.1%</b>	<b>76.1%</b>	<b>78.1%</b>	<b>74.5%</b>
<b>Major Crops (*), July 12</b>	<b>61.4%</b>	<b>79.6%</b>	<b>82.1%</b>	<b>76.0%</b>	<b>78.1%</b>	<b>75.2%</b>
<b>All Crops, June 27</b>	<b>64.1%</b>	<b>78.8%</b>	<b>83.4%</b>	<b>76.1%</b>	<b>78.8%</b>	<b>75.2%</b>
<b>5-year (2017-2021) Avg</b>	<b>59.2%</b>	<b>75.3%</b>	<b>71.8%</b>	<b>55.1%</b>	<b>57.3%</b>	<b>65.2%</b>
<b>10-year (2012-2021) Avg</b>	<b>67.3%</b>	<b>71.3%</b>	<b>74.8%</b>	<b>65.9%</b>	<b>62.5%</b>	<b>69.2%</b>

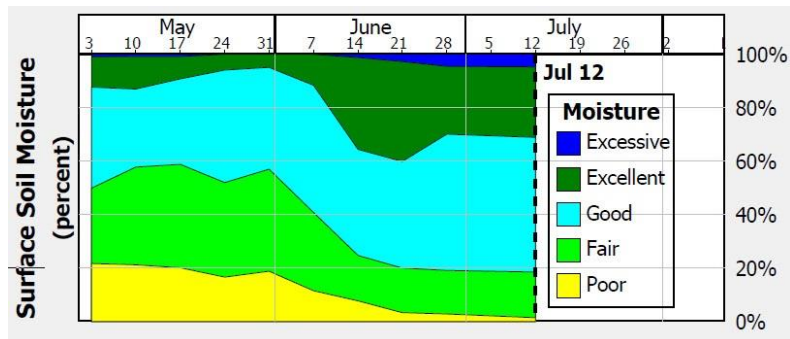
Source: AFRED/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey



Overall, the stage of development for various crops are marginally behind normal. Wheat is generally in good condition, but barley and oats are struggling in some fields, due to excess moisture. For canola, stage of development varies widely across the province and even within fields, from the vegetative stage to well into flowering. This variability is driven by several factors, including select seed performance issues (which can delay the crop development), a cool and dry spring and pest problems, notably flea beetles and cutworms.

Precipitation over the month of June has significantly improved soil moisture reserves across the province. Currently, surface soil moisture is rated at 82 per cent good, excellent or excessive (see Figure 1), compared to 49 per cent good or excellent at the beginning of the season (May 4, 2022). Provincial sub-surface soil moisture ratings are rated at 8 per cent poor, 27 per cent fair, 42 per cent good and 20 per cent excellent, with 3 per cent excessive. Compared to the long term normal, soil moisture reserves are now at least normal for most of the province, moderately high in the central parts of the province and the central to northern parts of the Peace Region, and low in some eastern parts of the South, Central and North East Regions.

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



Source: AFRED/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Pastures are generally growing well. However, conditions in some areas remain poor to fair due to the heavy grazing last year and challenging conditions over the past couple of seasons. Provincial pasture conditions across the province are now reported as 11 per cent poor, 34 per cent fair, 46 per cent good and 9 per cent excellent (see Table 2). Haying has been delayed due to earlier dry and cool conditions in spring, followed by heavy rains in June. Even so, above average yields are expected. First cut dryland hay is only 19 per cent complete across the province, compared to the 5-year average of 46 per cent. The estimated yield of dryland hay is 1.6 tons per acre (above the 5-year average of 1.4 tons per acre), with quality rated as 65 per cent good to excellent. For irrigated hay, first cut is 27 per cent complete (significantly behind the 5-year average of 81 per cent), with yield at 2.2 tons per acre (below the 5-year average of 2.4 tons per acre). Quality is rated as 69 per cent good to excellent.

**Table 2: Pasture Growth Conditions as of July 12, 2022**

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
South	22.5%	59.1%	18.4%	0.0%
Central	5.2%	17.4%	61.7%	15.7%
North East	6.4%	24.8%	62.7%	6.0%
North West	2.9%	13.4%	57.1%	26.5%
Peace	4.8%	31.0%	61.6%	2.6%
Alberta	11.2%	34.0%	46.2%	8.5%
5-year (2017-2021) Avg	17.6%	25.9%	45.3%	11.2%
10-year (2012-2021) Avg	16.4%	22.5%	45.8%	15.3%

Source: AFRED/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

## Regional Assessments:

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

- The current warm weather and more in the forecast is much needed to help with crop development. There are some concerns with leaf diseases due to the excess moisture, as well as gophers and flea beetles infestation. Some canola re-seeding is underway, but it is still behind. Hail storms have been reported in some counties.

- Crop development in the region is slightly behind normal. Spring cereals are mostly in the head emergence stage, while fall seeded crops are in the milk development stage. About 82 per cent of canola and 85 per cent of dry peas are now in flower, with one per cent of canola and seven per cent of dry peas in the podding stage.
- Shower activities in the region have delayed haying operations, and yields are expected to be below average, due to dry conditions in early spring. Currently, dryland haying is 23 per cent complete, compared to the 5-year average of 75 per cent. Irrigated hay is 31 per cent complete, behind the 5-year average of 89 per cent. Dryland and irrigated yields (5-year averages shown in the brackets) are estimated at 1.0 (1.1) and 2.2 (2.4) tons per acre, respectively. Hay quality is rated at 69 per cent poor or fair and 31 per cent good for dryland. For irrigation hay, 31 per cent are rated as poor or fair, 65 per cent good and 4 per cent excellent.
- Tame hay growing conditions are currently reported as 15 per cent poor, 59 per cent fair, and 26 per cent good.
- Surface soil moisture is rated (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) at 4 (11) per cent poor, 37 (58) per cent fair, 53 (31) per cent good and 6 (0) per cent excellent.

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

- The Central Region received a lot of moisture over the past two weeks, with some pockets of flooded areas, which are now starting to evaporate. The warmer temperatures received are most welcome. Hail storms are starting to damage crops in some counties. In general, all crops and forages are growing well, with the exception of canola in some fields. Gophers and flea beetle infestation is becoming a concern in some areas.
- Spring cereals are currently in the head emergence stage of development, while fall seeded crops are in the milk development stage. About 82 per cent of canola and 69 per cent of dry peas are now in flower, while two per cent of canola and 29 per cent of dry peas are in the podding stage.
- About 14 per cent of dryland haying is complete (compared to the 5-year averages of 42 per cent), while irrigated haying has not yet started. Dryland yield is estimated at 1.5 tons per acre, above the 5-year average of 1.4 tons per acre. Hay quality is rated at 12 per cent poor or fair and 88 per cent good or excellent for dryland.
- Tame hay conditions are now reported as 3 per cent poor, 15 per cent fair, 59 per cent good and 23 per cent excellent.
- Surface soil moisture is reported (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) at 1 (4) per cent poor, 12 (16) per cent fair, 41 (41) per cent good and 35 (31) per cent excellent, with 11 (8) per cent excessive.

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

- Crops are now growing rapidly with the moisture received and warmer temperatures. However, excess moisture has caused some yellowing of crops in low lying areas, notably barley, oats and dry peas. Fungicide spraying is underway, and gophers infestation is becoming a concern in some areas. Also, some hail damage has been reported in some counties.
- Crop development is slightly behind normal. Spring cereals are mostly at the beginning of the head emergence stage, and fall seeded crops at the milk development stage. About 73 per cent of canola and 83 per cent of dry peas are in flower, while three per cent of canola and eight per cent of dry peas are already in the podding stage.
- Haying is only one per cent complete, but it is expected to accelerate with the forecast of warmer and drier weather this week.
- Tame hay conditions are rated as 9 per cent poor, 27 per cent fair, 61 per cent good and 3 per cent excellent.
- Surface soil moisture is reported (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) at 0 (18) per cent poor, 5 (13) per cent fair, 61 (48) per cent good and 31 (19) per cent excellent, with 3 (2) per cent excessive.

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

- Significant precipitation and hail storms have led to some crop acres flooding. Continued warm days and sunshine is very much welcomed in most parts of the region. As a result of excess moisture, some fields have become saturated and crops are starting to yellow, notably barley, oats and dry peas.
- Spring cereals are mostly at the beginning of the head emergence stage of development, slightly behind normal. About 63 per cent of canola and 71 per cent of dry peas are in flower, while 37 per cent of canola and 27 per cent of dry peas are still in the rosette stage. Another two per cent of dry peas is in the podding stage.
- Following the wet weather in June, haying operation is now underway, with 11 per cent complete, significantly behind the 5-year average of 40 per cent. Yield is estimated at 1.5 tons per acre, compared to the 5-year average of 1.9 tons per acre. Hay quality is rated as 11 per cent poor or per cent fair and 89 per cent good or excellent.
- Tame hay conditions are now rated as 1 per cent poor, 11 per cent fair, 67 per cent good and 21 per cent excellent.
- Surface soil moisture is reported (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) at 3 (7) per cent fair, 42 (54) per cent good, 48 (39) per cent good and 7 (0) per cent excellent.

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

- Crops are progressing well for most parts of the region, but still behind in some areas. Excess moisture is an issue, especially, in the central parts of the region, stressing crops and delaying their development.
- Crop development on average is almost on par with normal for the region, with most cereals in the head emergence stage. About 76 per cent of canola and 82 per cent of dry peas are in flower, with the rest in the rosette stage.
- About 49 per cent of haying is complete, ahead of the 5-year average of 40 per cent, and yield is estimated at 2.3 tons per acre, well above the 5-year average of 1.3 tons per acre. Hay quality is rated at 28 per cent poor or fair and 72 per cent good or excellent.
- Tame hay growing conditions are reported as 8 per cent poor, 29 per cent fair, 61 per cent good and 2 per cent excellent.
- Surface soil moisture is rated (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) at 1 (0) per cent poor, 6 (10) per cent fair, 55 (59) per cent good and 36 (30) per cent excellent, with 2 (1) per cent excessive.

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