

Alberta Crop Report



Crop Conditions as of June 7, 2022 (Abbreviated Report)

Precipitation in the South and Central regions is a highlight story in this week's crop report. As shown on the map to the right, a large portion of the Central and South regions received 20-50 mm of rain over the last seven days. This significant rainfall event was both timely - in that seeding for those regions is now largely complete - and meaningful – as those regions had the greatest need for moisture. For a large area of the South region, roughly 50 per cent of all precipitation this growing season fell in the last week. Lethbridge has recorded 30-40 mm of rain so far this growing season and 20-30 mm of this total fell this past week. Medicine Hat received 40-50 mm in the past week, bringing its season total to 75-100 mm range. The Calgary area has received 30-40 mm within the past week for a total of 60-75 mm growing season precipitation to date. While more precipitation through the growing season will still be necessary for the South, given very poor subsoil moisture reserves, emergence will likely now accelerate and early season growth can continue.

The second highlight of this week's crop report occurs in the Peace region where farmers' action and efficiency has drastically increased seeding progress. Just two weeks ago the Peace region was at only 36 per cent completion which was roughly half of its ten-year average completion. Even with this extremely delayed spring seeding the Peace Region is now 94 per cent complete (compared to its 96 per cent ten-year average).

Overall, seeding progress for major crops in the province is now 99 per cent complete, up 26 per cent from two weeks ago, and in-line with completion for the five-year and 10-year averages of 98 per cent. All regions except the Peace are over 99 percent complete and basically finished seeding of major crops. Seventy eight per cent of major crops have now emerged across the province, only modestly behind the five-year average of 82 per cent.

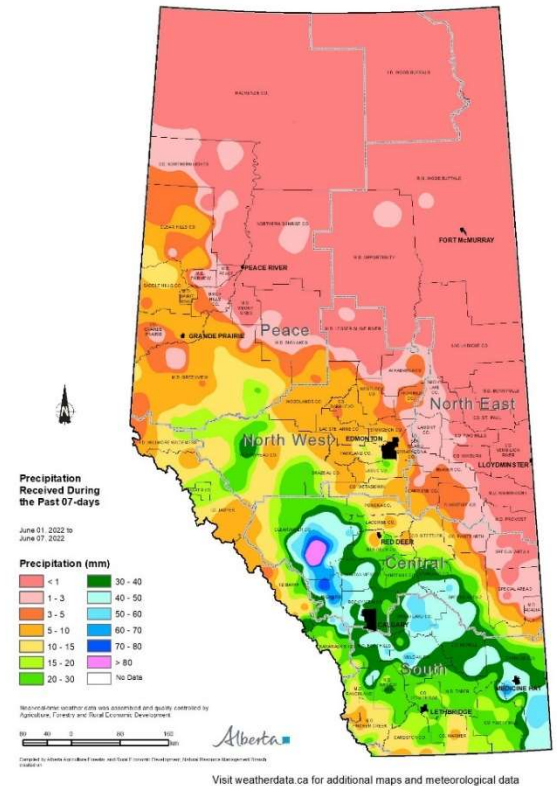


Table 1: Alberta Seeding Progress as of June 7, 2022

	% Seeded					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	99.7%	100%	100%	99.8%	94.5%	99.3%
Barley	99.6%	99.9%	99.8%	96.6%	89.1%	98.5%
Oats	100%	99.7%	99.6%	92.4%	86.8%	94.8%
Canola	99.3%	100%	100%	100%	93.8%	98.7%
Dry Peas	99.8%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99.9%
Major Crops, June 7	99.6%	100%	100%	99.1%	93.9%	98.9%
Major Crops, May 24	88.4%	85.6%	78.1%	54.4%	36.6%	73.4%
5-year (2017-2021) Avg	99.8%	99.7%	97.4%	97.1%	93.9%	98.0%
10-year (2012-2021) Avg	99.8%	99.2%	97.3%	97.7%	96.0%	98.2%

Source: AFRED/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Last week's precipitation improved soil moisture reserves for the South, Central and Peace regions, but the North West and North East marginally declined. Despite the improvement in most areas, soil moisture reserves remain below long-term average for most parts of the province, with the exception of the Peace region. Despite the precipitation and highlighting the dry conditions of the South, subsoil moisture remains exhausted in the South where 91 per cent of sub surface (below 6 inches) soil moisture is rated Poor to Fair.

Pasture and tame hay conditions are relatively unchanged from the previous week. While recent precipitation offers opportunity for significant growth in the coming weeks, cool spring temperatures have also been a large growth limitation. Sixty day average daily mean temperatures have largely been “cool” to “very cool” across the entire province. These are qualitative rankings indicating a once in six to 25 year pattern of well below average spring temperatures. Provincially, pasture conditions (tame hay shown in brackets) are now estimated at 20 (14) per cent poor, 45 (40) per cent fair, 33 (44) per cent good and two (two) per cent excellent.

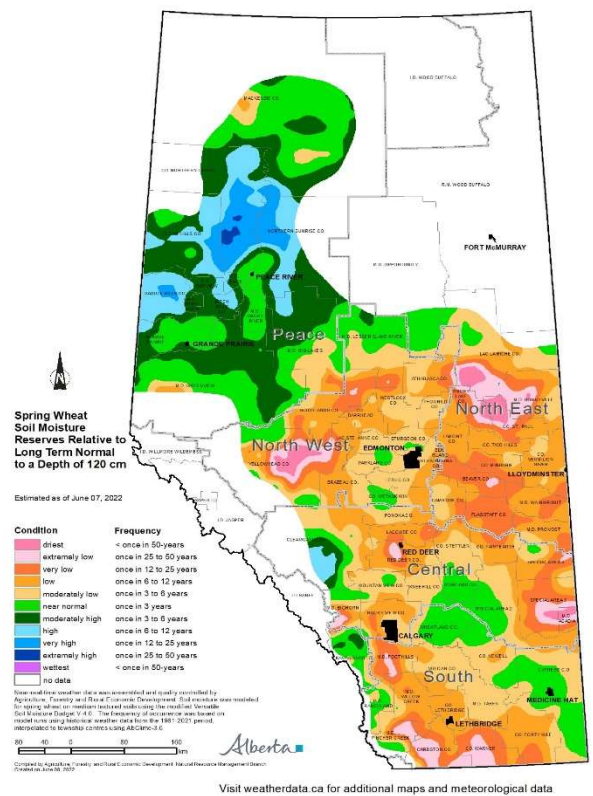


Table 2: Alberta Surface Soil Moisture Ratings as of June 7, 2022

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Excessive
South	18.4%	35.5%	39.9%	6.2%	0.1%
Central	11.3%	18.5%	50.8%	19.4%	0.0%
North East	11.4%	42.4%	44.2%	2.0%	0.0%
North West	2.5%	39.2%	55.4%	2.9%	0.0%
Peace	0.0%	7.5%	60.4%	32.1%	0.0%
Province	11.5%	29.4%	47.6%	11.5%	0.0%
5-year (2017-2021) Avg	6.0%	19.1%	47.8%	22.4%	4.6%
10-year (2012-2021) Avg	8.3%	18.2%	44.5%	25.2%	3.8%

Source: AFRED/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Regional Assessments:

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

- Most counties in the region received precipitation, with a large area receiving 20-50 mm.
- Despite rains this week, surface soil moisture to six inches is 54 per cent ranked poor to fair, which is a much larger acreage of low soil moisture than long term average. Even more significant, 91 per cent of sub-soil moisture (below six inches) is ranked as poor to fair.
- Seeding is complete with 82 per cent of major crops now emerged. While seeding was complete ahead of the five-year average for this region, emergence has been slower than the same respective average (90 per cent) due to poor soil moisture and cool temperatures. Some reseeding due to flea beetles is reported.
- Pasture conditions (tame hay shown in brackets) are rated as 36 (35) per cent poor, 56 (52) per cent fair and eight (12) per cent good. This is relatively unchanged over the past two weeks.

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

- Crop reporters were communicating widespread relief with this week's rains. Most areas had five to 30 mm of rain.
- Sixty per cent of surface soil moisture is now rated as good or excellent.
- Crop seeding is 100 per cent complete. About 94 per cent of major crops have emerged which is the highest level of all regions in the province. There are reports of canola reseeding due to frost.
- Pasture and tame hay fields are delayed from cool spring temperatures. Pasture conditions (tame hay shown in brackets) are rated as 14 (eight) per cent poor, 30 (21) per cent fair, 51 (63) per cent good and five (seven) per cent excellent.

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

- With only trace to five mm of rainfall over the past week, the North East region did not receive the meaningful rainfall that other regions did.
- Seeding is now 100 per cent complete, with about 89 per cent of crops emerged. This emergence is moderately ahead of the five-year average of 83 percent. Several crop reporters reference flea beetle damage to canola.
- Pasture conditions (tame hay shown in brackets) are rated as eight (10) per cent poor, 48 (51) per cent fair, 41 (37) per cent good and two (two) per cent excellent. Late season frosts and on-going cool spring temperatures limiting current growth and yield potential is highlighted by several crop reporters.

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

- A large portion of the North West Region received five to 30 mm of rain over the past seven days.
- Seeding is now 99 per cent complete on major crops. About 76 per cent of seeded crops have now emerged, modestly ahead of the five-year average for the region. Emergence of oats and canola in this region is notably delayed from the other major crops. Minor and localized reports of flea beetles along with modest overnight frosts are reported.
- Pasture conditions (tame hay shown in brackets) are rated as five (four) per cent poor, 53 (44) per cent fair and 42 (52) per cent good. There is zero pasture or hay rated as 'excellent.'

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

- The Peace region received trace to 10 mm of rain over the past week.
- Surface soil moisture is rated as 92 per cent good or excellent.
- Seeding is now at 94 per cent completion on major crops. Peace farmers have made substantial seeding gains over the past three weeks and have been very efficient and disciplined once weather allowed. Seeding progress was a worrisome three per cent on major crops on May 17 and 37 per cent on May 24, then progressed rapidly to 79 per cent on May 31 and 94 per cent this week. Thirty per cent of major crops have now emerged, however this is substantially delayed from the five-year average of 68 per cent for this time in the season.
- Pasture conditions (tame hay shown in brackets) are rated as 14 (16) per cent poor, 38 (40) per cent fair and 47 (43) per cent good and one (one) per cent excellent.

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