

Alberta Crop Report



Crop Conditions as of June 14, 2022

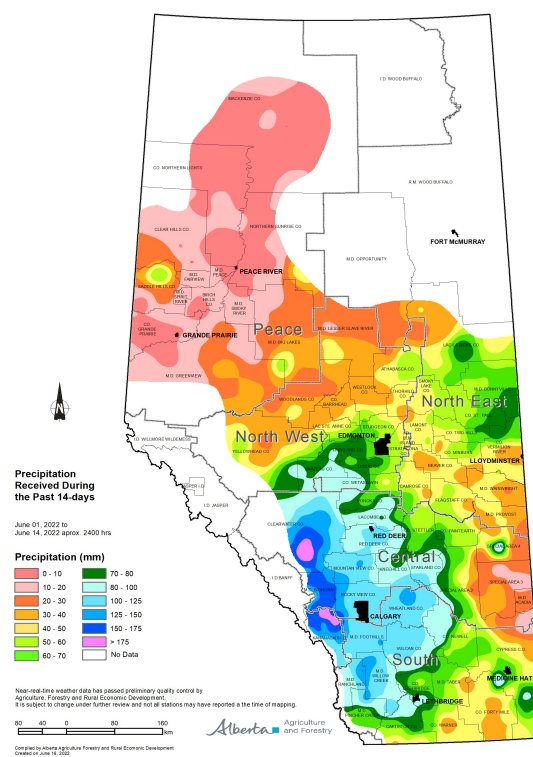
Since the beginning of June, many parts of the province have received much needed rain, especially in the southern half, where dry conditions were starting to impact crops and forages. Over the past two weeks, precipitation accumulation ranged from 10 mm in the northern parts of the Peace Region to more than 150 mm in areas west of the Central Region (see the map). For the extreme southeast and eastern parts of the province about 20 to 50 mm of rain was received, which boosted crops growth, but more moisture is needed to ensure sustainable growth over the season. In the western half of the Central and South Regions, precipitation accumulation was at least 100 mm in two weeks, placing some areas at risk to flooding, especially by the foothills.

As of June 14, 2022, provincial crop growing conditions are rated as 75 per cent good to excellent, slightly behind the 5-year and 10-year averages of 78 per cent and 76 per cent, respectively (See Table 1). Regionally, the growing condition ratings were the highest in the North West and Central Regions (81 and 80 per cent rated as good or excellent condition, respectively), followed by the North East and Peace Regions (both at 79 per cent). Ratings were the lowest in the South Region (due to the lack of moisture earlier in the season) at 63 per cent rated as good or excellent condition. Compared to the 5-year averages, growing conditions in the North West and Peace Regions are better than short-term normal. At the same time, it is lower than normal in the South, Central and North East Regions.

Table 1: Regional Crop Condition Ratings as of June 14, 2022

	Per cent rated in Good to Excellent Condition					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat*	64.0%	81.1%	86.6%	90.9%	83.4%	79.8%
Durum Wheat	66.1%	29.2%	---	---	---	61.0%
Barley*	54.9%	87.5%	83.7%	88.5%	77.0%	75.6%
Oats*	76.6%	73.4%	81.8%	93.0%	78.4%	82.4%
Canola*	54.9%	83.9%	70.3%	67.2%	77.0%	71.1%
Dry Peas*	70.3%	72.5%	85.2%	92.0%	76.6%	76.3%
Mustard	70.7%	18.3%	---	---	---	55.8%
Flax	76.2%	78.5%	96.2%	---	---	79.0%
Potatoes	65.5%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	---	69.2%
Chickpeas	86.9%	10.0%	---	---	---	83.3%
Lentils	79.7%	23.2%	---	---	---	71.0%
All Crops, June 14	63.0%	79.8%	79.1%	80.8%	78.8%	74.6%
Major Crops(*), June 14	60.1%	82.8%	79.1%	80.6%	78.8%	75.6%
All Crops, June 15, 2021	69.6%	88.4%	88.7%	95.3%	73.1%	81.7%
5-year (2017-2021) Avg	73.7%	84.0%	84.4%	68.6%	70.2%	77.7%
10-year (2012-2021) Avg	75.6%	76.4%	80.7%	69.6%	70.6%	75.7%

Source: AFRED/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey



The welcome rain over the past week improved surface soil moisture and replenished sub-surface moisture. Soil moisture reserves across Alberta improved 16 per cent from a week ago, with the North East and North West Regions showing the most improvement, at 39 and 37 per cent, respectively. Compared to the long-term normal, soil moisture is near normal or moderately higher than normal in most parts of the province (see the map). Soil moisture is high mostly in the foothills and the northern parts of the Peace Region (blue areas on the map), and low in some parts of the South, Central, North East and North West Region (orange areas on the map). Provincially, surface soil moisture (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) is now rated as 8 (15) per cent poor, 17 (33) per cent fair, 40 (37) per cent good and 34 (15) per cent excellent, with 1 (0) per cent excessive (see Table 2).

Table 2: Alberta Surface Soil Moisture Ratings as of June 14, 2022

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Excessive
South	13.8%	26.4%	12.1%	47.2%	0.4%
Central	9.2%	17.5%	34.5%	36.0%	2.8%
North East	3.4%	11.2%	70.8%	14.2%	0.4%
North West	0.7%	3.9%	65.1%	29.2%	1.1%
Peace	0.0%	10.8%	55.7%	33.0%	0.5%
Province	7.7%	17.0%	39.7%	34.4%	1.2%
5-year (2017-2021) Avg	7.1%	18.6%	47.3%	22.5%	4.5%
10-year (2012-2021) Avg	7.8%	18.0%	43.8%	26.5%	3.8%

Source: AFRED/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

After a rough and slow start in spring (due to cool temperatures and lack of moisture), recent rain activities across the province improved pasture and tame hay growing conditions by six and eight percent, respectively. Pasture (tame hay ratings shown in brackets) conditions across the province are now reported as 17 (13) per cent poor, 42 (34) per cent fair, 36 (47) per cent good and 5 (6) per cent excellent (see Table 3).

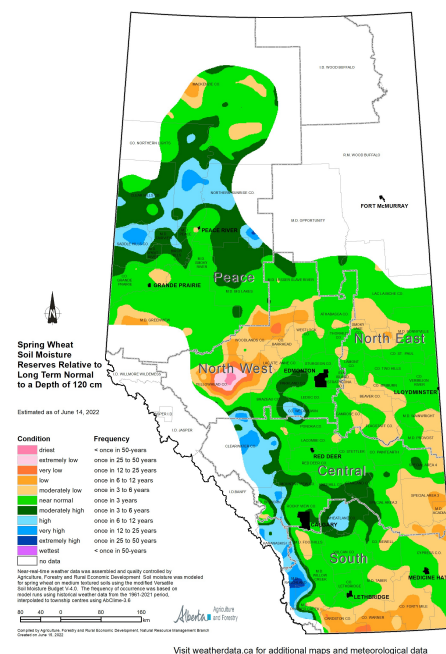


Table 3: Pasture Growth Conditions as of June 14, 2022

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
South	31.4%	57.5%	11.1%	0.0%
Central	11.4%	27.1%	49.0%	12.5%
North East	9.2%	44.5%	44.1%	2.2%
North West	3.0%	30.1%	61.0%	5.8%
Peace	12.0%	35.9%	50.6%	1.5%
Alberta	17.4%	41.5%	36.0%	5.1%
5-year (2017-2021) Avg	9.4%	21.5%	55.5%	13.5%
10-year (2012-2021) Avg	10.8%	20.6%	52.5%	16.2%

Source: AFRED/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Regional Assessments:

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

- Over the past week, much needed rain improved crop growing conditions in the region, although the amount of rain was highly variable. There are a few reports of excessive rain causing crop loss and overland flooding. Some re-seeding has been done in the region, due to wind and pest (flea beetle and gopher) damage.
- Spring seeded crops are mostly at the beginning of the stem elongation stage of development, while fall seeded crops are in the head emergence stage. About 39 per cent of canola, 62 per cent of dry peas and 66 per cent of lentils are in the 4-6 leaf/node stage.

- Post-emergence spraying is underway, with 45 per cent complete, with rain causing delays for some areas. Flea beetles and gopher infestations are now becoming an issue in some fields.
- Surface soil moisture is rated (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) at 14 (28) per cent poor, 27 (48) per cent fair, 12 (24) per cent good and 47 (0) per cent excellent.
- Tame hay growing conditions are reported as 31 per cent poor, 52 per cent fair and 17 per cent good.

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

- A large amount of moisture was received in the region, benefiting crops and forage growth and improving the sub-surface soil moisture. However, some low-lying lands are starting to flood, mainly in the western parts of the region.
- Spring seeded cereals are mostly in the tillering stage of development and fall seeded crops are finishing the booting stage. About 44 per cent of canola, 56 per cent of dry peas and 67 per cent of lentils are in the 4-6 leaf/node stage.
- Post-emergence spraying is continuing in the region, but very slow due to rain, with 52 per cent now complete. Gopher infestations is a concern in some areas.
- Surface soil moisture is rated (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) at 9 (8) per cent poor, 17 (23) per cent fair, 35 (34) per cent good and 36 (35) per cent excellent, with 3 (0) per cent excessive.
- Hay and pasture lands have perked up substantially with the wetter conditions. Tame hay conditions are reported as 7 per cent poor, 18 per cent fair, 58 per cent good and 17 per cent excellent.

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

- With the timely rain received over the past week, spring seeded crops in the region are now growing well.
- While fall seeded crops are in the head emergence stage of development, spring seeded cereals are mostly in the tillering stage. About 60 per cent of canola are still in the 1-3 leaf/node stage, with another 33 per cent in the 4-6 leaf/node stage. For dry peas, 15 per cent are in the 1-3 leaf/node stage and 52 per cent in the 4-6 leaf/node stage.
- Post-emergence spraying was delayed due to rain over the past week and is now 40 per cent complete. Grasshoppers and gopher infestations are a concern in some areas.
- Surface soil moisture is rated (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) at 4 (21) per cent poor, 11 (28) per cent fair, 71 (46) per cent good and 14 (5) per cent excellent.
- Hay and pasture lands have benefited from rain in the past week. With more rain in the forecast, it is expected that growing conditions will improve further. Tame hay growing conditions are now reported as 10 per cent poor, 46 per cent fair, 43 per cent good and 1 per cent excellent.

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

- The region was mostly dry, but rain on Tuesday (survey day) and more rain to follow, will provide good moisture for crop development. Some re-seeding is reported due to flea beetles and army cutworms.
- Spring cereals are mostly at the end of the seedling growth stage of development, while fall seeded crops are finishing the tillering stage. About 73 per cent of canola are still in the 1-3 leaf/node stage, with 27 per cent in the 4-6 leaf/node stage. For dry peas, 39 per cent are in the 1-3 leaf/node stage and 61 per cent in the 4-6 leaf/node stage.
- Spraying was underway, but halted by rain. Post-emergence spraying is now at 53 per cent complete, with army cutworms infestation a concern.
- Soil moisture reserves in the west and northwestern parts of the region were minimal, due to dry and windy conditions drying out surface soil moisture. However, the recent precipitation improved soil moisture reserves significantly. Surface soil moisture is now rated (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) at 1 (0) per cent poor, 4 (35) per cent fair, 65 (51) per cent good and 29 (14) per cent excellent, with 1 (0) per cent excessive.
- Compared to a week ago, hay and pasture growing conditions improved dramatically in the region. Tame hay growing conditions are now rated as 1 per cent poor, 24 per cent fair, 69 per cent good and 6 per cent excellent.

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

- Over the past week, most parts of the region received only scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. About 79 per cent of crops in the region are in good or excellent condition, above the 5-year average of 70 per cent.
- Most cereals are still in the seedling stage of development. About 87 per cent of canola and dry peas are in the 1-3 leaf/node stage, with another 13 per cent reported in the 4-6 leaf/node stage.
- Post-emergence spraying is 11 per cent complete, with reports of flea beetles and army cutworms over-threshold infestation.
- Surface soil moisture is rated (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) at 0 (1) per cent poor, 11 (20) per cent fair, 56 (54) per cent good and 33 (25) per cent excellent.
- Tame hay conditions are reported as 14 per cent poor, 38 per cent fair, 47 per cent good and 1 per cent excellent.

Contact

Alberta Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development
Intergovernmental and Trade Relations Branch
Statistics and Data Development Section
June 17, 2022

Ashan Shooshtarian
Crop Statistician
Phone: 780-422-2887
Email: ashan.shooshtarian@gov.ab.ca

Note to Users: The contents of this document may not be used or reproduced without properly accrediting AFSC and Alberta Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development, Intergovernmental and Trade Relations Branch, Statistics and Data Development Section