

# Alberta Crop Report



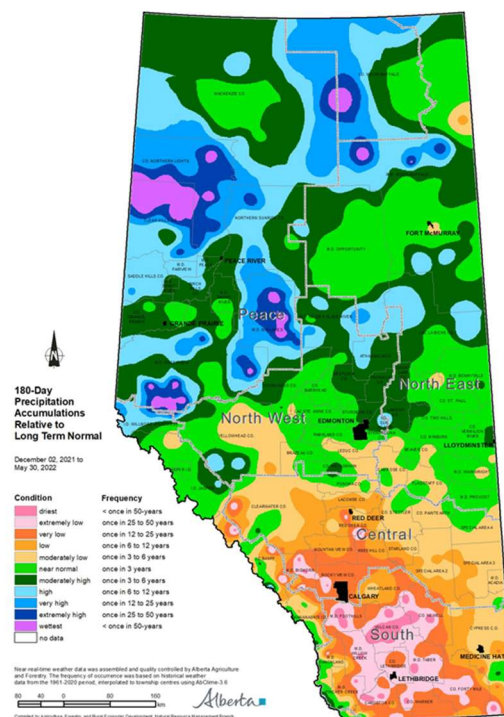
## Crop Conditions as of May 31, 2022

Over the past eight days, the vast majority of Alberta cropland received less than 15mm of precipitation, with the drier South region reporting negligible to 10mm. As seen on the map to the right, a large portion of Central and South regions has six-month precipitation conditions from 'low' to 'driest', indicating precipitation shortfall frequencies of between once in six years to once in 50 years. Dry conditions in the South continue to be a key risk of the crop report for the province.

**Table 1: Surface Soil Moisture Ratings as of May 31, 2022**

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Excessive
South	36.5%	49.7%	13.8%	0%	0%
Central	17.5%	36.1%	42.9%	3.5%	0%
North East	9.8%	41.7%	45.3%	3.2%	0%
North West	6.1%	33.8%	61.5%	0.6%	0%
Peace	0%	6.7%	62.4%	30.9%	0%
Province	18.8%	38.2%	38.1%	4.9%	0%
5-yr Avg 2017-21	9.3%	20.3%	46.1%	20.8%	3.5%

Source: AFRED/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey



**Table 2: Alberta Seeding Progress as of May 31, 2022**

	% Seeded					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	99.4%	100%	100%	95.2%	81.2%	97.2%
Durum Wheat	100%	100%	---	---	---	100%
Barley	98.7%	98.6%	89.6%	81.2%	71.5%	92.6%
Oats	98.9%	96.9%	84.0%	75.4%	64.9%	80.3%
Canola	98.7%	100%	95.2%	87.4%	77.5%	92.5%
Dry Peas	99.6%	100%	100.0%	99.2	93.3	98.4%
Mustard	100%	100%	---	---	---	100%
Flax	100%	100%	100%	---	---	100%
Potatoes	100%	100%	100%	60.8%	---	97.4%
Dry Beans	90.0%	---	---	---	---	90.0%
Chickpeas	100%	100%	---	---	---	100%
Lentils	100%	100%	---	---	---	100%
Sugar Beets	100%	---	---	---	---	100%
Spring Triticale	100%	100%	---	100%	---	100%
Corn	100%	100%	---	---	---	100%
Mixed Grain	---	87.5%	95.0%	59.2%	---	81.7%
<b>All Crops (May 31)</b>	<b>99.2%</b>	<b>99.6%</b>	<b>96.4%</b>	<b>88.9%</b>	<b>79.2%</b>	<b>94.8%</b>
<b>Last Year (June 1)</b>	<b>99.7%</b>	<b>99.1%</b>	<b>98.7%</b>	<b>97.7%</b>	<b>98.8%</b>	<b>99.0%</b>
<b>5-yr Avg 2017-21</b>	<b>98.8%</b>	<b>96.5%</b>	<b>91.2%</b>	<b>91.7%</b>	<b>84.4%</b>	<b>93.9%</b>

Source: AFRED/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey



Our thanks to Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen and staff of AFSC for their partnership and contribution to the Alberta Crop Reporting Program.



The climate map is compiled by Alberta Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development, Natural Resource Management Branch.

The South region's significant moisture deficiency is now reported at 86 per cent fair to poor for surface soil moisture. Very notably, there are no excess moisture reports anywhere in the province this week. Soil moisture is largely good to excellent in the Peace region but decreases substantially heading south through the province.

The dry conditions have allowed some regions to largely complete spring seeding with the South, Central, and North East regions over 95 per cent complete and comparable to last year's timeframe. The North West is marginally behind its five-year average completion rate, whereas wet conditions in the Peace have it nearly 20 per cent less complete than this time last year and also behind its five-year average. Less than one per cent of total provincial land is reported as not likely to be seeded this year, indicating excessive unseeded acreage is not anticipated.

Province-wide, 55 per cent of all crops have emerged, modestly behind the five-year average of 61 per cent. Oats, canola, dry peas, dry beans, and potatoes markedly delayed in emergence when compared to their respective five-year averages, whereas sugar beets, corn, and spring triticale have advanced emergence compared to five-year averages. Pest reports are largely at historical normal levels.

Both pasture and hay reporting are regionally correlating to the above referenced soil moisture trends, with productive growth reported in the Peace and North regions but significantly poorer growth in the South. Pasture weed growth is reported more significantly this spring than five-year and 10-year historical averages. Twenty-six per cent of pastures province-wide are reporting moderate to heavy weeds, compared to the five-year average of 14 per cent.

## Regional Assessments:

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

- Seeding is largely complete and 68 per cent of crops have emerged. Reseeding is being reported for wind damage.
- Canola is 78 per cent in the emergence to cotyledon stage and marginally delayed from this time last year. Pulse crops are the most advanced but still modestly delayed from this time last year.
- Post-emergent spraying is underway with eight per cent of acres applied. Pest infestations are marginal with only gophers (12 per cent) and flea beetles (one per cent) being reported over threshold.
- Moisture deficits remain the key risk in the South Region. Surface soil moisture (sub-surface moisture in brackets) ratings are 36 (73) per cent poor, 50 (20) per cent fair, 14 (7) per cent good and zero (zero) per cent excellent. These ratings are poorer from this time last year and crop reporters all reference the need for significant precipitation.
- Pasture and tame hay are largely poor to fair and consistently reported as delayed and stressed by crop reporters.

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

- Seeding is essentially complete, and 67 per cent of crops have emerged. This is one of only two regions where emergence is ahead of the five-year average.
- Canola estimates show 56 per cent in the cotyledon stage and peas are 76 per cent in one-to-three node stage.
- Post-emergent application has just started with five per cent of acres now sprayed. Pest infestations are minimal with only gophers (seven per cent) and flea beetles (one per cent) being reported over threshold.
- Surface soil moisture (sub-surface moisture in brackets) are much more favorable than in the South. Ratings are 18 (17) per cent poor, 36 (38) per cent fair, 43 (40) per cent good and 3 (5) per cent excellent.
- Pasture conditions are 80 per cent fair to good and tame hay is 83 per cent fair to good. This is largely comparable to this time last year when those ratings were 87 per cent and 83 per cent respectively.

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

- Seeding is practically complete and 64 per cent of crops have emerged. This is one of only two regions where emergence is ahead of the five-year average.
- Canola estimates show 96 per cent in the cotyledon stage with peas at 58 per cent in one-to-three node stage.
- Post-emergent spraying has just started with only three per cent of acres applied. Pest infestations are minimal with only gophers (three per cent) and flea beetles (three per cent) being reported over threshold. This region has the most commentary on flea beetle prevalence amongst crop reporters.
- Surface soil moisture (sub-surface moisture in brackets) ratings are 10 (17) per cent poor, 41 (36) per cent fair, 45 (43) per cent good and 3 (4) per cent excellent, with zero of either reported as excessive.
- Pasture and tame hay conditions are both rated as 88 percent fair to good, a modest year-over-year improvement.

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

- Seeding in the North West is 89 percent complete on all crops. Emergence is substantially slower than the previous three referenced regions, at only 27 per cent and relatively delayed compared to the 48 per cent five-year average.
- Canola estimates show 97 per cent in the cotyledon stage with peas at 27 per cent in one-to-three node stage, both much slower than this time last year.
- Post-emergent application is just beginning with two per cent of acres now sprayed. Pest reports are very minimal with only army cutworms being reported over threshold.
- Surface soil moisture (sub-surface moisture in brackets) ratings are 4 (6) per cent poor, 34 (55) per cent fair, 61 (36) per cent good and zero (2) per cent excellent with zero of both reported as excessive. This is a marked decline in soil moisture reporting from this time last year.
- Pasture conditions are rated as 94 per cent good to fair and tame hay at 96 percent good to fair, which are both relatively the same as this time last year. Pastures are being reported with higher than normal weed pressure and cattle are moving to pasture earlier than normal due to very limited feed inventories.

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

- With a cold and wet spring, seeding in the Peace region is delayed but significant progress has been made in the last two weeks. Seventy-nine per cent of all crops are now seeded, up from only three per cent two weeks ago, and almost at the five-year average of 84 per cent for this time. Emergence is at 15 per cent, delayed from the five-year average of 41 per cent and significantly behind 73 per cent emergence at this time last year.
- Post-emergent spraying and pest reports are insignificant with such delayed emergence.
- Surface soil moisture (sub-surface moisture in brackets) ratings are zero (1) per cent poor, 7 (16) per cent fair, 62 (57) per cent good and 30 (25) per cent excellent. There is no longer excessive moisture reported in the Peace.
- Pasture conditions are 83 per cent fair to good and tame hay at 82 per cent fair to good.

## **Contacts**

Agriculture Financial Services Corporation  
Research and Innovation  
Lacombe, Alberta  
**May 31, 2022**

S. Chutter  
Product Coordinator  
Email: [schutter@afsc.ca](mailto:schutter@afsc.ca)

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