

Alberta Crop Report

Crop conditions as of August 6, 2024 (Abbreviated Report)

Over the last week, widespread thunderstorms brought much needed moisture across the province (see map). The storms helped lower temperatures to the mid to high 20s across all regions. This provided relief for crops which have been stressed due to prolonged periods of high temperatures. The rain is expected to help later-seeded crops meet yield expectations and promote growth in parched hay and pasture fields. The heat stress during July has caused crop development to accelerate, resulting in crops maturing ahead of historical averages for this week, with spring wheat and barley reported as in the early stages of dough development, and oats at the late stages of milk development. However, reduced pasture and hay growth through the July heat wave is resulting in difficult decisions to be made, with all regions noting that some producers are choosing to silage their poorer crops to improve their supply of livestock feed.

Provincial crop condition ratings continue to decline slightly from the previous week by 3 per cent. Currently, 46 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). Compared to the previous crop report, growing condition ratings have dropped in most regions, except for Peace Region. Specifically, the North East Region saw the most significant deterioration, down by 8 per cent, followed by the South Region that declined by 3 per cent, and the Central Region, which decreased by 2 per cent. Conditions in the North West Region deteriorated marginally by 1 per cent, while the Peace Region remained stable.

Table 1: Regional Major Crops Condition Ratings as of August 6, 2024

	Per Cent Rated in Good to Excellent Condition					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	64.5%	28.2%	57.6%	32.0%	68.2%	50.7%
Barley	66.2%	15.8%	45.4%	35.2%	64.8%	44.6%
Oats	63.5%	27.3%	43.7%	28.2%	58.8%	40.8%
Canola	65.4%	16.0%	43.1%	23.9%	43.1%	38.8%
Dry Peas	69.1%	44.3%	61.8%	27.1%	50.7%	56.8%
Major Crops, Aug 6	65.8%	22.7%	49.9%	28.9%	54.2%	45.6%
Major Crops, July 30	69.2%	25.0%	57.6%	29.5%	54.0%	49.0%
5-year (2019-2023) Avg	47.5%	60.4%	65.2%	46.8%	52.9%	55.5%
10-year (2014-2023) Avg	49.9%	58.6%	69.5%	55.5%	56.3%	58.6%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Over the past week, cooler temperatures and rainfall have improved the provincial surface soil moisture. Surface soil moisture rated as good to excellent in Alberta is 40 per cent, a weekly increase of 7 per cent (see Table 2). Regionally, soil moisture rated as good to excellent is 35 per cent in the South Region, remaining unchanged from last week. The Central Region increased to 38 per cent, up by 8 per cent. The North East improved to 41 per cent, a 7 per cent rise. The North West saw a significant increase to 43 per cent, up by 26 per cent. The Peace Region also increased, reaching 60 per cent, a 10 per cent gain.

Regional sub-surface soil moisture good to excellent ratings (change from last week) are reported at 26 (-1) per cent in the South Region, 16 (+2) per cent for the Central Region, 40 (+6) per cent for the North East Region, 33 (+14) per cent for the North West Region, and 60 (+5) per cent for the Peace Region (See Figure 1). Overall, provincial sub-surface soil moisture good to excellent ratings are reported as 30 per cent, which is a 3 per cent improvement from the previous week.

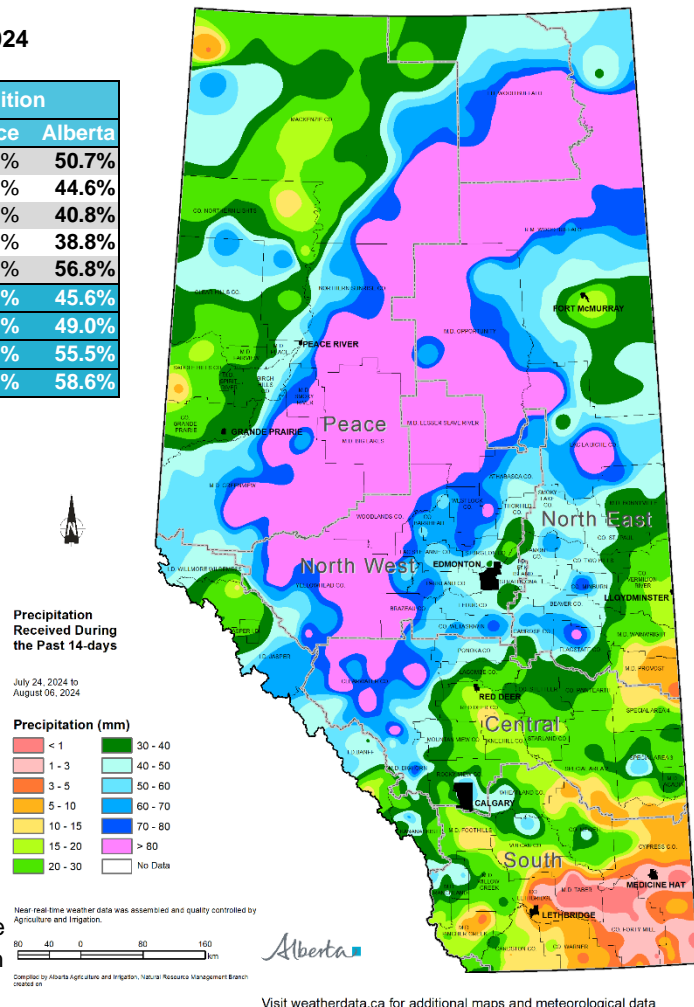


Table 2: Alberta Surface Soil Moisture Ratings as of August 6, 2024

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Excessive
South	24.2%	40.9%	34.1%	0.7%	0.0%
Central	17.7%	44.8%	34.4%	3.1%	0.0%
North East	17.4%	41.6%	40.4%	0.6%	0.0%
North West	15.7%	39.8%	30.6%	12.4%	1.4%
Peace	3.7%	36.2%	51.2%	8.3%	0.6%
Alberta	18.0%	41.5%	36.8%	3.5%	0.2%
5-year (2019-2023) Avg	20.5%	24.3%	36.2%	14.8%	4.2%
10-year (2014-2023) Avg	18.7%	24.6%	37.7%	15.7%	3.3%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Pasture conditions have slowly decreased under hot dry conditions since the beginning of July with a provincial good to excellent rating of 40 per cent, which is 2 per cent lower than last week (See Table 3 and Figure 1). Regionally, 41 (45 per cent last week) of pasture is rated good to excellent in the South Region, 39 (39) per cent in the Central Region, 36 (40) per cent in the North East Region, 26 (25) per cent in the North West Region and 63 (63) per cent in the Peace Region.

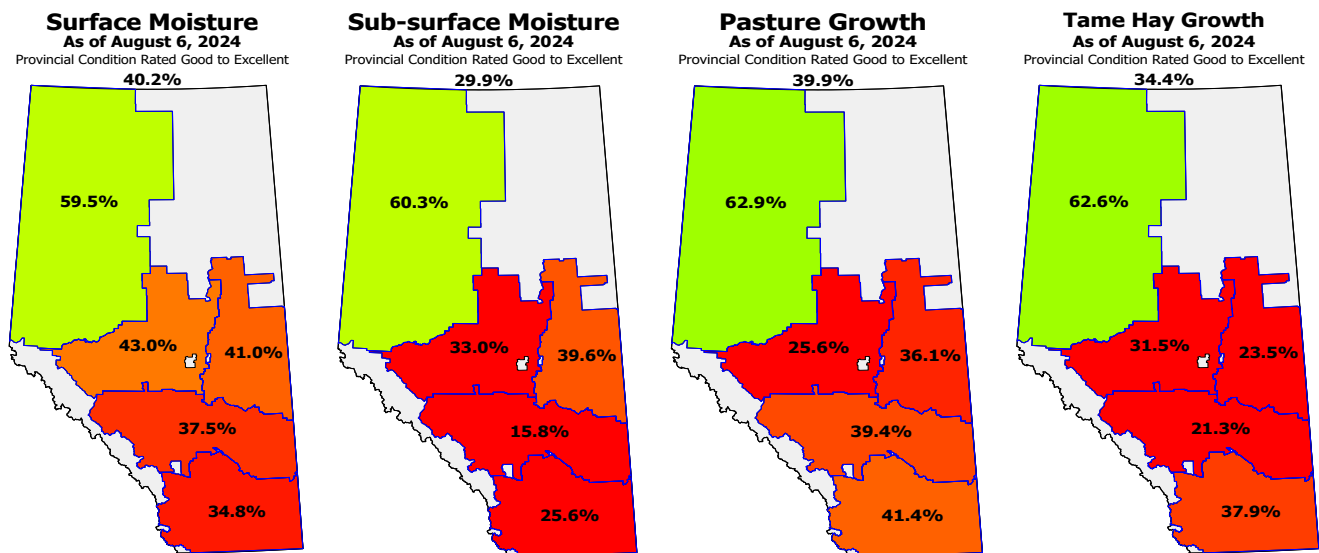
Table 3: Pasture Growth Conditions as of August 6, 2024

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
South	19.8%	38.8%	40.2%	1.2%
Central	27.7%	33.0%	39.4%	0.0%
North East	33.4%	30.5%	35.2%	0.9%
North West	35.3%	39.1%	25.3%	0.4%
Peace	7.2%	29.8%	54.3%	8.7%
Alberta	25.1%	35.0%	38.7%	1.2%
5-year (2019-2023) Avg	24.7%	27.7%	39.0%	8.6%
10-year (2014-2023) Avg	24.1%	28.4%	39.0%	8.5%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Currently, provincial tame hay is rated 34 per cent good to excellent, slightly down from last week's 36 per cent. Regionally, 38 per cent (42 last week) of tame hay is rated good to excellent in the South Region, 21 (21) per cent in the Central Region, 24 (29) per cent in the North East Region, 32 (30) per cent in the North West Region and 63 (63) per cent in the Peace Region.

Figure 1: Regional Good to Excellent Condition Maps, August 6, 2024



Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Regional Assessments:

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

- Significant rainfall fell over the last week which is expected to support yields of crops that are still ripening.
- Harvest of fall-seeded crops and spring pulses is expected to begin this week, weather permitting.
- Major crops are currently rated as 4 per cent poor, 30 per cent fair, 59 per cent good and 7 per cent excellent.
- Sub-surface moisture ratings are 27 per cent poor, 47 per cent fair, 25 per cent good, 1 per cent excellent, and 0 per cent excessive.

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

- Cooler temperatures and rainfall were welcome relief that is expected to help later seeded crops, while earlier seeded crops continue to ripen quickly.
- Silage of crops with expected low yields continues to help build stocks of animal feed.
- Major crop conditions are 28 per cent poor, 50 per cent fair, 21 per cent good and 1 per cent excellent.
- Sub-surface moisture ratings are 45 per cent poor, 39 per cent fair, 14 per cent good, 2 per cent excellent, and 0 per cent excessive.

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

- Recent rains over the past week are expected to support yield expectations by helping seeds to fill as the crop matures.
- Crops that are expected to yield poorly are being silaged for animal feed.
- Ratings of major crops are 8 per cent poor, 42 per cent fair, 50 per cent good and 0 per cent excellent
- Sub-surface moisture ratings are 18 per cent poor, 42 per cent fair, 40 per cent good, 0 per cent excellent, and 0 per cent excessive.

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

- Storms in the region over the last week are expected to help crop development and kernel fill.
- Poorer crops are being silaged for animal feed.
- Conditions of major crops are 11 per cent poor, 60 per cent fair, 28 per cent good and 1 per cent excellent.
- Sub-surface moisture ratings are 30 per cent poor, 37 per cent fair, 32 per cent good, 1 per cent excellent, and 0 per cent excessive.

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

- Crops continue to mature with ideal temperatures and significant rainfall.
- Current major crop ratings are 11 per cent poor, 35 per cent fair, 52 per cent good and 2 per cent excellent.
- Sub-surface moisture ratings are 2 per cent poor, 37 per cent fair, 53 per cent good, 7 per cent excellent, and 1 per cent excessive.

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