

Alberta Crop Report

Crop conditions as of July 2, 2024

Over the last week, precipitation has been variable throughout the province (see the map below). Many areas in the North East and Peace regions received at least 5 mm of rain while the North West, Central and South regions saw precipitation exceeding 30 mm, with a few areas receiving more than 80 mm. Despite the cooler temperatures to date, the province is anticipating warmer temperatures for the week ahead. All regions predict that higher temperatures across the province will improve crop development.

Table 1: Regional Crop Condition Ratings as of July 2, 2024

	Per Cent Rated in Good to Excellent Condition					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat *	75.6%	84.6%	76.1%	72.7%	85.8%	78.8%
Durum	75.9%	94.4%	-	-	-	78.8%
Barley *	75.7%	86.1%	65.2%	80.2%	83.9%	78.1%
Oats *	81.1%	82.7%	65.3%	73.2%	83.1%	75.3%
Canola *	65.9%	74.6%	66.3%	58.3%	65.9%	66.8%
Dry Peas *	73.3%	82.3%	76.8%	71.0%	70.7%	75.2%
Mustard	80.7%	99.0%	-	-	-	84.6%
Flax	84.4%	68.6%	95.0%	-	-	85.3%
Potatoes	85.0%	83.4%	-	90.5%	-	85.0%
Chickpeas	74.4%	80.0%	-	-	-	74.8%
Lentils	82.0%	90.7%	-	-	-	83.6%
Dry Beans	95.0%	-	-	-	-	95.0%
All Crops, July 2	74.9%	82.3%	70.4%	68.4%	74.9%	74.8%
Major Crops(*), July 2	72.9%	81.6%	70.4%	68.0%	74.9%	74.0%
5-Year (2019-23) Avg	58.1%	71.6%	78.5%	63.0%	65.0%	67.4%
10-Year (2019-23) Avg	63.9%	67.0%	76.5%	64.6%	65.5%	67.9%

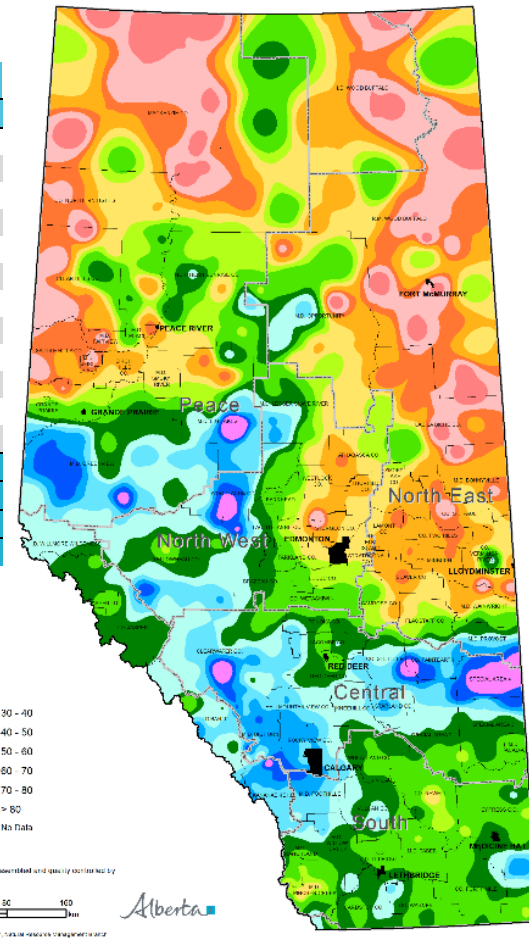
Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

As of July 2, provincial all crop conditions are still ahead of the historical averages at 75 per cent good to excellent, which is 7 per cent above both the 5- and 10-year average. The Central Region retains the highest per cent of crops rated in good to excellent condition at 82 per cent, with both South and Peace regions reporting a lower 75 per cent, followed by the North East at 70 per cent and the North West at 68 per cent. The provincial condition of all crops has improved by 2 per cent compared to the last reported condition for all crops on June 18.

Provincially, the stage of development for spring cereal crops are near the 10-year averages despite concerns of growth delays due to the cool and wet weather. Crop growth stages of spring cereals are slightly behind the 10-year averages in the South, Central, North East and Peace regions, while slightly ahead in the North West Region. Spring cereals are reported to be in the stem elongation stage in most regions of the province, with the South Region being the exception as most spring cereals are in the initial stages of head development (i.e.: booting).

For provincial major broadleaf crops, a greater proportion of the crops are at the flowering stage compared to the 10-year averages. Provincially, the proportion of crop flowering (10-year average) is reported at 20 (11) per cent for canola, 27 (20) per cent for dry peas, 39 (28) per cent for lentils, 44 (29) per cent for chickpeas, and 42 (28) per cent for mustard.

Precipitation over the months of May and June has significantly improved soil moisture reserves across the province. Currently, surface soil moisture is rated at 75 per cent good to excellent (see Figure 1 and Table 2), which is an improvement of 11 per cent compared to 64 per cent good to excellent reported at the beginning of the season (May 7, 2024). Specifically,



the provincial surface soil moisture ratings are at 4 per cent poor, 19 per cent fair, 57 per cent good and 18 per cent excellent, with 2 per cent excessive. Regionally, surface soil moisture conditions improved 15 per cent to 69 per cent good to excellent in the South, 13 per cent to 73 per cent good to excellent in the Central, and 8 per cent to 89 per cent good to excellent in the Peace. Conditions slightly declined by 2 per cent to 82 per cent good to excellent in the North East, while the North West remained the same at 77 per cent good to excellent.

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

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Excessive
South	4.0%	27.0%	53.5%	15.0%	0.6%
Central	7.3%	20.0%	60.3%	12.4%	0.0%
North East	1.8%	12.9%	70.0%	12.4%	2.9%
North West	0.4%	17.0%	47.3%	29.5%	5.7%
Peace	0.0%	6.9%	45.9%	42.7%	4.6%
Alberta, July 2	3.7%	19.2%	57.0%	18.3%	1.8%
Alberta, May 7	7.5%	28.3%	55.3%	8.2%	0.7%
5-year (2019-2023) Avg	11.5%	23.7%	43.6%	17.9%	3.3%
10-year (2014-2023) Avg	12.2%	22.7%	41.4%	20.2%	3.4%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

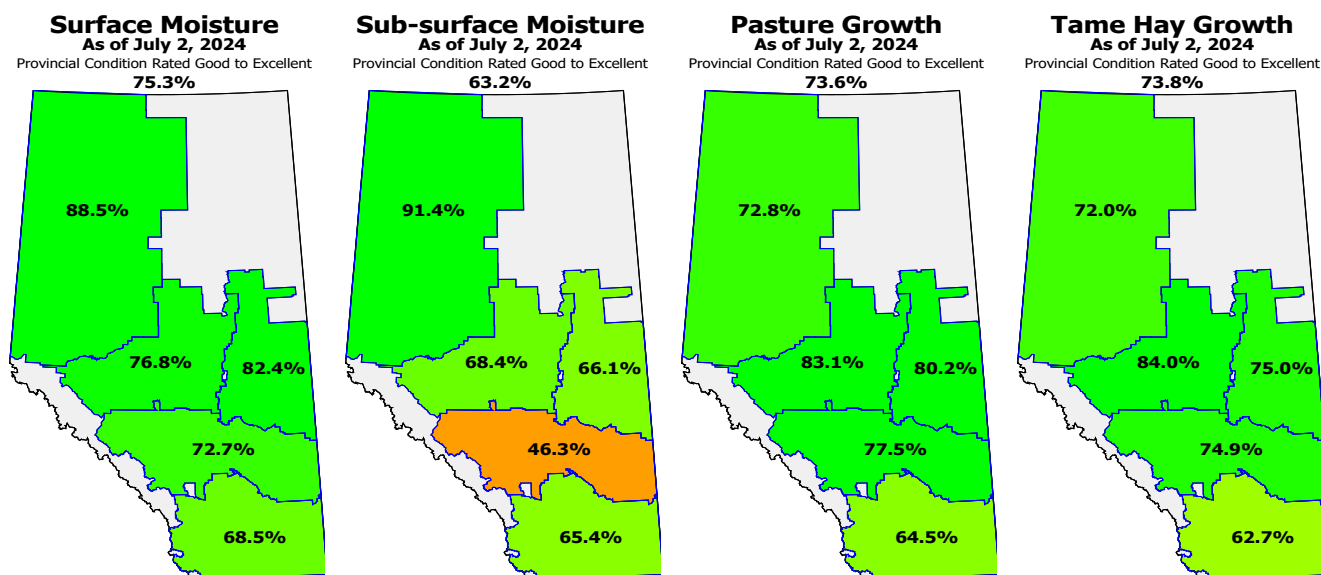
Pastures are generally growing well due to the growing season rains and recent warm weather, and the first cut of hay has begun in all regions of the province (see Figure 1). Provincial pasture growth (5-year average) is reported as 4 (14) per cent poor, 22 (31) per cent fair, 63 (47) per cent good and 11 (8) per cent excellent. Provincial tame hay growth (5-year average) is reported at 3 (12) per cent poor, 23 (29) per cent fair, 59 (47) per cent good and 15 (12) per cent excellent.

Table 3: Pasture Growth Conditions as of July 2, 2024

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
South	7.3%	28.1%	53.0%	11.6%
Central	3.0%	19.5%	73.3%	4.2%
North East	1.6%	18.2%	68.3%	11.9%
North West	0.0%	16.9%	53.3%	29.7%
Peace	4.3%	23.0%	60.6%	12.2%
Alberta	4.1%	22.3%	62.7%	10.9%
5-year (2019-2023) Avg	14.4%	30.7%	46.6%	8.3%
10-year (2014-2023) Avg	15.5%	26.5%	46.8%	11.3%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Figure 1: Surface and Sub-surface Soil Moisture Conditions with Pasture and Tame Hay Growth, July 2, 2024



Regional Assessments:

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

- Crops rated in good to excellent condition are 73 per cent for major crops and 75 per cent for all crops.
- Spring cereals are reported as mainly at the booting stage, while canola development is mostly at rosette development.
- First cut hay progress is reported as 19 per cent completed for dryland and 56 per cent completed for irrigated, with progress over the past week slowed due to rain showers.
- Soil surface (sub-surface) moisture is described as improving with a reported 4 (5) per cent as poor, 27 (30) per cent as fair, 54 (57) per cent as good, 15 (8) per cent as excellent and 1 (0) per cent as excessive.

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

- The proportion of crops rated in good to excellent condition is 82 per cent for both major crops and all crops.
- Development of crops is reported at stem elongation for spring cereals and mostly rosette for canola.
- Progress on the first cut of hay is reported as 8 per cent for dryland.
- Recent rains continue to improve regional surface (sub-surface) moisture, which is rated as 7 (15) per cent poor, 20 (39) per cent fair, 60 (44) per cent good, 12 (3) per cent excellent and 0 (0) per cent excessive.

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

- The proportion of crops rated as in good to excellent condition is at 70 per cent for both major crops and all crops.
- The majority of spring cereal crops are reported at stem elongation, while most canola is at the 4-6 leaf stage.
- First-cut dryland hay is reported as 3 per cent complete.
- Significant rain events were reported across the region. Regional surface (sub-surface) moisture is reported as 2 (9) per cent poor, 13 (24) per cent fair, 70 (56) per cent good, 12 (10) per cent excellent and 3 (1) per cent excessive.

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

- Crops reported as in good to excellent condition are 68 per cent for both major crops and all crops.
- Spring cereal crops development are mostly at mid-stem elongation, while most canola is at rosette development.
- First-cut dryland hay is reported as 4 per cent complete.
- Respondents noted recent rainfall continues to improve regional surface (sub-surface) moisture, reported as 0 (7) per cent poor, 17 (24) per cent fair, 47 (45) per cent good, 30 (24) per cent excellent and 6 (0) per cent excessive.

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

- Good to excellent rated crop is reported as at 75 per cent for both major crops and all crops.
- Development of spring cereal crops are mostly at mid-stem elongation, while canola crops are mostly at rosette.
- First-cut dryland hay is reported to be 6 per cent complete.
- Respondents noted recent rainfall in the region varied, with some areas being completely missed. Regional surface (sub-surface) moisture is reported as 0 (0) per cent poor, 7 (6) per cent fair, 46 (39) per cent good, 43 (52) per cent excellent and 5 (3) per cent excessive.

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