

# Alberta Crop Report

## Crop conditions as of July 16, 2024

Thirty-degree weather and minimal precipitation has stressed many crops across the province. Until this week, major crop conditions have been stable with 74 per cent rated good to excellent for the last three weeks then dropped marginally this week to 73 per cent good to excellent (See Table 1). While conditions are still rated above the 5- and 10-year average provincially, crops are starting to show signs of heat stress like heat blast in canola, while other crops are coming out of flowering prematurely or dropping tillers. The effect of these hot conditions will be seen in the initial yield predictions in the coming weeks. The forecast for continued hot weather this week could have more impact on crops that are in crucial reproductive stages.

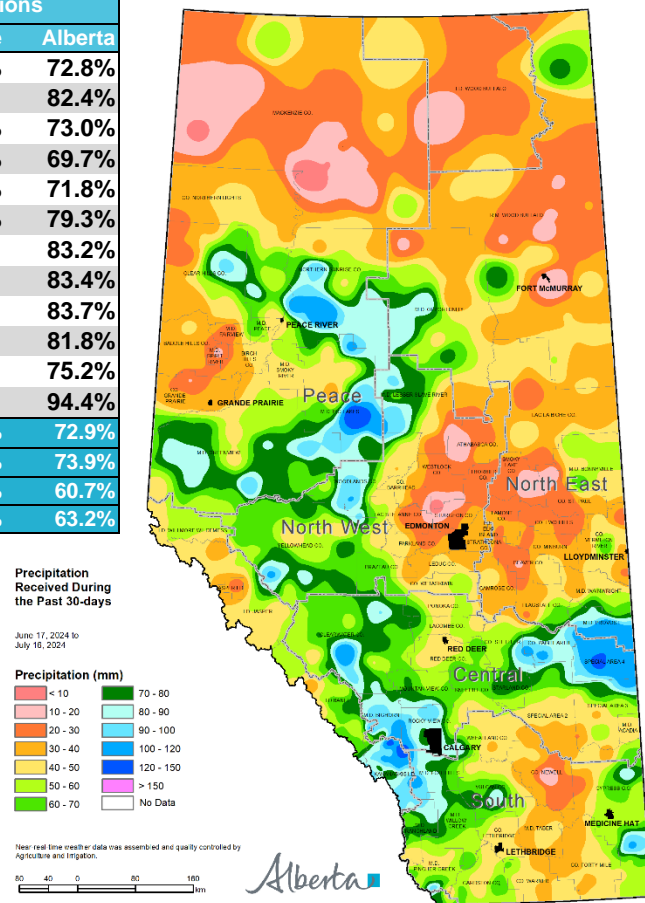
Though there are many comments about crops progressing quickly, provincial crop staging is right on track with the 5- and 10-year average. Spring cereals are just near the end of head emergence and 77 per cent of all broadleaf crops are flowering and 17 per cent are podding, which is slightly ahead of the historical average. Spring cereals are most advanced in the South and Central Region where they have just started flowering, while the other regions range between 1/2 and 3/4 of heads emerged. Reports of pest pressures over threshold are below the historical provincial average, except for flea beetles. All regions are reporting some pressure from gophers.

**Table 1: Regional Crop Condition Ratings as of July 16, 2024**

	Per Cent Rated in Good to Excellent Conditions					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat *	80.9%	63.1%	73.0%	66.5%	80.5%	<b>72.8%</b>
Durum	79.6%	97.7%	-	-	-	<b>82.4%</b>
Barley *	82.1%	67.1%	61.4%	75.7%	78.1%	<b>73.0%</b>
Oats *	80.6%	65.0%	64.3%	69.6%	78.2%	<b>69.7%</b>
Canola *	81.7%	53.9%	74.1%	88.0%	66.8%	<b>71.8%</b>
Dry Peas *	82.4%	77.6%	85.4%	88.3%	66.4%	<b>79.3%</b>
Mustard	78.7%	100.0%	-	-	-	<b>83.2%</b>
Flax	82.9%	52.2%	95.0%	-	-	<b>83.4%</b>
Potatoes	85.0%	57.6%	-	88.1%	-	<b>83.7%</b>
Lentils	78.5%	96.6%	-	-	-	<b>81.8%</b>
Chickpeas	73.2%	100.0%	-	-	-	<b>75.2%</b>
Dry Beans	94.4%	-	-	-	-	<b>94.4%</b>
Major Crops (*), July 16	81.6%	62.2%	72.4%	77.8%	72.5%	<b>72.9%</b>
All Crops, July 16	81.3%	64.3%	72.4%	78.0%	72.5%	<b>73.9%</b>
5-year (2019-2023) Avg	54.3%	69.4%	67.5%	53.1%	54.0%	<b>60.7%</b>
10-year (2014-2023) Avg	59.1%	64.6%	71.4%	59.6%	58.2%	<b>63.2%</b>

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Precipitation over the last week was quite scattered. Some areas in the North East received up to 20 mm while many areas received no rain. Combine this with above average temperatures for this time of year and soil moisture has declined in many areas. With many crops in critical growth stages, low moisture and heat stress could impact potential yields. The good to excellent surface soil moisture rating in the Peace, North West, and South Region has decreased, while North East and Central Region have seen increases less than 3 per cent. Provincially, surface soil moisture (5-year average) is rated as 11 (15) per cent poor, 28 (22) per cent fair, 55 (41) per cent good, 6 (19) per cent excellent and 0 (4) per cent excessive.



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While surface soil moisture in some regions improved, sub-surface soil moisture decreased in all regions. Currently, the highest rated sub-surface soil moisture is in the Peace Region at 85 per cent good to excellent, while the lowest is in the Central Region with 20 per cent good to excellent. Sub-surface soil moisture is crucial for crops that are currently trying to set seed, therefore it will be important for them to receive rain. Provincially, sub-surface soil moisture (5-year average) is rated as 47 (54) per cent good to excellent. Sub-surface (5-year average) is rated 45 (36) per cent good to excellent in the South, 20 (6) per cent good to excellent in Central, 63 (64) per cent good to excellent in the North East, 57 (58) per cent good to excellent in the North West, and 85 (65) per cent good to excellent in the Peace (See Table 2).

**Table 2: Alberta Sub-Surface Soil Moisture Ratings as of July 16, 2024**

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Excessive
South	8.1%	47.3%	44.3%	0.3%	0.0%
Central	35.6%	44.7%	17.9%	1.8%	0.0%
North East	16.6%	20.4%	57.4%	5.4%	0.1%
North West	18.1%	25.2%	52.7%	4.0%	0.0%
Peace	1.0%	14.2%	67.2%	17.5%	0.0%
Alberta	17.9%	35.7%	42.6%	3.9%	0.0%
5-year (2019-2023) Avg	16.9%	26.3%	36.8%	17.1%	2.8%
10-year (2014-2023) Avg	15.6%	26.7%	38.4%	17.0%	2.4%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Tame hay crop ratings increased through most of the growing season due to adequate precipitation. However, the hot weather over the last three weeks has caused conditions to decrease. Since last week, provincial tame hay that rated good to excellent has decreased from 66 per cent to 62 per cent. Provincially, 70 per cent of first cut hay has been baled, ahead of the 5-year average of 42 per cent. Dryland yields are averaging 1.5 tons per acre, above the 5-year average of 1.4 tons per acre. Of already cut tame hay, 76 per cent is rated in good to excellent conditions. Regionally, tame hay (5-year average) is rated as 66 (41) per cent good to excellent in the South, 43 (66) per cent good to excellent in Central, 73 (54) per cent good to excellent in the North East, 66 (64) per cent good to excellent in the North West, 71 (52) per cent good to excellent in the Peace (See Table 3).

**Table 3: Tame Hay Conditions as of July 16, 2024**

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
South	5.2%	28.3%	53.4%	13.0%
Central	9.3%	47.9%	36.8%	6.1%
North East	3.3%	24.2%	65.2%	7.3%
North West	2.2%	31.8%	36.4%	29.7%
Peace	4.3%	25.0%	62.2%	8.5%
Alberta	5.2%	32.9%	49.1%	12.8%
5-year (2019-2023) Avg	17.2%	26.3%	44.8%	11.6%
10-year (2014-2023) Avg	17.3%	26.4%	43.8%	12.5%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Pasture conditions decreased throughout the province as hot temperatures stressed growth conditions for pasture that is being grazed while trying to regenerate growth. Currently, provincial pasture is rated as 63 per cent good to excellent down from 67 per cent good to excellent last week. Regionally, pasture (last week's condition) is rated 61 (65) per cent good to excellent in the South, 56 (59) per cent good to excellent in the Central Region, 77 (77) per cent good to excellent in the North East, 67 (80) per cent good to excellent in the North West, and 71 (75) per cent good to excellent in the Peace Region. Pasture growth conditions rated good to excellent are all above their 5-year average except for the Central Region.

## Regional Assessments:

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

- Hot and dry days caused significant growth in both crops and hay. Crops are currently rated as 82 per cent good to excellent, up from last week's 77 per cent.
- Lots of moisture will be needed to fill heads in the coming weeks. Surface soil moisture rated good to excellent is currently at 49 per cent good to excellent, down from last week's 62 per cent.
- Haying is in full swing as 70 per cent of dryland first cut and 82 per cent of irrigated first cut is complete. Yields are 1.5 and 2.6 tons per acre, respectively. Pasture that has not been grazed is beginning to turn and pasture condition that has already been grazed is dependent on rain in the near future.

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

- Excessive heat has been hard on crops, affecting flowering/podding and dropping tillers. Conditions are now rated at 62 per cent good to excellent compared to 77 per cent last week.
- Some areas received spotty showers that helped surface soil moisture increase from 58 per cent good to excellent to 60 per cent. However, it was not enough to improve sub-surface soil moisture, which decreased from 29 per cent good to excellent to 20 per cent this week.
- The west central part of the region has received some showers, which has made baling cut hay difficult. However, 59 per cent of first cut hay has been baled, averaging 1.5 tons per acre.

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

- Due to heat, some crops have been prematurely coming out of flower and are showing signs of stress. Major crop conditions are rated as 72 per cent good to excellent, compared to 71 per cent last week.
- Hot and dry weather has been constant all week, with a few areas reporting some hail. Surface soil moisture (sub-surface soil moisture) is currently rated as 79 (63) per cent good to excellent compared to last week at 76 (65) per cent.
- First cut hay is 74 per cent complete with many reports of strong yields averaging 1.6 acres per ton. Second growth will require moisture to ensure yields.

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

- Crops have been progressing fast due to hot weather stress and are starting to show signs of low soil moisture on hilltops. Currently, major crops are rated as 78 per cent good to excellent, up from last week's 69 per cent.
- A few areas received showers this week but those were countered with multiple high temperature days. Surface soil moisture rated good to excellent decreased to 59 per cent from 70 per cent last week.
- First cut hay has been progressing fast with 87 per cent complete, averaging 1.5 ton per acre. Fields will need moisture to keep up with second cut, as will pastures to keep up with grazing cattle.

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

- Crop conditions rated good to excellent decreased to 73 per cent from last week's 74 per cent.
- Hot and dry weather all week with only a few showers that brought up to 8 mm did not benefit surface soil moisture, which dropped from 84 per cent good to excellent last week to 73 per cent this week.
- First cut hay is 62 per cent complete and averaging 1.3 tons per acre.

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