

Alberta Crop Report

Crop conditions as of July 30, 2024

All regions continue to report crops in variable conditions as a result of hot and dry conditions through July, with the greatest concern being noted in areas with the lowest soil moisture reserves. If the dry conditions continue, expectations are that the crop will use the remaining soil moisture to fill existing seeds rather than developing new seeds. While parts of the North East, North West, and Peace regions received meaningful rainfall last week, the remainder of the province is hoping for additional rainfall to be confident that crops will yield as expected. Most regions are currently expecting an average crop yield.

The provincial early yield estimates are reported this week (See Table 1). Regional dryland crop yield estimates are at or below the 5- and 10-year averages, with the exception of a higher-than-average yield expectation reported for the South Region. The provincial dryland 5-year yield index is estimated to be 105.1, and the 10-year yield index to be 100.2 for major crops. This indicates that the current provincial crop yield estimate is 5.1 per cent above the 5-year average and 0.2 per cent higher than the 10-year average. Irrigated yield estimates are only provided for the South Region. Irrigated crop yield estimates are also above the 5-year and 10-year averages, resulting in a provincial irrigated 5-year yield index of 103.1 and 10-year yield index of 105.1 for major crops. This indicates that yields of irrigated major crops are 3.1 per cent above the 5-year average and 5.1 per cent over the 10-year average.

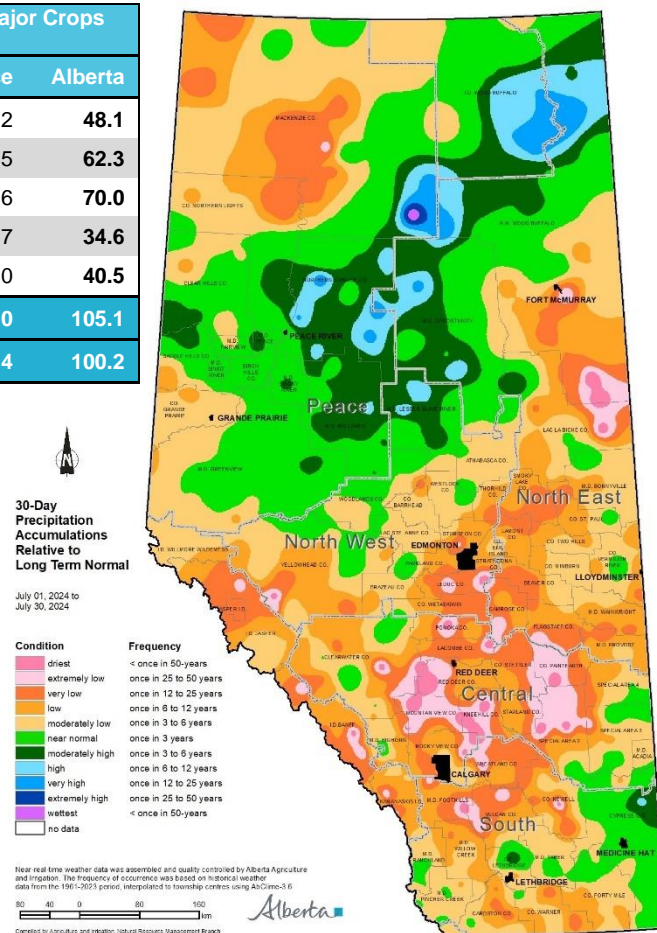
Table 1: Regional Estimated Dryland Yields and Indexes for Major Crops as of July 30, 2024

	Estimated Dryland Yields and Indexes for Major Crops (bushels/acre)					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	49.5	49.1	46.1	50.2	46.2	48.1
Barley	61.0	60.9	68.9	65.2	55.5	62.3
Oats	58.2	63.2	77.0	78.7	58.6	70.0
Canola	36.0	33.7	35.3	36.8	31.7	34.6
Dry Peas	41.7	39.0	42.1	38.9	39.0	40.5
5-year Yield Index	138.9	94.6	93.4	99.5	99.0	105.1
10-year Yield Index	125.3	92.4	92.7	91.2	97.4	100.2

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

The hot and dry weather over the past month is encouraging crops to mature faster than average. Provincial spring cereal staging reports indicate that the majority of crops are in the mid stages of milk development, compared to the 5-year and 10-year averages of being in early milk development during this week. Similarly, canola (dry peas) is progressing at 81 (98) per cent podding, ahead of the 5-year average of 48 (82) per cent and 10-year average of 53 (83) per cent.

Provincially, 51 per cent of all crops are rated in good to excellent condition, in comparison to the 5-year average of 56 per cent and 10-year average of 59 per cent (See Table 2). The South Region has the highest proportion of crops rated as good to excellent condition at 70 per cent, followed by the North East Region reporting at 58 per cent, the Peace at 54 per cent, the North West at 30 per cent, and the Central Region at 27 per cent. Overall, the provincial condition of all crops has decreased by 23 per cent compared to the report on July 16.



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Table 2: Regional Crop Condition Ratings as of July 30, 2024

	Per Cent Rated in Good to Excellent Condition					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat *	69.9%	31.6%	62.8%	33.8%	68.3%	54.5%
Durum	68.9%	52.2%	-	-	-	66.3%
Barley *	69.4%	18.0%	51.3%	35.7%	65.5%	47.4%
Oats *	70.2%	27.6%	50.8%	29.3%	59.6%	43.6%
Canola *	69.0%	17.7%	53.9%	23.8%	42.5%	42.9%
Dry Peas *	66.8%	45.1%	68.4%	26.4%	50.0%	57.0%
Mustard	73.9%	52.4%	-	-	-	69.3%
Flax	79.1%	39.2%	95.0%	-	-	79.8%
Potatoes	85.0%	16.9%	-	64.7%	-	81.2%
Chickpeas	67.5%	85.0%	-	-	-	68.9%
Lentils	72.4%	66.8%	-	-	-	71.4%
Dry Beans	90.0%	-	-	-	-	90.0%
All Crops, July 30	70.3%	27.0%	57.7%	29.9%	54.1%	51.2%
Major Crops(*), July 30	69.2%	25.0%	57.6%	29.5%	54.0%	49.0%
5-Year (2019-23) Avg	49.3%	60.4%	65.3%	47.7%	54.0%	56.1%
10-Year (2014-23) Avg	52.2%	59.3%	70.3%	57.0%	57.0%	59.3%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

While notable rains fell in areas of the North East, North West, and Peace regions over the past week, only the Peace Region noted an improvement in soil moisture ratings. Provincial surface moisture is rated 33 per cent good to excellent, a 2 per cent reduction from last week, while sub-surface moisture is rated at 27 per cent good to excellent due to a 4 per cent reduction. Regionally, the per cent of surface (sub-surface) soil moisture rated as good to excellent is 35 (27) in the South, 30 (13) in Central, 34 (34) in the North East, 17 (19) in the North West and 50 (55) in the Peace (See Table 3).

Table 3: Alberta Surface Soil Moisture Ratings as of July 30, 2024

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Excessive
South	27.6%	37.0%	34.4%	1.0%	0.0%
Central	41.0%	29.4%	29.0%	0.6%	0.0%
North East	34.7%	31.1%	33.8%	0.4%	0.0%
North West	38.1%	45.3%	15.7%	0.9%	0.0%
Peace	7.2%	43.0%	43.9%	5.9%	0.0%
Alberta	31.8%	35.3%	31.7%	1.3%	0.0%
5-year (2019-2023) Avg	18.9%	23.3%	38.2%	15.5%	4.1%
10-year (2014-2023) Avg	17.4%	23.6%	38.8%	16.7%	3.4%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Pasture conditions continue to decline this week as the hot and dry weather has limited regrowth (See Table 4). Provincial pasture growth is rated 41 per cent good to excellent, a decrease of 7 per cent from the previous week and below both the 5-year average of 49 per cent and the 10-year average of 50 per cent. Provincial tame hay good to excellent ratings have also declined to 36 per cent good to excellent, down from last week's 43 per cent. This is also below the 5- and 10-year average of 55 per cent good to excellent.

Table 4: Pasture Growth Conditions as of July 30, 2024

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
South	18.4%	37.0%	42.3%	2.4%
Central	30.0%	31.3%	38.7%	0.0%
North East	35.9%	23.7%	38.3%	2.0%
North West	45.4%	29.4%	24.7%	0.4%
Peace	7.2%	29.8%	54.8%	8.2%
Alberta	26.8%	31.8%	39.7%	1.7%
5-year (2019-2023) Avg	24.5%	26.5%	39.6%	9.4%
10-year (2014-2023) Avg	23.2%	27.0%	40.2%	9.5%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Regional Assessments:

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

- Crops rated in good to excellent condition are 69 per cent for major crops and 70 per cent for all crops.
- The early estimated yields are 50 bushels per acre for durum wheat, 50 bushels per acre for spring triticale, 23 bushels per acre for lentils, 21 bushels per acre for chickpeas and 28 bushels per acre for mustard.
- Dryland first cut hay is 98 per cent complete with a yield of 1.5 tons per acre and irrigated first cut is 99 per cent complete with a yield of 2.6 tons per acre. Irrigated hay second cut is reported to be 12 per cent completed with a yield of 2.2 tons per acre.
- Soil sub-surface moisture is described as limited with a reported 22 per cent as poor, 51 per cent as fair, 27 per cent as good, 0 per cent as excellent and 0 per cent as excessive.

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

- Major crops and all crops combined are rated as 25 and 27 per cent good to excellent, respectively.
- Early estimated yields are 30 bushels per acre for durum wheat, 54 bushels per acre for spring triticale, 23 bushels per acre for lentils, 23 bushels per acre for chickpeas, and 22 bushels per acre for mustard.
- Dryland hay first cut is 93 per cent complete yielding 1.5 tons per acre, while those who are able to make a second cut are 6 per cent complete with a yield of 1.0 ton per acre.
- Limited rains over the last week had negligible impact on sub-surface moisture, which is rated as 53 per cent poor, 34 per cent fair, 12 per cent good, 1 per cent excellent and 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 58 per cent for both major crops and all crops.
- First-cut dryland hay is reported as 95 per cent complete with a 1.6 tons per acre yield. Those who are taking a second cut are 1 per cent complete with a 1.0 ton per acre yield.
- Areas of the region reported significant rains, resulting in regional sub-surface moisture reported as 22 per cent poor, 44 per cent fair, 33 per cent good, 1 per cent excellent and 0 per cent excessive.

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

- Crops reported as in good to excellent condition are 30 per cent for both major crops and all crops.
- First-cut dryland hay is reported as 98 per cent complete with a 1.5 ton per acre yield. Second cut dryland hay is 1 per cent complete with a yield of 2.0 tons per acre.
- Regional showers were welcomed over the last week and sub-surface moisture is reported as 26 per cent poor, 55 per cent fair, 18 per cent good, 1 per cent excellent and 0 per cent excessive.

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

- Good to excellent rated crop is reported as at 54 per cent for both major crops and all crops.
- Dryland hay first cut is 95 per cent complete with a yield of 1.3 tons per acre. Those taking a second cut are 11 per cent complete with yields of 1.0 tons per acre.
- Regional sub-surface moisture is reported as 2 per cent poor, 43 per cent fair, 49 per cent good, 6 per cent excellent and 0 per cent excessive.

Contact

Agriculture Financial Services Corporation
Product Innovation Department
Insurance Products and Product Innovation Unit

Geoff Backman - Product Coordinator
Manglai - Product Coordinator
Email: mediainquiry@afsc.ca

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