

Alberta Crop Report

Crop conditions as of May 21, 2024

Another week of widespread rains brought needed relief to dry areas. Seeding delays were reported across the province due to wet conditions, but farmers were still able to progress 25 per cent to 58 per cent complete (See Table 1). While many farmers welcomed the rain, some areas reported light snow, hail or near freezing temperatures. Sun and warm weather are needed across the province for the crops to reap the benefit of the recent moisture. For seeding progress of major crops, dry peas are furthest ahead with 82 per cent complete, while oats are the slowest at 36 per cent complete. Regionally, the most progress is in the Peace Region with 71 per cent complete followed by the South Region with 71 per cent complete. The region with the most left to seed remains the North East Region with only 42 per cent complete. For all crops, 21 per cent have emerged, 6 per cent ahead of the 5-year average as growth conditions have been moist and favorable for emergence, however, continuously wet soil and cool ground temperatures could hurt plant development. Following the trends of seeding progress, emergence is furthest ahead in the South at 35 per cent emerged followed by the Central Region with 23 per cent emerged. All other regions are below 15 per cent emergence. The majority of fall seeded crops in the province are rated in good to excellent conditions except in the Peace Region where it has been reported that some fall seeded crops were tilled up due to poor plant counts, and re-seeded.

Table 1: Alberta Seeding Progress as of May 21, 2024

	% Seeded					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat *	75.5%	69.3%	70.4%	66.6%	80.3%	72.2%
Durum	75.4%	49.7%	-	-	-	71.4%
Barley *	78.5%	55.2%	23.7%	46.7%	57.5%	56.5%
Oats *	59.3%	39.2%	18.8%	31.6%	55.1%	35.9%
Canola *	49.4%	41.5%	17.6%	35.2%	69.6%	40.2%
Dry Peas *	84.2%	74.8%	92.6%	90.5%	74.7%	82.2%
Mustard	64.0%	40.0%	-	-	-	63.4%
Flax	46.8%	51.9%	30.0%	-	-	44.8%
Potatoes	94.6%	69.3%	-	50.0%	-	92.8%
Chickpeas	60.7%	45.0%	-	-	-	59.3%
Lentils	64.9%	46.3%	-	-	-	61.5%
Corn	70.0%	84.0%	-	-	-	77.0%
All Crops, May 21	70.2%	56.5%	42.3%	49.3%	71.1%	58.5%
Major Crops (*), May 21	70.6%	57.2%	42.3%	49.4%	71.1%	57.7%
5-year (2019-23) Avg	76.8%	66.1%	56.2%	47.4%	43.8%	62.0%
10-year (2014-23) Avg	72.9%	60.2%	51.1%	48.9%	46.0%	58.7%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

While pasture and tame hay conditions started below average due to low runoff, the May showers have improved conditions across the province. Reports indicate that pasture (tame hay ratings) conditions across the province are now reported as 4 (6) per cent poor, 28 (29) per cent fair, 61 (57) per cent good and 7 (8) per cent excellent (see Table 2). Figure 1 represents the per cent of tame hay rated good to excellent in each region. Recent precipitation has greatly improved tame hay conditions over the past three weeks, as seen by the increasing numbers and amount of green on the maps. However, sun and warm weather is needed soon to see the full growth benefits of the moisture on both the tame hay and pasture.

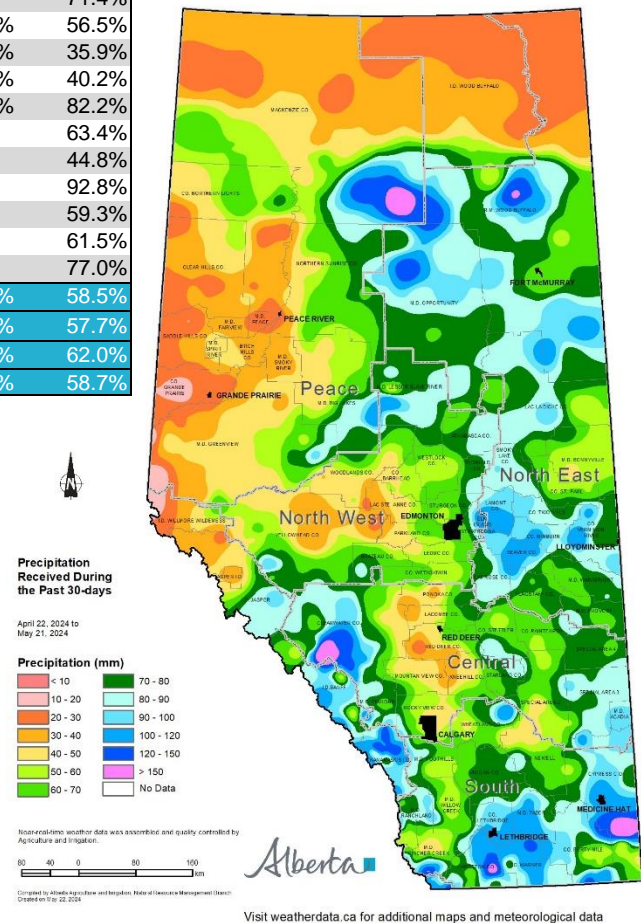


Figure 1: Tame Hay Growth Conditions 2024

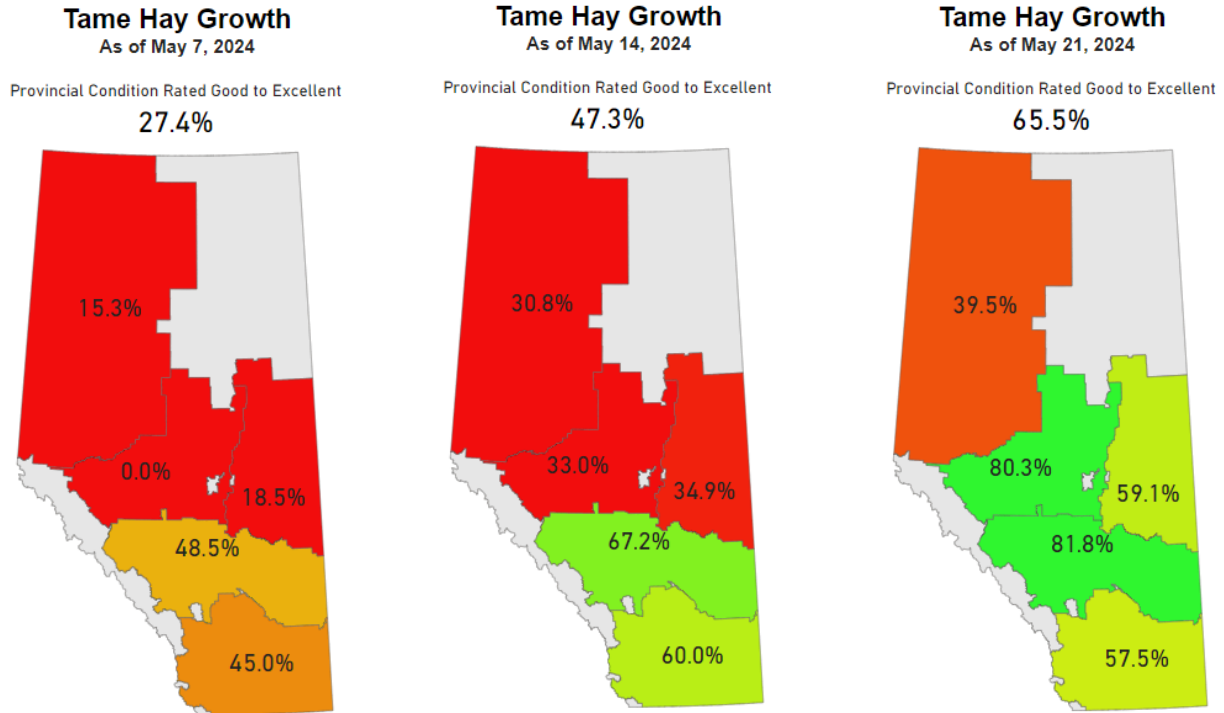


Table 2: Pasture Growth Conditions as of May 21, 2024

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
South	3.4%	38.9%	50.0%	7.8%
Central	4.7%	13.8%	80.2%	1.3%
North East	0.3%	29.5%	62.1%	8.2%
North West	4.4%	18.0%	49.2%	28.3%
Peace	14.9%	46.3%	38.8%	0.0%
Alberta	4.2%	27.6%	61.1%	7.1%
5-year (2019-2023) Avg	16.8%	36.2%	44.8%	2.2%
10-year (2014-2023) Avg	14.2%	31.8%	47.6%	6.4%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Precipitation continued to improve soil moisture conditions as areas around the province received numerous showers. Some areas received up to 2 inches in the Peace Region, over an inch in many areas of the North East, North West, and South Region, and around half an inch in the Central Region within the last week. Some areas received enough rain to have excess surface soil moisture with reports of standing water with excessively wet areas causing implements to get stuck (See Table 3). Provincially, surface soil moisture (sub-surface soil moisture) is rated as 1 (7) per cent poor, 16 (27) per cent fair, 59 (50) per cent good, 22 (16) per cent excellent and 2 (0) per cent excessive. Both surface and sub-surface soil moisture rated good to excellent are above the 5- and 10-year averages.

Table 3: Alberta Surface Soil Moisture Ratings as of May 21, 2024

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Excessive
South	0.0%	23.2%	60.1%	15.9%	0.7%
Central	3.5%	14.6%	58.3%	23.1%	0.3%
North East	0.0%	5.7%	59.9%	30.7%	3.7%
North West	0.0%	7.4%	61.0%	25.4%	6.2%
Peace	3.6%	25.0%	57.4%	13.3%	0.6%
Alberta	1.4%	16.0%	59.4%	21.5%	1.8%
5-year (2019-2023) Avg	13.8%	32.3%	43.2%	10.1%	0.7%
10-year (2014-2023) Avg	11.9%	26.4%	41.4%	17.7%	2.6%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Regional Assessments:

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

- Sporadic rains across the region slowed seeding but seeding progressed 20 per cent. Seeding progress for all crops (major crops) is now 70 (71) per cent complete, compared to the five-year average of 77 (77) per cent.
- Reported sub-surface moisture (previous week rating) is rated 10 (11) per cent poor, 37 (39) per cent fair, 43 (39) per cent good, 11 (11) per cent excellent, and 0 (0) per cent excessive.
- Conditions of tame hay are reported as 4 per cent poor, 39 per cent fair, 50 per cent good, and 8 per cent excellent.

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

- Seeding progressed 28 per cent for major crops over the previous week. Progress for all crops (major crops) is 57 (57) per cent complete, compared to the five-year average of 66 (66) per cent.
- Reported sub-surface moisture (previous week rating) is 5 (17) per cent poor, 31 (29) per cent fair, 44 (48) per cent good, 20 (6) per cent excellent, and less than half a per cent (0) excessive.
- Conditions of tame hay are reported as 4 per cent poor, 14 per cent fair, 80 per cent good, and 2 per cent excellent.

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

- Seeding of major crops progressed 23 per cent over the previous week. Seeding progress for all crops (major crops) is 42 (42) per cent complete, compared to the five-year average of 56 (56) per cent.
- Reported sub-surface moisture (previous week rating) is 7 (7) per cent poor, 15 (21) per cent fair, 57 (59) per cent good, 21 (12) per cent excellent, and 1 (1) per cent excessive.
- Conditions of tame hay are reported as less than half a per cent poor, 41 per cent fair, 56 per cent good, and 4 per cent excellent.

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

- Seeding of major crops progressed 28 per cent over the past week. Progress for all crops (major crops) is now 49 (49) per cent complete, compared to the five-year average of 47 (48) per cent.
- Reported sub-surface moisture (previous week rating) is 11 (12) per cent poor, 24 (30) per cent fair, 50 (46) per cent good, 16 (12) per cent excellent, and 0 (0) per cent excessive.
- Conditions of tame hay are reported as 4 per cent poor, 16 per cent fair, 52 per cent good, and 28 per cent excellent.

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

- Seeding of major crops progressed 30 per cent over the past week. Seeding progress for all crops (major crops) is now 71 (71) per cent complete, compared to the five-year average of 44 (44) per cent.
- Reported sub-surface moisture (previous week) is 2 (5) per cent poor, 11 (27) per cent fair, 72 (64) per cent good, 15 (5) per cent excellent, and less than half a per cent (0) excessive.
- Conditions of tame hay are reported as 17 per cent poor, 44 per cent fair, 40 per cent good, and 0 per cent excellent.

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Our thanks to Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen and AFSC staff for their partnership and contribution to the Alberta Crop Reporting Program. Agriculture and Irrigation compiles the climate map.

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