

Alberta Crop Report

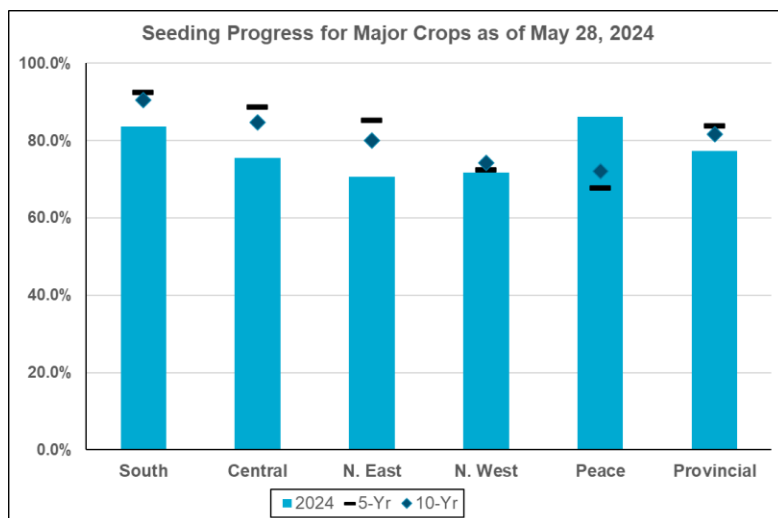
Crop conditions as of May 28, 2024 (Abbreviated Report)

Scattered light showers across the province continued with the majority of the province receiving at least a few millimeters whereas areas along the west side of the North West and Central Regions received up to 30-40 mm. Short seeding delays occurred but provincial seeding progressed 20 per cent to 77 per cent complete, which is below the 5-year average of 84 per cent (See Table 1). The most advanced regions are the Peace Region at 86 per cent complete and the South Region at 84 per cent complete. The North East and North West Region have the most left to seed with 71 and 72 per cent complete, respectively. Emergence of major crops doubled over the last week to 40 per cent emerged. Despite concerns that the cool wet weather is delaying crop progress, emergence is marginally ahead of the 5- and 10-year averages. As well, growth stages of provincial cereals are on track with their historical averages.

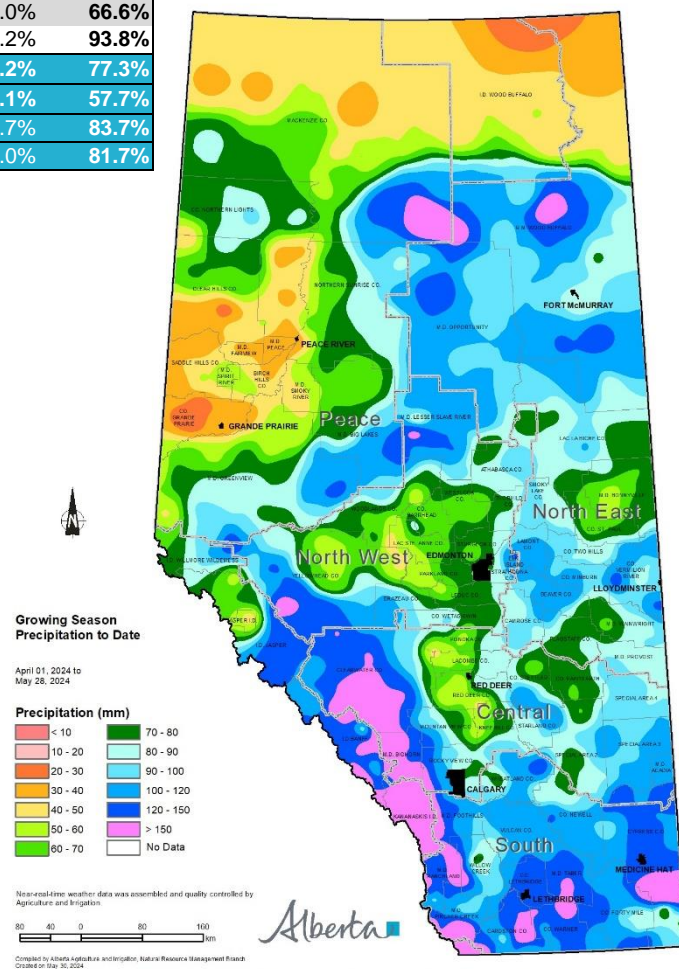
Table 1: Alberta Major Crop Seeding Progress as of May 28, 2024

	% Seeded					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat *	87.3%	85.0%	91.3%	88.1%	93.3%	88.7%
Barley *	89.0%	70.4%	46.8%	65.0%	75.0%	72.2%
Oats *	82.0%	60.7%	40.7%	53.2%	71.8%	56.4%
Canola *	66.6%	66.2%	57.5%	61.3%	85.0%	66.6%
Dry Peas *	95.7%	88.2%	99.0%	95.1%	91.2%	93.8%
Major Crops (*), May 28	83.6%	75.5%	70.7%	71.6%	86.2%	77.3%
Major Crops (*), May 21	70.6%	57.2%	42.3%	49.4%	71.1%	57.7%
5-year (2019-2023) Avg	92.5%	88.7%	85.3%	72.5%	67.7%	83.7%
10-year (2014-2023) Avg	90.4%	84.6%	80.0%	74.3%	72.0%	81.7%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey



Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey



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Surface soil moisture conditions declined slightly across the province despite light showers in many regions, however, they remained above the 5- and 10-year averages (See Table 2). Surface soil moisture rated good to excellent is the highest in the North East at 91 per cent and the North West at 82 per cent. The lowest conditions were in the Peace Region at 64 per cent good to excellent. Over the past week, conditions declined by 5 per cent in the South to 71 per cent, 2 per cent to 80 per cent in the Central, 5 per cent to 82 per cent in the North West and 6 per cent to 64 per cent in the Peace. The only region that had an increase was the North East Region, up 1 per cent to 91 per cent good to excellent.

Table 2: Alberta Surface Soil Moisture Ratings as of May 28, 2024

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Excessive
South	0.0%	28.8%	63.6%	7.3%	0.3%
Central	1.2%	18.9%	55.0%	24.6%	0.3%
North East	0.0%	5.7%	62.4%	28.7%	3.2%
North West	0.0%	10.9%	55.8%	25.8%	7.5%
Peace	4.1%	31.6%	54.9%	9.4%	0.0%
Alberta	0.8%	20.0%	59.1%	18.5%	1.6%
5-year (2019-2023) Avg	10.6%	24.0%	49.2%	15.1%	1.1%
10-year (2014-2023) Avg	8.8%	22.2%	44.2%	22.0%	2.8%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Sub-surface soil moisture conditions were quite stable across the province, though there were small decreases in the Peace Region and small increases in the Central Region. Provincial conditions rated good to excellent were stable at 66 per cent. Regional sub-surface soil moisture conditions (per cent rated on May 21, 2024) rated good to excellent were 55 (54) in the South Region, 67 (64) per cent in the Central Region, 78 (78) per cent in the North East, 65 (65) in the North West and 82 (87) per cent in the Peace Region. While surface and sub-surface soil moisture conditions were quite stable in most regions, the drier week allowed seeding to progress, crops to grow and moisture conditions are still ahead of their historical averages.

Table 3: Pasture Growth Conditions as of May 28, 2024

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
South	2.4%	36.8%	52.4%	8.4%
Central	2.0%	14.2%	82.6%	1.3%
North East	0.3%	27.4%	64.1%	8.3%
North West	4.9%	21.9%	47.0%	26.3%
Peace	14.2%	45.7%	39.4%	0.8%
Alberta	3.0%	27.0%	62.9%	7.2%
5-year (2019-2023) Avg	15.3%	33.7%	47.3%	3.7%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Provincial pasture and tame hay conditions rated good to excellent increased 2 per cent to 70 per cent, and 3 per cent to 68 per cent, respectively. All regional pasture ratings improved except for the North West Region which decreased 4 per cent to 73 per cent good to excellent but is still more than 25 per cent above both historical averages. Pastures across the province were reported to be improving after recent rains and are having cattle turned out on them soon. Tame hay growth conditions were reported to improve in all regions except the North West. As of May 28, tame hay conditions (last week's rating) were rated 65 (58) per cent in the South Region, 85 (82) per cent in the Central Region, 64 (59) in the North East Region 76 (80) in the North West and 41 (40) in the Peace Region. All regional tame hay ratings, except the Peace, are currently rated above their historical averages.

Regional Assessments:

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

- Seeding progress has been delayed due to showers across the region but was still able to progress 13 per cent to 84 per cent, behind the 5-year average of 93 per cent complete.
- While the rains have improved growing conditions, there are reports of standing water in the south west part of the region and needs for sun and heat remain. Surface soil (sub-surface) moisture conditions are rated 0 (10) per cent poor, 29 (35) per cent fair, 64 (44) per cent good, 7 (11) per cent excellent, 0 (0) per cent excessive.
- Some areas in the south east of the region reported spraying or reseeding due to flea beetles and cutworms.
- Tame hay conditions (5-year average) are rated as 3 (11) per cent poor, 32 (33) per cent fair, 56 (51) per cent good, and 9 (6) per cent excellent.

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

- Scattered showers throughout the region delayed seeding and in some low areas, cool evenings resulted in frost. Seeding progress is behind the 5-year average of 89 per cent at 76 per cent complete.
- Pasture conditions have improved due to rain around the region, but some areas still look behind due to over-grazing during the last two summers. Tame hay (5-year average) conditions are rated as 2 (13) per cent poor, 13 (21) per cent fair, 83 (61) per cent good and 2 (5) per cent excellent.
- Surface soil (sub-surface) moisture conditions are rated 1 (5) per cent poor, 19 (28) per cent fair, 55 (61) per cent good, 25 (6) per cent excellent, 0 (0) per cent excessive.

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

- Consecutive dry days between showers allowed seeding to progress 28 per cent to 71 per cent complete.
- The north part of the region remains excessively wet with standing water being reported in many fields and some fields are being worked in an attempt to dry up. Currently, surface soil moisture (sub-surface) is rated as 0 (7) per cent poor, 6 (15) per cent fair, 62 (57) per cent good, 29 (20) per cent excellent and 3 (1) per cent excessive.
- Forages have taken the moisture well and grasses are well established as there are reports of cattle being turned out. Tame hay conditions (5-year average) are currently rated as 0 (25) per cent poor, 36 (37) per cent fair, 60 (37) good, 4 (2) per cent excellent.

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

- Seeding progressed 22 per cent to 72 per cent complete, on par with the 5-year average.
- While seeding was able to progress, low lying areas that would have been seeded in a dry year may go unseeded or be seeded later due to wet soil conditions. Surface soil moisture (sub-surface) is rated as 0 (8) per cent poor, 11 (27) per cent fair, 56 (49) per cent good, 26 (16) per cent excellent and 8 (0) per cent excessive.
- Dependent on upcoming weather, fields that are still wet may see acres go into silage crops. Tame hay (5-year average) conditions are rated 4 (6) per cent poor, 20 (42) per cent fair, 47 (48) per cent good and 29 (4) per cent excellent.

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

- Showers were reported around the region but a few 20+ degree days accelerated seeding progress and emergence. Seeding progressed 15 per cent to 86 per cent, ahead of the 5-year average of 68 per cent.
- Surface soil moisture (sub-surface) is rated as 4 (2) per cent poor, 32 (16) per cent fair, 55 (71) per cent good, 9 (11) per cent excellent and 0 (0) per cent excessive.
- Consecutive warm days helped with pasture and hay growth. Tame hay (5-year average) conditions are now rated 16 (11) per cent poor, 43 (35) per cent fair, 41 (49) per cent good, and 1 (5) per cent excellent.

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