

Alberta Crop Report



Crop Conditions as of August 11, 2020

After another week of warmer than normal temperatures across the province, temperatures returned to normal over the past week and some areas even experienced moderately cool temperatures. Since the previous crop conditions report of July 28, most parts of the province received at least 10-15 mm of precipitation, with the North East Region and the northern parts of the Central and Peace Regions receiving more than 50 mm. For the Southern Region and the eastern parts of the Central, precipitation was reported at about 5 mm (see the map on the next page). Also, hailstorms were reported for some areas across the province, with varying degrees of damage.

Warm temperatures and relatively less precipitation accelerated crop development. Spring seeded cereals across the province are mostly at the end of milk development growth stage, a week or less behind normal. About 95 per cent of canola in the Southern, North East and North West Regions is in the podding stage, while in the Central and Peace Regions, respectively 31 and 15 per cent of canola is still in flower. For dry peas, more than 97 per cent are in the podding stage for all regions, except for the Peace Region (91 per cent). Harvest operations have begun in the Southern and Central Regions for fall-seeded crops and dry peas. About two per cent of all crops in the Southern Region and three per cent in the Central are now in the bin.

Provincial crop condition ratings declined slightly from the previous crop report. Currently, 77 per cent of crops in Alberta are in good or excellent condition, compared to the 5-year average (2015-2019) of 59 per cent (see Table 1). Regionally compared to two weeks ago, crop conditions in the Central Region remained unchanged, while the other regions declined by one or two per cent. Most crops do not have serious pest damage, but gophers are still active in some areas.

Provincially, the estimated dryland yield index is 14 per cent above the 5-year average (See Table 2). The index is skewed by higher than normal yields in the Southern, Central and North East Regions, which offset below normal yields in the

Table 1: Regional Crop Condition Ratings as of August 11, 2020

	Per cent rated in Good to Excellent Condition					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat*	87.0%	93.3%	83.6%	48.3%	63.6%	80.1%
Durum Wheat	89.2%	69.6%	---	---	---	86.6%
Winter Wheat	87.2%	66.6%	88.2%	---	---	86.1%
Barley*	86.2%	94.0%	73.3%	22.2%	53.1%	77.0%
Oats*	85.8%	91.4%	79.5%	32.0%	62.3%	66.3%
Fall Rye	89.6%	70.6%	89.5%	---	---	82.8%
Canola*	83.4%	95.0%	74.0%	28.7%	60.1%	71.2%
Dry Peas*	88.0%	89.9%	78.7%	26.8%	54.4%	75.3%
Lentils	89.5%	72.7%	---	---	---	87.0%
Chickpeas	89.4%	60.0%	---	---	---	88.3%
Mustard	70.2%	70.0%	---	---	---	70.1%
Flax	78.7%	82.3%	90.0%	---	---	80.4%
All Crops, Aug 11, 2020	86.5%	92.5%	78.0%	34.4%	59.9%	76.5%
Major Crops (*), Aug 11, 2020	86.0%	93.7%	78.0%	34.3%	59.9%	75.6%
All Crops, Aug 13, 2019	50.2%	81.9%	83.0%	46.1%	67.7%	67.1%
All Crops, 5-year Average	47.5%	60.2%	72.6%	54.1%	63.1%	59.2%
All Crops, 10-year Average	64.6%	71.9%	78.2%	66.7%	60.7%	69.4%

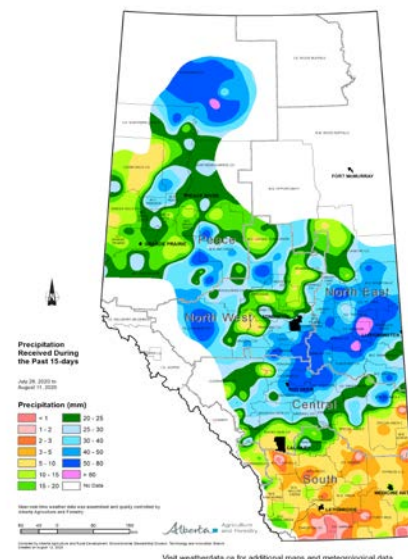
Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

North West and Peace Regions. Yield index is 14 and 13 per cent below the 5-year averages in the North West and Peace Regions respectively, due to excessive moisture in these areas.

Table 2: Dryland Yield Estimates as of August 11, 2020

	Estimated Yield (bushel/acre)					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	51.1	64.3	55.0	57.6	41.6	55.0
Durum Wheat	47.1	33.8	---	---	---	45.1
Barley	64.1	84.8	76.6	44.1	53.9	70.4
Canola	41.3	48.8	43.3	33.2	29.9	40.2
Dry Peas	46.4	46.3	43.9	33.9	28.3	41.2
5-year Yield Index	138.4%	122.6%	109.0%	86.3%	86.7%	113.6%
10-year Yield Index	122.9%	122.6%	111.6%	83.4%	89.7%	110.9%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey



Pasture and tame hay growth conditions continue to be above average.

First cut dryland hay across the province is 88 per cent completed and is particularly behind the regional 5-year average in the Central and Peace Regions. The provincial average yield for first cut dryland hay is estimated at 1.9 tons per acre, above the 5-year average of 1.3 tons per acre. Also, the quality of the baled dryland hay is rated as 52 per cent good and 16 per cent excellent, above the 5-year average. First cut haying in irrigated fields is virtually complete, with yield at 2.4 tons per acre (on par with the 5-year average) and quality is rated as 59 per cent good and 21 per cent excellent. Second cut haying operations are underway in the Southern, Central and Peace Regions.

Soil moisture reserves remained high across the province, with excessive surface soil moisture rated at 3 per cent in the Central Region, 7 per cent in the North East, 40 per cent in the North West and 7 per cent in the Peace.

Regional Assessments:

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

- Warm temperatures over the past couple of weeks accelerated filling and ripening of crops. Harvest in most areas has started for fall seeded and earlier spring seeded crops, while other crops still need a week before harvest can begin. About two per cent of crops are in the bin and another one per cent swathed.
- First cut haying operations for both dryland and irrigated land are virtually complete, with about 80 per cent rated as good or excellent quality. Average yield on dryland is estimated at 1.5 tons per acre, above the 5-year average of 1 ton per acre and is 2.3 tons per acre on irrigated land, lower than the 5-year average of 2.4 tons per acre. Second cut haying operations are currently underway, although the recent heat wave could impact yield.
- Pasture growing conditions (tame hay conditions show in brackets) are now reported as 2 (1) per cent poor, 16 (24) per cent fair, 68 (62) per cent good and 14 (13) per cent excellent.

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

- Hot temperatures contributed to filling crops, with potential strong yields. More warm sunny days will be welcome in the region. About three per cent of crops are now in the bin, with another three per cent swathed. Almost 31 per cent of winter wheat, 26 per cent of fall rye and two per cent of dry peas and mustard have been combined.
- Producers have been busy wrapping up first cut hay. First cut haying operation progress is at 84 per cent for dryland and is completed for irrigated fields. Second cut is underway. Average yield is estimated at 1.9 and 2.5 tons per acre, respectively for dryland and irrigated (both above the 5-year averages). Quality is rated as 69 per cent good to excellent for dryland hay and 65 per cent for irrigated.

- Hay and pasture growing conditions declined slightly from the last report. Pasture growing conditions (tame hay conditions show in brackets) are reported as 6 (3) per cent poor, 12 (9) per cent fair, 66 (70) per cent good and 16 (18) per cent excellent.

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

- Hot weather over the past couple of weeks advanced crop maturity, but warm drier weather along with wind is still needed in the region to dry fields. Some hail damaged fields are being cut for silage.
- First cut haying is still to complete, as haying operations have been hampered by wet conditions. Currently, 84 per cent of first cut is finished, with yields reported at 1.8 tons per acre, above the 5-year average of 1.5 tons per acre. The quality is rated as 65 per cent good and 16 per cent excellent.
- Pasture growing conditions (tame hay conditions show in brackets) are reported as 1 (0) per cent poor, 7 (5) per cent fair, 65 (70) per cent good and 27 (25) per cent excellent.

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

- Producers are still struggling with excessive soil moisture, resulting in delayed crop maturity. Some crops are 10-14 days behind normal. In more severe cases, crops are dying off. Yield potential is impacted by wet conditions and low quality is expected. Pressure from weeds is higher than normal, as producers were not able to apply herbicide at the right time. Surface soil moisture ratings are now reported at 1 per cent good, 59 per cent excellent and 40 per cent rated excessive.
- Haying has progressed and 93 per cent of first cut haying is now completed, with the yield for the baled portion of the first cut hay reported at 2.7 tons per acre, above the 5-year average of 1.6 tons per acre. Quality is estimated at 21 per cent good and 28 per cent excellent.
- Pasture growing conditions (tame hay conditions show in brackets) are reported as 36 (32) per cent good and 64 (68) per cent excellent.

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

- The region received less rainfall over the past two weeks and a few isolated hailstorms are reported with minimum damage. Crops in low areas are thin and in poor condition, while the rest of crops look very good. Surface soil moisture ratings are now reported at 8 per cent fair, 45 per cent good and 40 per cent excellent, with 7 per cent excessive.
- Haying has been in full swing and first cut operations are now 80 per cent complete with the average yield estimated at 1.7 tons per acre, above the 5-year average of 1.3 tons per acre. Quality is rated as 54 per cent good and 8 per cent excellent.
- Pasture growing conditions (tame hay conditions show in brackets) are reported as 2 (7) per cent poor, 12 (12) per cent fair, 76 (73) per cent good and 10 (8) per cent excellent.

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