

Alberta Crop Report



Crop Conditions as of July 27, 2021

NOTE – Crop Reports will be released bi-weekly in July and August

Alberta's weather has continued to be warm and dry in many areas. The daytime highs in the last two weeks have ranged between the mid-to-high 20s to the low 30s. This, in combination with the lack of precipitation, has led to continued deterioration of annual and perennial crops. The areas south of Red Deer have received 15 mm or less rain in the past two weeks (green, yellow and pink areas on map). The moisture that fell in the areas north of Red Deer will help fill the heads/pods that are already there, but has come too late for many annual crops.

Annual crop conditions have declined compared to the last report, with now only 20 per cent of the annual crops rating good or excellent. This represents a 17-point drop in the last two weeks and is over 50 points below the five- and 10-year average of 71 per cent (Table 1). The Central region experienced the most significant reduction with a 43-point decline, followed by the South, North East, and North West, which are all experiencing close to a 10-point decline. The Peace region fared the better with less than a five-point decrease. The forecasted high temperatures for the upcoming week are expected to impact these ratings further. Crop staging for spring cereals is mid-way through the milk stage while fall cereals are in the hard dough, as compared to the five-year averages of completed flowering and soft dough respectively. Oilseeds are 79 per cent podding, well ahead of the five-year average of 43 per cent, while dry peas are at 97 per cent podding, well ahead of the five-year average of 77 per cent.

Table 1: Regional Crop Condition Ratings as of July 27, 2021

	% Rated in Good to Excellent Condition					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat*	21.5%	17.2%	28.1%	22.3%	13.7%	21.6%
Durum Wheat	22.7%	13.5%	---	---	---	21.5%
Barley*	23.1%	12.6%	17.4%	18.9%	16.0%	17.8%
Oats*	25.2%	14.5%	19.1%	16.7%	27.5%	19.6%
Winter Wheat	42.6%	25.4%	90.0%	46.4%	---	41.8%
Mixed Grain	30.0%	15.1%	34.0%	23.3%	---	18.2%
Canola*	22.1%	17.7%	15.4%	16.4%	13.3%	16.8%
Dry Peas*	19.5%	16.2%	15.9%	16.9%	20.4%	18.2%
Lentils	20.5%	20.0%	---	---	---	20.5%
Chickpeas	11.9%	10.0%	---	---	---	11.8%
Mustard	31.7%	18.7%	---	---	---	27.9%
Flax	31.2%	10.0%	33.7%	---	---	29.7%
Potatoes	51.9%	0.9%	---	87.0%	---	51.8%
All Crops	23.7%	16.1%	20.7%	19.6%	15.0%	19.7%
Major Crops (*)	21.7%	16.2%	20.6%	18.8%	15.0%	18.8%
July 13, 2021	33.4%	59.4%	34.6%	26.9%	18.1%	36.6%
Last Year	87.7%	92.5%	79.7%	35.4%	60.8%	77.5%
5-year (2016-2020) Avg.	59.6%	75.1%	83.3%	62.9%	72.0%	70.8%
10-year (2011-2020 Avg.)	67.9%	73.4%	78.9%	65.1%	66.7%	71.4%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Early dryland estimates are in. Provincially, these estimates are 42 points below the five- and 40 points below the 10-year averages based on the current conditions (Table 2). These estimates are based upon extremely limited information at this time and will be updated bi-weekly. Regionally the estimates range from 30 to 50 per cent below the average of the past five and 10 years.

Table 2: Dryland Yield Estimates (Major Crops) as of July 27, 2021

	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat*	19.9	26.2	32.9	43.5	30.4	29.5
Barley	21.9	48.4	40.0	40.8	24.6	36.3
Oats	23.9	42.1	46.5	59.8	38.1	46.7
Canola	19.1	25.3	24.9	30.2	25.3	24.9
Dry Peas	19.4	20.8	22.9	25.4	26.9	22.4
5-year Index	50.2%	53.4%	58.8%	68.9%	66.4%	57.8%
10-year Index	48.5%	56.5%	64.1%	70.6%	67.5%	59.9%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

The warm dry conditions have allowed harvest of the first-cut hay to be close to wrapping up with 97 per cent dryland acres baled, 32 points ahead of the five-year average, and 100 per cent of the irrigated acres have been baled, 6 points ahead of the five-year average.

Reported yields are well below normal with first-cut hay averaging 1.0 tons per acre, compared to the five-year average of 1.5 tons per acre. Irrigated first-cut yields down slightly at 2.1 tons per acre compared to the five-year average of 2.4 tons per acres.

Pasture has also been affected. Provincially, over 50 per cent of the pasture acres are rated as poor. The low hay yields, poor pasture conditions and overall condition of spring-seeded crops has resulted in many reports of grain crops being pastured or cut for silage.

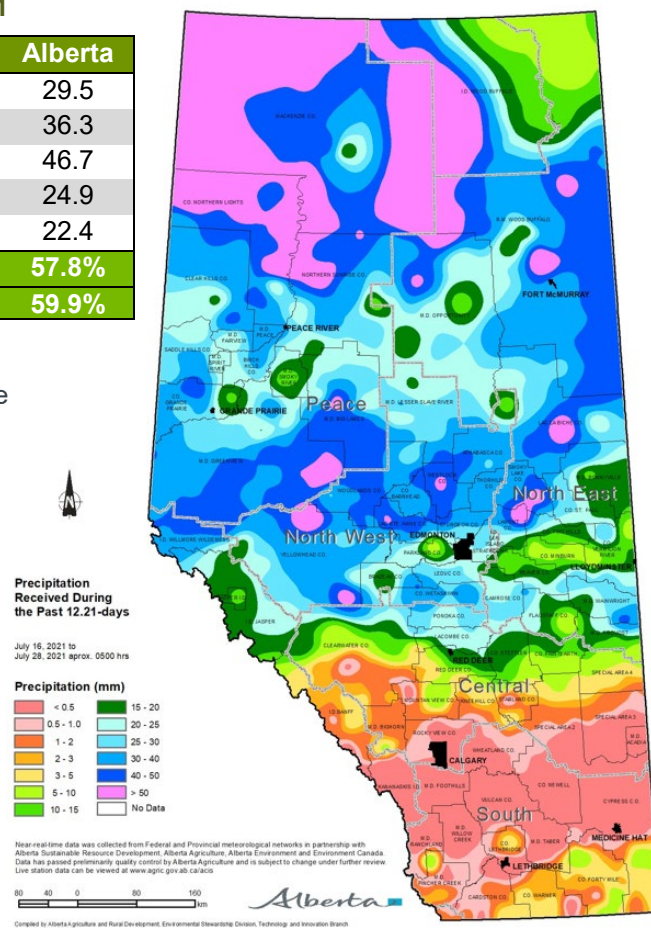
Regional Assessments:

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

- High temperatures and lack of any notable rainfall in the region this week continue to take a toll on dryland crops.
- Overall, crop conditions are 36 per cent, below the five-year average of 60 per cent good or excellent. Conditions rating for sugar beets are 79 per cent, potatoes 52 per cent, and dry beans at 95 per cent good or excellent.
- Crop stages for spring cereals are mostly in the mid to late milk stage, while fall-seeded cereals are entering the ripening stage. Canola is over 83 per cent podding and pulses are over 95 per cent podding.
- Pasture is currently rated as 51 per cent poor, 32 per cent fair, 16 per cent good, and 1 per cent excellent.
- First-cut dryland hay is reported as 99 per cent completed with estimated yields of 0.8 ton per acre and quality rated as 33 per cent good or excellent. First-cut irrigated hay is 100 per cent complete with estimates of 2.2 ton per acre yields, and 58 per cent rated as good or excellent quality. Second-cut irrigated hay is six per cent complete with 1.9 ton per acre yield estimates and quality ratings are at 54 per cent good or excellent.

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

- Hail, sometimes severe, accompanied rain in the northern and western parts of region. Extreme hot and dry conditions continue in the south and eastern parts of the region.
- Overall, crop conditions are 59 per cent, below the five-year average of 75 per cent good or excellent.



- Crop stages for spring cereals are mostly in the early to mid-milk stage, while fall-seeded cereals are in the soft to hard dough stage. Canola is 75 per cent podding and pulses are at least 90 per cent podding.
- Pasture is currently rated as 39 per cent poor, 36 per cent fair, and 25 per cent good.
- First-cut dryland hay is reported as 96 per cent completed with estimated yields of 1.2 ton per acre and quality rated as 54 per cent good or excellent. First-cut irrigated hay is 100 per cent complete with estimates of 2.0 ton per acre yields, and 70 per cent rated as good or excellent quality. Second-cut irrigated hay has not started.

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

- Scattered rains over parts of the region will help fill the crops. Bonnyville, St. Paul, and Wainwright areas also reported smoke and cool temperatures slowing crop advancement.
- Overall, crop conditions are 63 per cent, below the five-year average of 83 per cent good or excellent.
- Crop stages for spring cereals are mostly in the early to mid-milk stage, while fall-seeded cereals have started to ripen. Canola is 73 per cent podding and dry peas have finished podding.
- Pasture is currently rated as 67 per cent poor, 18 per cent fair, and 15 per cent good.
- First-cut dryland hay is reported as 95 per cent completed with estimated yields of 0.9 ton per acre and quality rated as 78 per cent good or excellent.

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

- Sporadic rain was received throughout the region this week, which will help fill the existing heads and pods.
- Overall, crop conditions are 43 per cent, below the five-year average of 63 per cent good or excellent.
- Crop stages for spring cereals are mostly in the mid to late milk stage, while fall-seeded cereals are in the early to soft dough stage. Canola is 70 per cent podding and dry peas are 94 per cent podding.
- Pasture is currently rated as 44 per cent poor, 44 per cent fair, and 12 per cent good.
- First-cut dryland hay is reported as 99 per cent completed with estimated yields of 1.2 ton per acre and quality rated as 58 per cent good or excellent.

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

- Isolated showers and smoke was common throughout region. The showers are helping to fill out the canola and cereal crops.
- Overall, crop conditions are 57 per cent, below the five-year average of 72 per cent good or excellent.
- Crop stages for spring cereals are mostly in the mid to late milk stage, canola is 93 per cent podding and dry peas have finished podding.
- Pasture is currently rated as 63 per cent poor, 32 per cent fair, and 5 per cent good.
- First-cut dryland hay is reported as 97 per cent completed with estimated yields of 0.8 ton per acre and quality rated as 20 per cent good or excellent.

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July 30, 2021

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