

Alberta Crop Report



Crop Conditions as of October 9, 2018 (Abbreviated Report)

Generally, harvest progress has been slow due to wet conditions across the province and lower than normal temperatures since the end of August. Provincially, about 47 per cent of major crops have now been harvested, up nine per cent from a week ago (see Table 1). Comparing harvest progress over recent years, 2018 has been the most delayed in all regions. About 26 per cent are still in swath (unchanged from last week) and another 27 per cent standing, down nine per cent from a week ago. If the forecast for improved weather in the coming week holds, harvest could advance significantly.

Regionally, harvest progress is behind the 5-year averages in all regions. Over the past week, producers in the North East, North West and Peace Regions were able to make some progress, before the long weekend when snow halted harvesting operations. The snow has flattened standing crops, impacting the yield potential in the affected areas. The cool, wet weather has resulted in some crops sprouting and cracking, with some crops having shriveled and frozen kernels, which affects crop quality.

On the upside, the precipitation received across the province has been most beneficial to fall seeded crops which are now rated as three per cent poor, 34 per cent fair, 56 per cent good and seven per cent excellent. Likewise, there has been an improvement in soil moisture reserves (see the Map). Surface soil moisture conditions (sub-surface shown in brackets) across the province are rated as 4 (12) per cent poor, 16 (30) per cent fair, 49 (34) per cent good, 27 (22) per cent excellent and four (two) per cent excessive. Pastures across the province now look better, but without re-growth due to cool temperatures (see Table 2).

Table 1: Regional Harvest Progress as of October 9, 2018

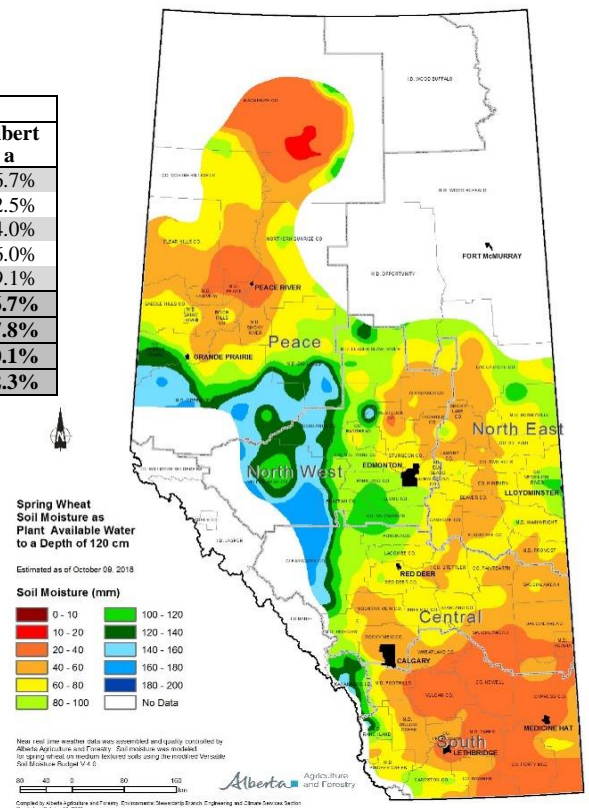
	% of Combined					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	69.0%	48.1%	61.4%	52.5%	41.1%	56.7%
Barley	82.1%	42.9%	35.5%	35.2%	35.4%	52.5%
Oats	72.4%	33.6%	29.2%	30.6%	30.8%	34.0%
Canola	53.0%	29.3%	23.6%	5.6%	15.8%	26.0%
Dry Peas	94.2%	98.2%	97.4%	96.9%	57.8%	89.1%
Major Crops	71.0%	43.7%	43.5%	30.5%	29.7%	46.7%
Last week – Major Crops	70.2%	42.3%	22.1%	15.6%	22.8%	37.8%
Last Week – All Crops	70.5%	42.6%	22.0%	15.7%	22.8%	40.1%
5-year average (2013-2017)	90.9%	82.1%	79.4%	69.0%	85.3%	82.3%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Table 2: Estimates of Pasture Growth Conditions as of October 9, 2018

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
South	33.5%	42.2%	21.3%	3.1%
Central	21.3%	38.0%	35.3%	5.3%
N East	30.0%	40.0%	30.0%	0.0%
N West	50.7%	23.9%	25.4%	0.0%
Peace	0.0%	20.0%	70.8%	9.2%
Alberta	27.3%	35.8%	33.6%	3.3%
Last Year	25.6%	42.3%	27.9%	4.1%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey



Our thanks to Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen, staff of AFSC and the Alberta Ag-Info Centre for their partnership and contribution to the Alberta Crop Reporting Program. The precipitation map is compiled by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Environmental Stewardship Branch, Engineering and Climate Services Section.

REGIONAL ASSESSMENTS:

The 2018 Alberta Crop Report Series continues to provide summaries for the following five regions:

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

- Cool, wet conditions have slowed down harvest progress in most parts of the Region, while in others, rain, snow and frost have halted harvesting completely. For potatoes and sugar beets, harvest was progressing very slowly, until the snow over the long weekend.
- Regionally, 71 per cent of major crops are harvested (up one per cent from a week ago), with 12 per cent swathed and 17 per cent still standing.
- About 21 per cent of spring wheat, 11 per cent of barley, 20 per cent of oats and five per cent of dry peas are still standing. For canola, 53 per cent is harvested, 23 per cent in swath and 24 per cent still standing.
- Fall seeded crops are rated as three per cent poor, 33 per cent fair, 56 per cent good and eight per cent excellent.
- Surface soil moisture conditions (sub-surface soil ratings in the brackets) are rated as 13 (27) per cent poor, 43 (52) per cent fair, 43 (21) per cent good and one (zero) per cent excellent.

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

- Producers who had access to grain dryers were able to combine a limited number of acres, before the snow on the long weekend.
- Nearly 44 per cent of major crops in this Region are now in the bin (up two per cent from a week ago), 24 per cent in swath and 32 per cent still standing.
- About 36 per cent of spring wheat, 35 per cent of barley, 50 per cent of oats and two per cent of dry peas are still standing. For canola, 29 per cent has been harvested, 40 per cent swathed and 31 per cent still standing.
- Fall seeded crops are rated as three per cent poor, 34 per cent fair, 58 per cent good and five per cent excellent.
- Surface soil moisture conditions (sub-surface soil ratings in the brackets) are rated as zero (10) per cent poor, 9 (23) per cent fair, 53 (47) per cent good and 28 (18) per cent excellent, with 10 (2) per cent excessive.

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

- Compared to other regions, harvest progress was quite significant in this Region over the past week. More swathing also took place, before combining came to a halt due to the recent snow over the long weekend.
- About 44 per cent of major crops have been harvested (up 22 per cent from last week), with 32 per cent in swath and 24 per cent still standing.
- There are nearly 29 per cent of spring wheat, 42 per cent of barley, 41 per cent of oats and three per cent of dry peas still standing. For canola, about 24 per cent is combined, with 59 per cent in swath and 17 per cent still standing.
- Fall seeded crops are rated as 10 per cent poor, 50 per cent fair and 40 per cent good.
- Surface soil moisture conditions (sub-surface soil ratings in the brackets) are rated as zero (12) fair, 46 (36) per cent good and 51 (50) per cent excellent, with 3 (2) per cent excessive.

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

- Some harvest progress, mainly for cereals was reported for the Region. However, snow on the weekend has halted harvesting operations once more. Most of combined cereals are being dried. Crop quality for standing crops have also deteriorated.
- Overall, 28 per cent of major crops are still standing, 42 per cent in swath and 30 per cent harvested (up 15 per cent from a week ago).
- About 44 per cent of spring wheat, 47 per cent of barley, 38 per cent of oats and three per cent of dry peas are still standing. While six per cent of canola has been harvested, 84 per cent is in swath and 11 per cent still standing.
- Surface soil moisture conditions (sub-surface soil ratings in the brackets) are rated as zero (15) per cent poor, 15 (46) per cent fair, 57 (11) per cent good and 28 (28) per cent excellent.

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

- Cool temperatures and snow over the weekend have slowed down harvesting operations. Even so, producers were still able to make some progress. Regionally, 30 per cent of major crops have been combined (up seven per cent from last week), 30 per cent are in swath and 40 per cent still standing.
- About 58 per cent of spring wheat, 62 per cent of barley, 66 per cent of oats and 41 per cent of dry peas are still standing. While 16 per cent of canola is harvested, 59 per cent is in swath and 26 per cent still standing.
- Surface soil moisture conditions (sub-surface soil ratings in the brackets) are rated as zero (two) per cent poor, zero (eight) per cent fair, 56 (60) per cent good and 34 (24) per cent excellent, with 10 (6) per cent excessive.

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October 12, 2018**

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