

**ALBERTA CROP REPORT #5**  
- as of July 3, 2008 -

**Provincial**

Warmer weather enveloped the province with normal to slightly above normal temperatures in most areas. Precipitation was light in the form of pop up showers. The warm weather did enhance crop development but crops remain 7 – 10 days behind normal due to the cool spring. Spring cereals are entering the flag leaf stage, winter cereals are in the late heading to early pollination stages while approximately 44% of the canola and 25% of the field peas are flowering. The incidence of hail has been light to date.

Haying is general in all areas with 20% of the 1<sup>st</sup> cut dryland crop and 33% of the 1<sup>st</sup> cut irrigated crop harvested. Yields are generally average to slightly below average due to the slow start to growth but quality is very good due to the drier conditions experienced.

Subsoil moisture is becoming a concern in areas north and east of Edmonton and in western portions of the Peace River block. As a result, the good/excellent rating for subsoil moisture has slipped to 52% for the province from 67% on June 19<sup>th</sup>. Current ratings are 15% poor/ 32% fair/ 40% good/ 12% excellent/ 1% excessive.

Crop Condition ratings have declined from the last crop report though no crop has a rating of poor above 7% on a provincial basis.

Crop	Rating as Good/Excellent on July 3/08 (%)						Average (June 19)
	South	Central	NE	NW	Peace	Average	
Spr. Wheat	88	83	67	70	35	69	78
Durum Wheat	91	80	---	---	---	87	86
Barley	88	77	68	69	35	68	77
Oats	90	81	73	69	37	71	79
Winter Wheat	89	73	72	65	34	69	76
Canola	86	79	62	71	41	68	78
Mustards	92	69	---	---	---	88	88
Flax	96	59	77	---	---	76	77
Field Peas	94	88	76	78	42	75	81
Chickpeas	93	80	---	---	---	91	94
Dry Beans	93	---	---	---	---	93	90
Potatoes	89	92	---	70	---	89	74
Sugar Beets	95	---	---	---	---	95	86

**Southern Alberta**

- Conditions are very good to excellent across most of the region with 72% of the crops rated good & 18% rated excellent (76% good/16% excellent on June 19<sup>th</sup>).
- Crops have responded well to the warmer weather as soil moisture is very good with 86% of the region rating subsoil moisture as good/excellent, unchanged from June 19<sup>th</sup>.

- Spring cereals are in early boot stage, winter cereals are pollinating, 63% of the canola is flowering with 2% podding, 49% of the field peas are flowering with 5% podding.
- Dryland haying is 20% completed & irrigated haying is 40% completed.

### **Central Alberta**

- Conditions are good to very good in most areas with 58% of the crops rated good & 22% rated excellent (75% good/16% excellent on June 19<sup>th</sup>).
- 70% of the region is rating subsoil moisture as good/excellent, down from 80% on June 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Spring cereals are in the early to mid stem elongation stage, winter cereals are in late heading, 28% of the canola and 15% of the field peas are flowering (no podding).
- Dryland haying is 14% completed.

### **North East Alberta**

- Conditions are generally good with 60% of the crops rated good & 8% rated excellent (66% good/8% excellent on June 19<sup>th</sup>).
- Soil moisture conditions are becoming concerning with only 25% of the region rating subsoil moisture as good/excellent, down from 53% on June 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Spring cereals are in early boot stage, winter cereals in early pollination, canola is 49% flowering & field peas are 36% flowering (no podding).
- Dryland haying is 15% completed.

### **North West Alberta**

- Conditions are generally good with 60% of the crops rated good & 12% rated excellent (56% good/14% excellent on June 19<sup>th</sup>).
- Soil moisture is becoming a concern with only 38% of the region rating subsoil moisture as good/excellent, down from 54% on June 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Spring cereals are in boot stage, winter cereals in mid to late heading stage, canola is 22% flowering & field peas are 19% flowering (no podding).
- Dryland haying is 14% completed.

### **Alberta Peace River Block**

- Conditions are generally fair with only 33% of the crops rated good & 5% rated excellent (57% good/16% excellent on June 19<sup>th</sup>).
- Soil moisture is becoming a concern particularly in the southern and western areas with only 35% of the region rating subsoil good/excellent, down from 63% on June 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Spring cereals are in late boot stage, winter cereals are completing head emergence, canola is 60% flowering & field peas are quite delayed at 5% flowering (no podding).
- Dryland haying is 36% completed.

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