

Issue 4 (Week 22) – May 31, 2022

Crop Report

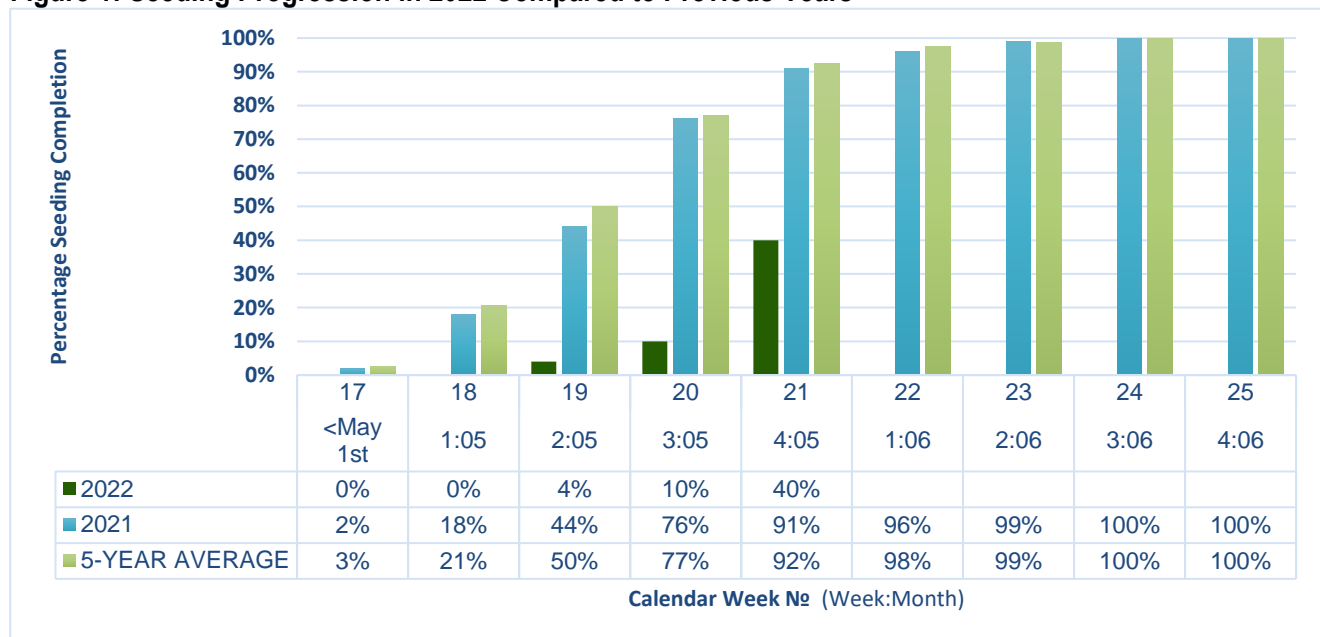


[Reporting Area Map](#) [Seasonal Reports](#) [Crop Weather Report](#) [Weekly Weather Maps](#)

Weekly Provincial Summary

- Provincial seeding progress sits at 40% completion, behind the 5-year average of 91% for Week 21 (Figure 1). Progress remains highly variable within each region, and even from farm to farm, depending on localized rainfall and soil conditions.
- Wet and slowly drying soils have presented numerous problems to growers, with many instances of tractors, seeders, and sprayers getting stuck, often in unexpected places.
- Farm operators are forced to work very long hours, or overnight for 24 hour periods in an effort to seed crops while soil and weather conditions permit. Larger farms tend to be slightly further ahead in planting progress than smaller operators.
- Poor condition gravel and dirt roads reduced timely field access in many regions, forcing growers to find alternate routes to fields, or travel at much slower speeds than normal.
- Weather and soil conditions have led to shifting acreage plans, or order-of-operations changes.
- The [Manitoba Farm, Rural & Northern Support Services](#) helpline offers free, confidential, and non-judgmental counselling, available 24/7 at 1-866-367-3276. The [Manitoba Farmer Wellness Program](#) office can be reached at 1-204-232-0574.
- To find interactive maps showing soil temperature/moisture, and air temperature, see Agri-Maps Current Weather [viewer](#). See the [Current Crop Topics](#) page for resources on delayed seeding and wet soils.

Figure 1: Seeding Progression in 2022 Compared to Previous Years



Overview

Substantial rains fell again last week in the Southwest and Northwest regions, followed by a Colorado Low system with thunderstorms and strong winds in the Central, Interlake, and Eastern regions yesterday and today. The past 24-hour period has brought rainfall totals up to 63 mm and counting at Dominion City, with rainfall generally ranging between 20 to 55 mm across the Central, Interlake, and Eastern regions, with a band stretching into the Southwest from Killarney to Wawanesa-Glenboro area.

Prior to the most recent rain, producers across the province were able to make rapid progress, seeding over 25% of the crop across the province in a span of three to four days – ahead of the normal rate of progress, given the time crunch and the very long hours worked by farmers during this time. Seeding progress remains highly variable from one local area to the next, with dozens of farmers that have not started planting due to conditions. Approximately 4 million acres have been planted across Manitoba.

Most soils across the province remain wet, forcing farmers to seed whatever crop they can on their driest ground. Farmers prioritized corn, sunflowers, field peas, soybeans, and potatoes during the past week, and are now refocusing on spring wheat, oats, and canola since approaching seeding deadlines are unlikely to be met for full coverage on corn and soybeans. Seeding will likely resume at the start of next week in much of Manitoba. Wet spots that have been left in seeded fields will likely remain unplanted this year.

Standing water is visible in many fields across all regions, which may impact germination rate and [seedling survivability](#) if fields remain saturated for more than a few days. [Broadcast canola seeding](#) has occurred, while farmers are attempting to dry ground using shallow tillage or harrowing in preparation for all crops.

Manitoba farmers' outlook for 2022 has been discouraged by poor weather, logistic delays, and extreme commodity risk. Farmers, livestock producers, ag-retailers and support networks are encouraged to connect with each other, and reach out to counselling and stress support services as needed.

Cereals

- Earliest planted spring wheat, oat, and barley fields are now emerging to two-leaf stage. Moist soils promoted rapid germination and even emergence.
- Winter cereal crops have begun to joint (Zadoks Scale 30-32) and have canopy row closure, with a few crops showing signs of nitrogen deficiency.
- Drier conditions in the middle of last week saw farmers in the Central, Interlake and Eastern regions finish the majority of corn acres, and a good portion of soybeans, then prioritizing finishing planting spring wheat and oats.
- The Southwest and Northwest regions saw thundershowers mid-week slow planting progress, and some crops in all regions have been 'mucked in' if field conditions were less than ideal.
- Farmer are growing slightly more oats than previous years, preferring the crop over barley being more tolerant to wet soils. A few growers in the Southwest region have reported growing oats for the first time, and seed supplies remain very tight across the province due to high demand and higher seed cleanout last fall.
- Volunteer canola is widespread on many fields, and moving into the two-leaf stage. Other spring annual weeds have been rapidly growing, leading to many dirty-looking fields. Herbicide control will be needed shortly, and farmers are using light tillage to disturb many emerging weeds while drying out soil surfaces to support seeding operations.

- Farmers are switching out of remaining unplanted corn in favour of canola, and silage corn growers are considering planting more greenfeed cereal crops as a replacement. Expect a 10 to 40% reduction in grain corn acres in all regions from intended fields switched out to another crop.
- A limited few spring wheat fields have been broadcast seeded, and farmers may consider doing more acres if wet weather persists.

Oilseeds

- Canola seeding progressed rapidly last week, on fields that supported machine traffic. Farmers have used traditional drilling, as well as broadcast methods to sow canola, leading to the jump in planted acres.
- Farmers switching out of soybean or corn crops are booking canola seed supplies with retailers before seed availability becomes limited.
- Herbicide allocation of Liberty 150SN (*glufosinate*) has some growers considering a pre-seed or pre-emergence weed control pass on canola fields – saving reduced Liberty supplies for a single in-crop application.
- Some canola is being broadcasted using custom floaters or Valmar units, and harrowed or coulted in. Custom application broadcast equipment is in very high demand.
- Broadcast or aerial seeded canola must be incorporated via mechanical means on or before the seeding deadline, and must fully establish in order to be eligible for AgrilInsurance.
- Most sunflower crops are planted in the Central region, with appropriate pre-emergence herbicides applied.
- Flea beetle feeding has been observed on volunteer canola.

Pulses

- Better soil conditions earlier last week allowed farmers to plant up to 40% of the soybean crop in Manitoba, with some local districts further along.
- Soybean planting has stalled again with heavy rains across the province. Farmers are beginning to switch out of soybeans into canola or wheat, as they are not optimistic that planting will resume before the full coverage crop insurance deadlines arrive.
- MASC has permanently moved deadlines for full-coverage insurance on soybean seeding back to June 8 (Area 1), June 4 (Areas 2 and 3), and kept the deadline as June 1st for Area 4.
- Field pea acres are about 75% planted in the western regions of the province, with some fields remaining to be seeded over the next few days, while heavy rains stopping any further pea planting in the Central, Interlake and Eastern regions.
- Field peas planted early last week are emerging, and pre-seed herbicide passes are mostly complete wherever field access was possible.
- Few dry edible bean crops have planted across the province.
- Edge herbicide application on intended dry bean acres was largely completed this past week. Growers have been focused on planting other crops with nearer insurance deadlines.

Forages & Livestock

Forages

- Saturated soils and flooded fields will compromise some alfalfa stands if water sits longer than 7 to 10 days.
- Alfalfa stands vary from 4 to 8" in height.
- Nearly all regions of the province remain short on feed supplies, resulting in cattle being sent to pasture earlier than desired, with grass in less-than-optimal condition after overgrazing last year.

Livestock

- Cattle are being turned out to pastures that are dry enough to support animals without damaging pastures, but supplemental feeding is required in most cases.
- Paddock and winter-feeding areas are very wet and muddy, compromising calf health and leading to increased mortality due to pneumonia and diarrhea.
- Pelleted cattle feed suppliers are reporting increased sales and restocking inventory as ranchers are forced to supplement cattle normally put on riparian pasture that is underwater.
- All creeks, streams, dugouts, and sloughs have refilled to capacity, with many back to overflowing in all regions following the rainfall over the past week.

Regional Comments

Southwest

A small seeding window arrived mid last week until Friday evening, allowing approximately 30-35% of the region to be seeded. Producers were focused on the mid-slope fields, avoiding wet spots wherever possible, focused on seeding wheat and canola for the most part. Farmers that grow corn and soybeans were also prioritizing those crops. The recent Colorado Low has missed parts of the region west of the Souris River, and seeding should resume within a day or two.

Northwest

Better weather spurred seeding progress across the region to start the previous week, until thunderstorms on May 26 brought rain and hail to Mafeking, Birch River and Ethelbert districts. Cool and rainy weather since May 26 continued to slow progress. Field have been prioritized by dryness and resulting crop planting is scattered between spring cereals, canola, soybeans, and field peas. Switching between multiple crops has been time consuming for many farms, and adding to delays.

Overland flooding around Lakes Dauphin and Winnipegosis has inundated land adjacent to those lakes, with seeding not likely to occur there this year. Road washouts have become more severe and frequent in the Ethelbert and Pine River districts, with continued heavy rainfall, limited access to many fields and pastures.

Seeding progress was most advanced in The Pas at 50% complete, and 40% done in the Swan Valley and Roblin areas, with less than 20% of acres seeded near Dauphin and Ste. Rose du Lac.

Central

Several dry days last week saw a flurry of planting activity in the Central region, with seeding completion hitting 60% in the southern half of the Red River Valley, and closer to 45% further north, for a regional average of 50% done. Some areas have seen more progress than others, depending on field management, soil moisture, rainfall, and cropping choices.

Altona area has seen many delays, with wet soils limiting field traffic and forcing growers to wait or find drier fields to plant. Farmers near Winkler are over halfway done, with many nearing completion, while many Manitou to Cartwright area farmers planted their first crops this past week.

Strong progress has been made on planting corn, soybeans, and potatoes, in the Treherne area, but many cereals, canola and some dry beans have not been seeded, and limited acres have been seeded in the St. Claude to Haywood area. Field pea planting across the region is now done, as rains have forced crop switching to canola.

Potato planting progress ranges significantly, from approximately 50% done at Portage la Prairie, 75% near Winkler, to 80% at Treherne and Holland, while Carman area is virtually complete. Provincial potato planting is near 78% complete. Saturated soils have increased the risk of soft rot.

Eastern

Rainfall this past week brought 40 to 50 mm to the region, leading to standing water on many fields, stopping progress again. Many rivers flowing in the region still have increased water levels as high lake levels persist in Whiteshell Provincial Park and surrounding areas.

Corn, sunflower, flax, and field pea acres are planted – corn acres reached about 60% of intended acres, and the region will be unlikely to see further planting of that crop. Spring wheat is 75% done, while oats is 60% complete. Barley seeding sits at 5% complete, with some producers considering growing barley as the season gets later. Canola is 15% done, with increased acres expected. Planting progress sits at about 45% complete in the region, with some areas east of the Red River, from Emerson to Aubigny a little further ahead.

Interlake

Regional seeding completion sits at 30% for the south Interlake, and about 35% in the north district around Arborg. Seeding completion varies widely, with some farms over 50% done, while others have not yet started due to highly variable local conditions and soil types. Approximately 50 mm rain fell during the most recent Colorado Low thunderstorm system from Sunday to this morning. Soybeans are approximately 40% seeded.

The rural road network in the Interlake is in very poor condition, with many roads rutted and muddy. Washouts from the spring melt remain unrepaired, hampering farmer access to fields and pastures and forcing lengthy detours adding time and cost to already delayed operations.