

Issue 10 (Week 29) – July 18, 2023

Crop Report



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Weekly Provincial Summary

- Localized precipitation events were observed across agro-Manitoba from July 10 - 16, with values ranging from 0.0 to 29.5 mm (Table 1). Elie (29.5 mm) received the most precipitation over the last seven days.

Table 1. Seven-day accumulated precipitation in Manitoba's Agricultural Regions.

Region	Wettest Location last Week	Driest Location last Week
Central	Elie (29.5 mm)	Gretna (0 mm)
Eastern	Marchand (26.7 mm)	Dominion City (3.5 mm)
Interlake	Fisherton (15.3 mm)	Gimli (1.1 mm)
Northwest	Alonsa (18.5 mm)	Roblin (0 mm)
Southwest	Virden (7.4 mm)	Reston (0 mm)

- Soil Moisture 0 - 30 cm shows a regional representation of soil moisture conditions for the top 30 cm on July 16, 2023 relative to field capacity. Soil moisture levels are variable throughout agro-Manitoba with the majority of the province showing optimal to dry to the 30 cm depth. Localized areas in the Southwest, Northwest, and Eastern regions are showing wet conditions.
- Climate normals for total accumulated precipitation from May 1 to July 16 range from 139 mm to 226 mm and are based on 30-year historical data. Western areas of the province near San Clara, Deloraine, and Shilo have received more than 100% of normal precipitation since May 1. Much of the Central and Eastern regions are below 70% compared to the 30-year average.
- Percent Normal Accumulated Growing Degree Days (May 1 – July 16), represents the variation of accumulated Growing Degree Days (GDD) from the historical record over a 30-year period. Most locations, except Snowflake and Rosa have accumulated more than 110% of the 30 –year average since May 1.
- To find interactive soil temperature/moisture and air temperature information see Agri-Maps Current Weather [viewer](#).

Overview

Crop development has slowed during the last week due to the cooler conditions. In the Northwest region, nighttime temperatures reached the single digits nearing 0°C degrees. There were isolated reports that some crops were lightly touched by frost. No significant damage being reported.

While crops remain in good condition overall, soil moisture reserves are not adequate to maintain crop condition unless recharged relatively soon. Winter cereal crops continued to dry down over last week. Corn growth stage ranged from VT (tassel emergence) to early R1 (silk) for the earliest seeded fields.

The soybean crop remained in good condition on most fields with the exception of some later seeded crop that remains starchy and thin due to poor topsoil moisture conditions at seeding time.

Cereals

- Winter cereal crops continued to dry down over last week and producers were preparing for pre-harvest herbicide applications. Harvest could begin in ten days or less in some areas if weather is conducive to drydown.
- Spring cereals ranged from the late milk to the dough stage with the exception of very late seeded crops that were ending flowering. Overall, cereal crops remain in fair to mostly good condition.
- Corn growth stage ranged from VT (tassel emergence) to early R1 (silk) for the earliest seeded fields. The crop remained in good to excellent condition and demonstrated rapid growth in the warm weather.
- The spring wheat crop is rated mostly fair to good (**Table 3**). No change from previous week.

Table 3: Spring Wheat Quality Rating by Region

	Southwest	Northwest	Central	Eastern	Interlake
Excellent		30%	-	-	-
Good	60%	70%	60%	80%	80%
Fair	30%	-	40%	20%	20%
Poor	10%	-	-	-	-
Very Poor	-	-	-	-	-

Oilseeds

- Most of the canola crop in the region ranged from 50% flower to pod filling and the end of flowering on the earliest seeded fields. Overall crop condition ranged from fair to mostly good and the cool weather over the past couple of weeks did extend flowering on some crops.
- Sunflower fields were mostly in the R3 (early bud elongation) growth stage. In most fields, a few plants could be found at the R4 growth stage (inflorescence beginning to open). Over the past week the crop continued to demonstrate rapid growth and remained in good to excellent condition.
- Flax crops moved to growth stage 9 (late flower). The crop remained in good condition overall but, in drier areas, some crops in fair condition could be found.

Pulses and Soybeans

- Field pea crops were well into the R4 (full pod) growth stage last week with very few flat pods or flowers remaining on plants.
- Soybean growth stage ranged from late R2 (full flower) to very early R4 (full pod) with most fields at R3 (beginning pod) on average. Overall crop condition remained good on most fields with the exception of some later seeded crop that remains starchy and thin due to poor topsoil moisture conditions at seeding time.
- Dry beans are flowering and setting pin pods. Fungicide application has begun on earliest maturing varieties and in fields where potential for disease is higher.

Forages & Livestock

Forages

- In the Southwest region the forage crops have been cut and baled with the majority of first cut complete. At present, the second cut does not look good and in most areas there will probably not be a second cut without any rain. Lots of hayfields and some pastures are going dormant.
- The majority of beef producers are close to completing first cut. Yields remain variable and are estimated to range between 60% and 80% of normal. Regrowth on hayfields is slow and thin.
- Forage growth on pasture has slowed and regrowth is greatly reduced in dry areas. Grasshoppers are causing damage on pasture.
- Dairy producers in the Eastern region continue to work on second cut. Yields are considerably below average and quality may be compromised as some cut feed experienced rain before it could be picked-up last week. Second cut alfalfa silage has begun for some dairy farmers in the southern part of the Interlake.

Livestock

- Grass conditions on pasture are fair, but more moisture is needed, particularly on pastures with lighter soils. Cool temperatures have given cattle some reprieve from the intense heat experienced in June and insect pressure seems to have eased. Dugouts are holding at approximately 30% full in Eastern Manitoba.
- Forage growth on pasture has slowed and regrowth is greatly reduced in dry areas. Grasshoppers are causing damage on pasture.
- Fly pressure is building and producers are considering fly control measures for their livestock. Cattle are being treated for pink eye and foot rot.
- In the Southwest region pastures are average to below average condition and are in need of moisture. Producers in some areas have been spraying pastures for grasshoppers. Dugouts are about 60% full.
- In the Interlake region pastures that haven't been overgrazed in the past and have the appropriate stocking density are keeping up with cattle feed demand but regrowth will be reduced in areas where there is a lack of moisture. Most dugouts are at adequate levels.

Regional Comments

Southwest

Another dry week in the Southwest with no significant moisture. Lower temperatures and smoky conditions have helped the crop manage the dry conditions as they continue to develop. Minimum overnight temperatures ranged from 0.4°C to 0.8°C, with average day time temperatures of 15°C to 20°C. Dry conditions in several areas are starting to effect crop tillering and growth with several fields showing areas that are moisture deficient. In some areas, especially the Miniota area, crops are starting to ripen and yields will be affected. Any precipitation is welcome and most areas in the region remain short for moisture.

Fall rye and winter wheat are filling with some crops starting to turn. A good rain would help in head fill. There are still reports of some cereal armyworms and grasshoppers damaging the crops and spraying is happening in some areas.

Pea crops are in late flowering to early pod fill stage. Dry conditions have helped with very little to no disease issues.

Spring cereals are at head fill stage, with some of the early seeded crops or areas where moisture is needed starting to turn. Several fields have areas showing drought stress. Some reports of grasshopper spraying.

Most canola crops are in full flower with the early seeded crops podding. Crop is starting to show drought stress as areas in fields are starting to show flowers aborting. No major insect concerns as of yet but producers are monitoring fields.

Soybeans are at R1 to R3 stage. Crops look fair and are in need of rain at this point. Some late weed growth in areas where the stands are thin.

Corn is in the pre-tassel stage. Crop is dark green, and handling drought fairly well, however, crops on light sandy soils without rainfall are showing severe signs of stress. The corn crop is in the critical stage for rain over the next week.

In general, crops look average now, however, some areas are starting to fall below average this week and if rain does not arrive soon this area will get larger. The cool temperatures and the smoke in the area is helping.

Northwest

A mixed week with warm temperatures reaching high 20's with Dauphin the warmest at 26.8°C. Nighttime temperatures in the single digits being reported nearing 0°C degrees. Inglis weather station recorded 0.6°C, with local reports stating that some crops were lightly touched by frost. Precipitation was minimal for most of the region with Alonsa and The Pas receiving the highest amount(18.5 and 15 mm, respectively). There were localized showers across the region bringing precipitation as well. Many areas are in need of rain to keep the crop in good condition.

Spring cereals continue to progress and are mostly in the milk to dough stage. Most of the spring cereals are in good to excellent condition but would greatly benefit from precipitation.

The majority of the canola is flowering/podding, with some of the earliest seeded canola nearing flower completion. Approximately 40% of the canola is podding; 50% flowering; 10% bolting. Most of the fungicide treatments have been completed for those that applied.

Field peas are mostly looking good, however there are some fields that did not get timely rain and appear short. Growth stages are mostly at R4 and continuing to advance. A small number of fields are podded and beginning to mature.

Soybeans are mostly at the R2 stage across the region. For the most part they look good, but in some areas that haven't got adequate moisture they appear short. Some areas continue to see grasshopper activity picking up.

Central

This week remained dry. Most locations within the region received less than 5 mm of rain, with Gretna receiving no precipitation last week. There were patches of localized rain, with Elie receiving 29.5 mm and Starbuck 10.9 mm. The cool weather over the last week has slowed down crop progression which will help filling of cereal crops.

Spring wheat is at the milk to soft dough stage, some hard dough to <30% moisture. Barley is headed to soft dough and oats are at the hard dough stage. Corn growth stage ranged from VT (tassel emergence) to early R1 (silk) for the earliest seeded fields.

Field peas are at end of flower and pod filling. Canola is mostly between 50 - 80% flower, with the earliest fields now completed. Flax is flowering and setting bolls. Soybeans are flowering and pods forming, with most fields around R2-R4 growth stage. Some soybean fields are losing lower leaves where dry conditions persist. Dry beans are flowering and setting pin pods. Fungicide application has begun on earliest maturing varieties and in fields where potential for disease is higher. Sunflower fields were mostly in the R4-R5 stage and the earliest fields have heads opening.

Eastern

Across the Eastern region, accumulated rainfall over the reporting period ranged from less than 3.5 mm to 26.7 mm occurring mostly as fast moving showers or intense thunderstorms. On average, central and southern districts got the greater amounts of rain. Severe weather occurred on Thursday when a storm a few miles wide with heavy rain, strong winds and intense hail started east of the Kleefeld area and moved to the Friedensfeld area, causing moderate to severe levels of damage to a variety of crops. Damage assessments are ongoing by producers and insurance providers.

Winter cereal crops continued to dry down over last week and producers were preparing for pre-harvest herbicide applications. Harvest in ten days or less could begin in some areas if weather is conducive to drydown. Scouting for armyworms and grasshoppers ended given the rapid advance of the crop.

Spring cereal crops ranged from the late milk to the dough stage with the exception of very late seeded crops that were ending flowering. Overall, cereal crops remain in fair to mostly good condition. Insect scouting continued in the crop but only a few insecticide applications occurred.

Corn growth stage ranged from VT (tassel emergence) to early R1 (silk) for the earliest seeded fields. The crop remained in good to excellent condition and demonstrated rapid growth in the warm weather.

Sunflower fields were mostly in the R3 (early bud elongation) growth stage. In most fields, a few plants could be found at the R4 growth stage (inflorescence beginning to open). Over the past week the crop continued to demonstrate rapid growth and remained in good to excellent condition.

Most of the canola crop in the region ranged from 50% flower to pod filling and the end of flowering on the earliest seeded fields. Overall crop condition ranged from fair to mostly good and the past cool weather did extend flowering on some crops. For those choosing to apply fungicides, spraying was close to complete with only a few fields remaining to be sprayed. Areas that received significant rainfall last week saw more fungicide applications occurring than originally planned.

Soybean growth stage ranged from late R2 (full flower) to very early R4 (full pod) with most fields at R3 (beginning pod) on average. Overall crop condition remained good on most fields with the exception of some later seeded crop that remains starchy and thin due to poor topsoil moisture conditions at seeding time. Insect scouting, particularly for soybean aphids, continued with only below threshold pest levels found thus far.

Field pea crops were well into the R4 (full pod) growth stage last week with very few flat pods or flowers remaining on plants. Fungicide and insecticide applications ended as the crop rapidly advanced out of stage. The majority of the crop remained in good condition but in drier areas some fields are in fair condition and demonstrating lower yield potential.

Interlake

Rainfall continues to be variable with scattered thundershowers and spotty showers in the Interlake region. Conditions are very dry in Southern areas, including Arborg. Highs for daytime temperatures ranged from 5 to 25°C with an average temperature of 15°C this past week. Minimum overnight temperatures dropped, ranging between 3.9 to 6.3°C. The north Interlake region received 10 mm of rainfall in the Fisher Branch area, and 15.3 mm in Fisherton area.. There were spotty showers in the south Interlake region, Teulon had 3.2 mm, Arborg area received 7.7mm of rain, and Woodlands received 13.3 mm.

Adequate moisture is still needed for crop maturity and development. Overall crops are looking good. Spring wheat fields are approximately three weeks away from maturity and the yield potential looks good. Spring cereal crops ranged from the late milk to the dough stage. Overall, cereal crops remain in fair to mostly good condition. Insect scouting continued in the crop but only a few insecticide applications occurred.

Early crops are showing drought stress and later crops are hanging on because of deep rooting in the South Interlake. Canola is starting to fill in but are starchy due to poor germination. Field pea crops have reached the R4 growth stage. Most soybeans are at R3 stage and appear to be short for most fields. Nodulation is generally reported as excellent.