

Crop Report - May 20, 2026



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Upcoming Events

- [CropTalk Webinar](#): Wednesday, May 20 at 9 am – Early Season Insects to Watch (John Gavloski, Entomologist, Manitoba Agriculture)
- [Weed Seedling Identification Day](#): Wednesday, May 27 at 1:00 pm – Ian M. Morrison Research Station, Carman, MB
- [Early Scouting School – Canola](#): Tuesday, June 2 (near Morris) and Thursday, June 4 (near Minto) at 9:00 am

Weather Report

- Variable precipitation accumulated throughout agro-Manitoba over the past eight days. The Interlake and Northwest regions had the highest accumulations over the past eight days ranging from 3.4 to 26.3 mm. The highest amount of rainfall was observed at Minitonas at 26.3 mm.
- Total Accumulation of Growing Degree Days shows the accumulated growing degree days (GDD) for the period of May 1 – May 18, 2026. GDD accumulations ranged between 21 and 81 GDD so far this growing

Table 1. Range of measurements of seven-day accumulated precipitation in Manitoba's Agricultural Regions.

Region	Wettest location last eight days	Driest location last eight days
Central	Winkler (15.8 mm)	Somerset (4.5 mm)
Eastern	Stead (19.7 mm)	Prawda (5.1 mm)
Interlake	Taylor's Point (21.1 mm)	Stonewall (11.0 mm)
Northwest	Minitonas (26.3 mm)	Grandview (5.5 mm)
Southwest	Russell (22.0 mm)	Glenboro (3.4 mm)

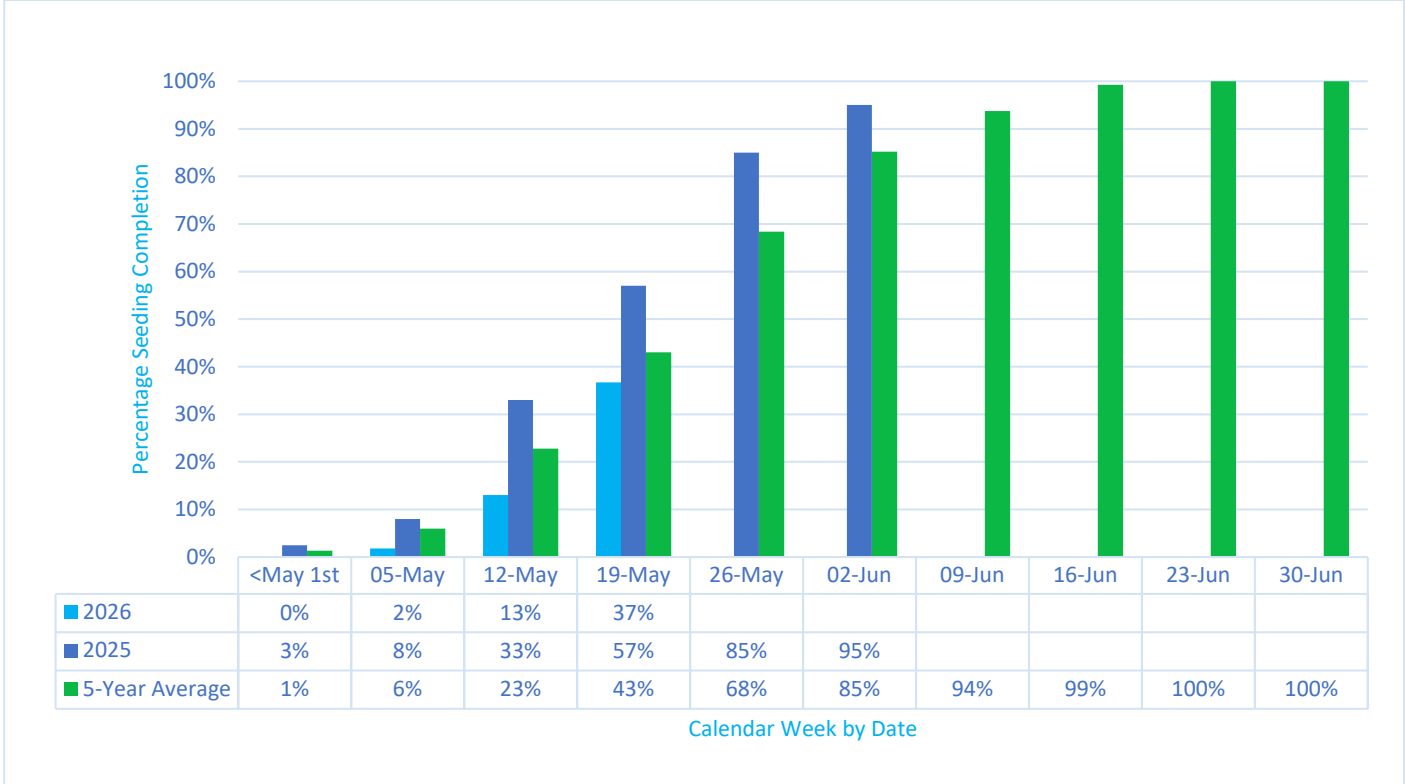


Figure 1. Seeding Progression in 2026 Compared to Previous Years

Commodity Reports

Cereals

- Winter wheat and fall rye continued to green up this past week and appears to have come through the winter in good condition.
- Corn and spring wheat planting has progressed quickly in all regions. Barley and oats have started going in the Southwest, Northwest, and Central regions.

Oilseeds

- Canola, sunflowers, and limited flax have been planted. Producers continue to look for warmer temperatures.

Pulses & Soybeans

- Field pea planting has progressed quickly in the Southwest and Central regions and started in the Northwest.
- Minimal seeding of soybeans has started in the Southwest and Central.



Forages & Livestock

Forages

- Seeding is well underway across the region, though progress was slowed this past week by extremely high winds and rainfall.
- Significant topsoil movement occurred in some areas during recent wind events.
- Dairy producers have largely completed greenfeed seeding, while beef producers continue seeding operations as conditions allow.
- Recent rainfall provided much-needed moisture, and warmer temperatures are expected to improve forage and crop development.
- Early seeded forage crops and pasture stands continue to show slow growth due to prolonged cool conditions, though some improvement is beginning to be seen.
- Pasture conditions remain behind normal for this time of year, with many areas still several weeks away from having sufficient forage growth for turnout.
- Fencing and pasture preparation continue, including repairs and rechecking fences following recent windstorms.
- Dugouts and livestock water supplies remain in good condition, with water availability reported as excellent across the region.

Livestock

- Most cattle remain in winter feeding or confined feeding areas, as cool temperatures and delayed pasture growth continue to postpone turnout.
- Only a few producers have begun turning pairs onto grass, and supplemental feeding is still required.
- Many producers are waiting until pastures reach the recommended 3 to 4 leaf stage before turnout.
- Delayed pasture turnout is reducing carryover feed supplies, with some producers sourcing or transporting additional feed to bridge the gap until grazing conditions improve.
- Spring management activities including branding, vaccinations, and bull semen testing are ongoing in preparation for breeding season.
- Concerns remain that delayed pasture readiness may impact traditional turnout time for some operations.

Regional Comments

Southwest

Most producers had a good week of seeding. However, strong winds with speeds topping 100-115 km/h in the southwest region was the highlight during the week. Soil blowing was reported in lighter soil areas, along with some crop and property damage. Temperatures remained below normal, slowing crop progress and pasture growth. Soil temperatures also dropped below 10°C. The forecast following the long weekend is expected to return to more seasonal conditions.

Windy conditions made fieldwork much more difficult and, in some cases, forced farmers out of the fields entirely. Seeding progress south of Highway #1 is further ahead than areas north of Highway #1, while regions north of Highway 16 continue to lag due to fields requiring warmer temperatures and drier weather conditions.

Early seeded peas are beginning to emerge, and some early-seeded cereals are also starting to come up. Spring wheat seeding is approximately 50–55% complete, with early-seeded crops beginning to germinate. Barley and oats are about 30–35% complete, while corn is around 30% complete. Canola seeding is estimated at 10%, flax remains under 5%, soybeans are around 25%, and peas are approximately 90% complete.



Some burn-off spraying has begun ahead of crop emergence. However, weather conditions have limited both weed growth and spraying opportunities.

Producers are hoping for a stretch of warm, favorable weather to complete cereal seeding. More producers are also intending to seed canola this year. Winter cereals continue to develop but remain mostly at the tillering stage. Winter wheat conditions range from fair to poor, while rye is performing noticeably better.

Figure 2. Blowing soil near Melita, MB on Friday, May 15.

Northwest

A warm start to the week allowed for some seeding progress in the Northwest Region. The exception was The Pas where seeding has not yet begun due to wet conditions. Seeding progress was short lived as strong winds moved in Thursday/Friday, bringing rain, snowfall and cool temperatures over the weekend. The highest daytime temperature was reached at Ashville station early in the week at 27.8 degrees. The lowest overnight temperature was recorded at Keld station going down to -5.2 degrees. Most of the region experienced high winds Thursday into Friday with maximum speeds recorded at Ashville station at 80 km/hour. The entire region received precipitation this week, with the highest accumulated amount recorded at Minitonas weather station at 26 mm.

The Northwest region continues to need warm weather for field conditions to improve. Many fields are saturated with standing water in low areas. The southern portion of the region has seen more progress in field work and seeding. Seeding/fertilizing is more advanced in the Dauphin/Ste. Rose and Russell area while the rest of the region follows behind as conditions allow.

Soil temperatures remain cool. Weeds and volunteers started to grow quickly on the warm days and slowed over the weekend. Cool temperatures, delayed growth, and high winds have added to the challenge of spraying.

Spring wheat seeding for the region is approximately 5% complete. Barley seeding has started in some areas. Field pea seeding is approximately 5% complete. Some soybeans have been seeded, with the approaching seeding deadline being kept in mind.

Central

Temperatures across the Central Region remained relatively cool this past week, marked by persistent strong winds and dry conditions, leading to visible wind erosion across the region. Some producers reported the worst blowing soil they have seen in several years. Some ditches were completely filled with soil, and in some potato fields, ridges were heavily damaged or entirely blown away by the extreme winds.

Despite the challenging conditions, farmers continued with field operations. For the most part, farmers are now able to access previously saturated or low-lying areas. However, herbicide applications have at times been challenging

due to persistent high winds limiting suitable spraying opportunities. Manure applications mostly wrapped up over the week.

Seeding progress advanced rapidly over the past week, with spring cereal seeding nearing completion in many areas, and the earliest winter wheat emerging. Corn, soybean, canola, and sunflower seeding also made substantial progress. Due to the cool temperatures, it is likely that developing canola plants will stay in the vulnerable stages for damage longer than typical, so producers should watch for flea beetle damage.

Approximately 60% of the corn crop has been planted, but producers are concerned about poor germination and slow growth due to cool temperatures, and the possibility of chilling injury.

The earliest seeded pea fields have emerged, although concerns remain regarding limited moisture reserves and the impact of wind stress and sandblasting on lighter soils. Soybean seeding continues, though some producers remain cautious about planting into cool and dry seedbeds. Producers are looking forward to the warmer weather predicted next week, which will provide better conditions for soybean germination and development.

Winter wheat and fall rye continue to green up well with very good survival and minimal winterkill reported. Growth remains somewhat slower than normal due to continued cool temperatures, though crop condition is generally good across the region and at the 4 leaf stage,

Weed emergence is becoming more noticeable, but growth is slower than in recent years due to cooler temperatures and low surface soil moisture. Kochia, volunteer canola and wheat, flixweed, fleabane, foxtail barley, redroot pigweed, lamb's quarters, thistles, and dandelions are all appearing in fields.

Eastern

This week's daytime temperatures were on the cooler side again, much of the rain fell on the weekend and although cool, the rain was welcome as it was enough to soak into the topsoil. The forecast for the coming week is for warmer temperatures with some rain possible through to Friday.

Seeding continues across the region with a lot of progress made before the rain on the weekend. Manure applications have wrapped up this week. Some pre-emergence herbicide spraying has occurred.

Winter cereal fields look very good and are at the 3-4 leaf stage and are actively growing.

Spring wheat seeding is beginning to wrap up this past week. A few farms are reporting that all of their acres are in the ground. Total spring wheat planted acres is estimated at 80% complete for the region. Some of the earliest wheat fields planted are starting to emerge and look good despite the cool weather. Corn planting made a lot of gains this past week in the region, the total acres planted is estimated at 75%. Some early planted fields have begun to germinate underground but have not yet broken the soil surface. Some growers are concerned about the cool rain over the weekend which may slow germination and cause chilling injury.

Canola seeding is ongoing in the region with total acres estimated at 35% complete. Producers continue to hope for warmer temperatures as canola seeding continues. Sunflower planting continues and is estimated at 45% complete for the region. The limited flax acres in the area are estimated at 70% complete.

Soybean planting is also ongoing across the region, with 30% of acres estimated complete. Producers are concerned with the cool rainfall over the weekend and its effect on emergence. Field pea planting is wrapped up; of the limited acres in the area, the seeded acres are estimated at 100% complete.

Some early cutworm damage was reported on early emerging cereals in the eastern part of the region.

Interlake

Strong winds across the region led to reports of some soil erosion. Temperatures fluctuated, reaching highs of 22.7 to 26.8°C and lows down to -1.8°C, with daily averages between 7 and 9°C.

Producers in the South Interlake made significant seeding progress, particularly in St. Andrews, where 57% of crops are seeded. The Woodlands and Clandeboye areas reported 80% for spring cereals, 45% for soybeans, 70% for corn, 60% for sunflowers, and 25% for canola.

In contrast, Northern producers faced delays in seeding due to rain, runoff, cooler temperatures, and saturated fields, achieving only 30% seeding progress. Cereals and pulses saw some advancement, while oilseed crops were slow. Warmer temperatures are needed to accelerate progress, though some producers in drier areas are successfully seeding pulses and cereals, as well as oilseed crops and perennial forages.

Some farmers are engaging in other fieldwork, such as pre-seed herbicide spraying and land rolling, while many remain hindered by wet conditions, especially in the Northern areas.

Current Crop Topics: Crop Growth Stages

Staging crops accurately is an important skill. Crop staging becomes very important when considering herbicide and fungicide applications, plant growth regulators, applying fertilizer in-crop, and evaluating crop damage from hail or frost. Links to various crop staging guides are found below:

Pulse & Soybeans

[Soybean](#)

[Field peas](#)

[Fababean](#)

Oilseeds

[Canola](#)

[Sunflower](#)

[Flax](#)

Cereals

[Cereal staging guide](#)

[Corn – Vegetative growth stages](#)

[Corn – Reproductive growth stages](#)