

Issue 14 – July 30, 2024

Crop Report



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Weekly Provincial Summary

- Agro-Manitoba received variable amounts of precipitation over the past seven days. Once again, isolated heavy rains occurred in several regions. Precipitation for the past week ranged from 0 mm to 51.3 mm (Table 1). Sprague (51.3 mm) received the most precipitation.

Table 1. Range of seven-day accumulated precipitation (July 22 – 28) in Manitoba’s Agricultural Regions.

Region	Wettest Location	Driest Location
Central	Altona (23.8 mm)	Several (0.0 mm)
Eastern	Sprague (51.3 mm)	Pinawa (0.2 mm)
Interlake	Moosehorn (17.6 mm)	Several (0.0 mm)
Northwest	Reedy Creek (44.5 mm)	Several (0.0 mm)
Southwest	Bede (6.7mm)	Several (0.0 mm)

- Climate normals for total accumulated precipitation from May 1 to July 28 range from 160.9 mm to 249.5 mm and are based on 30-year historical data. Precipitation accumulation in most areas have exceeded 110% of normal precipitation since May 1.
- Soil Moisture 0 - 30 cm shows a regional representation of soil moisture conditions at the top 30 cm on July 28, 2024, relative to field capacity. The majority of agro-Manitoba is showing optimal or wet soil moisture conditions at the surface depths.
- Percent Normal Accumulated Growing Degree Days represents the variation of accumulated Growing Degree Days (GDD) from the historical record over a 30-year period from May 1 – July 28, 2024. Warmer temperatures this week increased GDD accumulation. GDD Accumulation is between 95% and 110% of normal for the majority of Agro-Manitoba.
- To find interactive soil temperature/moisture and air temperature information see Agri-Maps Current Weather [viewer](#).

Overview

Fall rye and winter wheat are drying down with fields between hard dough and physiological maturity. The earliest fall rye fields will likely be harvested this week. Most corn fields are between V10 to silking. Many corn fields remain uneven although the problem has improved with the warm weather in the last few weeks. Continued warm temperatures are needed to further even out the crop. Spring wheat ranged from the soft dough to hard dough growth stages with awns starting to turn colour. The earliest seeded canola crops were well into pod filling with flower drop complete. Increased flower blast due to the very warm temperatures continued to be noted by both producers and agronomists. Sunflower growth progressed rapidly in the warm conditions with stands ranging from R3 (bud elongation) to R5.1 (10% flowering) with most plants being at the R4 (inflorescence opening) growth stage. Soybeans are in the R2 (full bloom) to R3 (beginning pod) stage with the most advanced fields now at full pod (R4).

Manitoba Agriculture Services Corporation (MASC) has released estimated seeded acres by commodity (**Table 2**).

** For the 2024 acres, the totals may not include all the uninsured acres.*

Table 2: Estimated MASC Seeded Acres by Commodity at 97% Entered

Commodity	2024 acres*	2023 Acres
Spring Wheat	2,579,938	2,706,102
Winter Wheat	34,753	52,807
Oats	403,294	282,004
Barley	277,687	333,646
Fall Rye	69,794	71,120
Grain Corn	468,297	464,891
Flax	16,589	26,320
Argentine Canola	3,033,977	2,966,902
Sunflowers	31,217	79,154
Dry Beans	171,543	138,749
Field Peas	164,850	145,410
Soybeans	1,212,710	1,494,633

Cereals

- Fall rye and winter wheat are drying down with fields between hard dough and physiological maturity. The earliest fall rye fields will likely be harvested this week.
- Most corn fields are between V10 to silking.
- Spring wheat ranged from the soft dough to hard dough growth stages with awns starting to turn colour.
- Early seeded barley was in soft dough while early seeded oats fields ranged from soft to hard dough.
- No change in spring wheat quality from the previous week. Spring wheat quality is rated mostly fair to good with 5 to 10% of the crop being reported as poor in the Southwest, Northwest, Central, and Interlake regions (Table 3).

Table 3: Spring Wheat Quality Rating by Region

	Southwest	Northwest	Central	Eastern	Interlake
Excellent	10%	20%	5%	-	20%
Good	55%	60%	70%	70%	60%
Fair	30%	15%	20%	30%	15%
Poor	5%	5%	5%	-	5%
Very Poor	-	-	-	-	-

Oilseeds

- The earliest seeded canola crops were well into pod filling with flower drop complete. The last fields seeded were at full flower and having fungicide applied to them.
- Sunflower growth progressed rapidly in the warm conditions with stands ranging the R3 (bud elongation) to R5.1 (10% flowering) with most plants being at the R4 (inflorescence opening) growth stage. There continues to be a lot of developmental variation across fields due to varied planting dates and within fields due to past water stressed conditions.
- Most flax fields were at growth stage 9 (late flowering with most capsules formed) to growth stage 10 (white seeds in capsules and lower leaves starting to yellow). Overall crop condition was rated as good aside from flooded and saturated field areas.

Pulses and Soybeans

- Field peas are in the R4 to R5 stage. For the most part, fields are looking good, however there are fields affected by the excess moisture and doing poorly, most notably in the Eastern region.
- Soybeans are in the R2 to R3 stage with the most advanced fields now at full pod (R4) and have seen rapid growth of the last week due to the hot humid conditions.
- Iron deficiency chlorosis can still be found in fields, but most fields have recovered.

Forages & Livestock

Forages

- Good progress has been made on first cut beef hay as fields were wrapped up, as humidity levels finally dropped late last week. Reports of hay laying for over a week as high humidity prevented curing of hay swaths. The high humidity and heavy morning dew has made it difficult for hay to dry, which will lower quality. Some swaths have been flipped multiple times to improve drying. As a result, more producers have opted to use grass intended for hay as bale silage.
- Hay yields are being reported in the 2.5-3 tonnes per acre on tame hay stands. Moisture conditions in low lying areas are improving, making fields more accessible with haying equipment. Growth on hayfields is good, however forage stands that have not yet been cut due to excess moisture are quite mature and quality may be an issue.
- Dairy farms have taken their first cut of alfalfa silage, most have taken a second cut. 1st cut of tame hay for beef farms is almost finished.
- Early seeded silage crops likely will be harvested this week. Corn silage fields are further advancing as a result of high temperatures.

Livestock

- The warm weather this week combined with soil moisture has allowed for strong growth in pastures and of forage crops. Cattle are making the most of strong growth due to the moist soil conditions. Some areas have become damaged from hoof action on waterlogged soils. Producers are attempting to control fly numbers on pasture and are looking for pink eye and foot rot where conditions remain wet underfoot.
- Pairs are looking good with ample grass to graze, and bulls have been placed with cows. Herds are clumping together, indicating that flies are bothering them, so they should be rotated to new areas.
- Dugouts are 85% full.

Regional Comments

Southwest

Little to no rain has been observed in the area over the past week. The weather has been unusually calm, with temperatures above normal. Large creeks are flowing, but small creeks are not. There is no standing water in low spots. Smoke was again present in some areas during this week.

Winter wheat is at the hard dough to ripening stage. Oats and spring wheat are at the milk stage to early dough stage. Barley is at the milk stage to hard dough stage. Spring cereals are in great shape and have generally reached their peak growth. Corn is at V11 to R1 and moving into tassel in some early varieties.

Canola is at the late flowering to pod stage. Sunflowers are at R4 to R5, just before flowering. Flax is also transitioning out of the flowering stage.

Soybeans and peas are experiencing excellent growth, as are corn and sunflowers, thanks to the heat and moisture. Peas are currently upright, but the crop is expected to be heavy and likely to lodge within a week. Peas are at full pod to the beginning of maturity (R5), about 24-36 inches tall. Soybeans are at R3, beginning pod. Dry beans are at R3 to R4 stage.

Northwest

Hot and humid conditions persisted most of the week and continued to advance crops in the region. Highest temperature was 31.4°C at the Drifting River station and lowest overnight temperatures was 8.7°C at San Clara station. Most of the region received little to no precipitation, with the exception of Reedy Creek station which received 44 mm.

Winter wheat and fall rye crops are mostly in soft dough stage and looking good in most areas not affected by excess moisture. Most advanced spring wheat are in late milk to soft dough and late crops are in flowering stage. Some fields that were previously stressed due to excess moisture have recovered.

Most advanced canola crops are nearing the end of flowering and are at the pod filling stage. Crops are more advanced in Swan River/Roblin and behind in the Dauphin area due to excess moisture in spring. Fungicide applications have mostly been wrapped up, with the exception of late seeded crops requiring it. Recent high temperatures have caused some pod abortion due to heat stress.

Earliest field peas are nearing the R5 stage and the remainder of crop in R3-R4. Soybean crops are in the R2 stage and mostly looking good. Recent heat has helped and advanced the crops quickly. There are crops in the Dauphin area that were stressed from excess moisture and are in the R1 stage.

Central

The Central region had mostly warm and dry week with some localized rainfall. Altona received 23.8 mm, Morris 10.8 mm and Elie 9.9 mm. Smoke reduced visibility at times, and there were heavy morning dews. There are dead spots in low lying areas from wet conditions earlier in the season. The recent warmer temperatures have promoted rapid development of corn soybean and edible beans which have markedly improved in their appearance over the past months.

The crop stages vary greatly at the local level across the region, with crops in north at a younger developmental stage than those in the Pembina Valley. Fall rye and winter wheat are drying down with fields between hard dough and physiological maturity. The earliest fall rye fields will likely be harvested this week.

Spring wheat is between milk and hard dough stage, with most oat and barley at the soft dough. The most advanced spring wheat and barley will likely be harvested in two to three weeks. Some lodging is present in barley and wheat fields due to high wind speed and rainfall earlier in the season, but much of the early season lodging has recovered.

Field peas are at the R5 stage and are changing colour. There is much yellowing in low lying areas, and there has been greater than normal levels of root rot. Soybean fields are at the R2 to R3 growth stage with the most advanced fields now at full pod (R4).

Canola is late flowering to pod fill, with later planted fields still in full flower. Warm conditions at flowering have led to increased incidence of heat blast in some fields. Flax is between stage 9 and stage 10. Sunflowers are at R4 to R5 stages.

Silage and grain corn growth has progressed rapidly over the past weeks with the warmer temperatures greatly improving the look of fields. Most corn fields are between V10 and tassel, with the most advanced with silking.

Eastern

Rainfall amounts across the region were highly variable and ranged from 1.5 mm to 48 mm with almost all of this accumulation occurring on Monday of last week across all districts. Some reports of localized hailstorms of varying intensity were also received. Temperatures last week continued warmer than normal and field crops that were not suffering from extended water stress demonstrated rapid growth. Standing water issues were subsiding in most areas.

Fall rye was drying down with pre-harvest applications finishing up and harvest potentially starting by the weekend or early next week. Winter wheat stands were moving from the hard dough growth stage to physiological maturity with pre-harvest applications ongoing. Harvest is expected to begin in about ten days to two weeks depending on weather.

Early seeded spring wheat ranged from the soft dough to hard dough growth stages with awns starting to turn colour. Early seeded barley was in soft dough while early seeded oats fields ranged from soft to hard dough. In both crops, the last fields seeded were still being sprayed with fungicides.

Corn crop stages ranged from very late vegetative to tassel and silking in earlier seeded fields that had not been overly saturated by rainfall. Many corn fields remain uneven although the problem has improved with the last few weeks of warm weather. The warmer temperatures continued to accelerate crop development. Continued warm temperatures without rain are needed to further even out the crop.

Soybean growth stage generally ranged from R2 (full bloom) to R3 (beginning pod) in most fields. Rapid soybean development continued with the warm temperatures.

In canola, fungicide applications were almost complete with spraying due to wrap up in the coming days. The earliest seeded canola crops were well into pod filling with flower drop complete. The last fields seeded were at full flower and having fungicide applied to them. Increased flower blast due to the very warm temperatures continued to be noted by both producers and agronomists.

Overall, field peas stands were at the R5 (beginning maturity) growth stage but overall crop condition continued to suffer because of the past wet conditions. Areas that had been saturated with water continued wilting and were rapidly drying down due to rot root with some field areas containing hard seed and brittle pods that potentially could shatter over the coming weeks as the rest of crop dries down. Harvest timing and management may become challenging for area growers given the unevenness of the crop maturity.

Sunflower growth progressed rapidly in the warm conditions with stands ranging the R3 (bud elongation) to R5.1 (10% flowering) with most plants being at the R4 (inflorescence opening) growth stage. There continues to be with a lot of developmental variation across fields due to varied planting dates and within fields due to past water stressed conditions.

Most flax fields were at growth stage 9 (late flowering with most capsules formed) to growth stage 10 (white seeds in capsules and lower leaves starting to yellow). Overall crop condition was rated as good aside from flooded and saturated field areas.

Interlake

The Interlake region continues to experience warmer and humid weather conditions, with daytime temperatures ranging from 26.8 to 29.4°C; daily averages around 20.8°C. Rainfall remains extremely variable with scattered thundershowers. Amounts this past week ranged from trace amounts to 17.6mm in the Selkirk and Moosehorn area. Drier conditions are still needed in some areas for crop development and advancement, particularly in the southern part of the region, which remains wet with noticeable standing water in a few fields.

High temperatures and good moisture have allowed excellent progress in crop advancement. Fall rye is at hard dough stage with most advanced fields starting to dry down shortly. Pre-harvest applications on fall rye have started. Winter wheat growth is at hard dough stages, with advancing fields reaching physiological maturity soon.

Cereals are starting to turn with noticeable colour changes in wheat awns. Spring wheat is at the hard dough stage. Spring wheat quality is rated as good across the region. Barley and oats are fully headed and at the milk stage. Grain corn looks good with a nice dark green colour. Corn is at V10 to early tassel growth stages. Saturated areas appear to be yellowed with uneven stands.

Most peas are at R3 to R4 stages. Peas look excellent, flowering and pods are filling well, however, there are some fields affected by excess moisture stress and are behind. Soybeans have seen rapid growth in heat and humid conditions. Rows are filling in even though stands look shorter than normal in some areas. Flowering continues; most advanced fields are R2 to R3. Signs of excess moisture stress continue to decline in most fields.

Canola varies widely, some fields look great with a nice even stand while others are thin and stagey. The earliest seeded fields have completed flowering and are fully podded. Later seeded fields are still flowering. Sclerotinia disease is seen in canola fields with fungicide applications occurring. Sunflowers are as advanced as R1 to R2 stage, with completed herbicide application. Flax growth stages range from 7 to 8 leaf stages.