

CROP REPORT #20 – September 7, 2021

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Weekly Provincial Summary

- Harvest completion across all regions of the province has reached the halfway mark.
- Soil moisture has rapidly improved in nearly all areas of Manitoba, with the top 30cm of soil showing conditions as optimal to wet, based on field capacity. These trends are reflected at depths, where subsoil moisture has also improved slightly.
- Canola regrowth has become a harvest issue in a number of fields. Dormant, vegetative canola has now begun bolting and flowering in many 'ripe' canola fields, complicating harvest. Effects are most noticeable in the most severely drought-affected fields.
- Limited fall tillage has begun; many producers are waiting to conserve moisture and target maximum volunteer regrowth, instead of tilling twice, or are choosing to do a burnoff instead.
- Substantial rains have meant that hay and pastureland has now greened up, and livestock producers are intensively managing regrowth areas to support fall grazing.
- See the MB ARD [Dry Conditions & Drought](#) page for resources a broad range of livestock, forage, crops and economic calculators applicable to current farm conditions.

Table 1: Percentage Harvest Completion by Crop and Region to September 6, 2021

Crop	Southwest	Northwest	Central	Eastern	Interlake	MB AVG
<i>Winter Wheat</i>	100	100	100	100	100	100
<i>Fall Rye</i>	100	100	100	100	100	100
<i>Spring Wheat</i>	68	75	97	95	90	82
<i>Barley</i>	85	75	99	95	99	90
<i>Oats</i>	68	75	99	95	90	83
<i>Field Pea</i>	100	100	100	100	100	100
<i>Canola</i>	24	13	45	60	30	32
<i>Flax</i>	2	-	40	-	20	18
<i>Soybean</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Dry Bean</i>	-	-	5	-	-	4
<i>Sunflower</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Corn</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Potatoes</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
Regional AVG	42	40	63	66	54	50

Unharvested crops displayed as –

Southwest Region

Some unsettled weather continued to slow harvest; producers picked up crops whenever the weather allowed. Rainfall amounts were variable; the northern areas had

zero to 10 mm, while southern areas received up to 18 mm. Precipitation is welcome for pasture and hay regrowth, and possibly some later-maturing corn and corn silage.

Rains have been welcome for seeding of winter wheat and hybrid fall rye, as well as for tillage operations.

Southwest Region continued

Harvest is estimated at as much as 40 to 45% complete. Yields are highly variable, but much is coming in at average to below average. Many report better than expected yields, considering the year. All crops have been stagey; some fields have been left standing for long periods to allow green areas to mature, even following desiccation and pre-harvest treatments.

Cereal harvest has progressed well to 65 to 70% complete. Barley yields at 55 to 80 bu/acre. Spring wheat is yielding 40 to 55 bu/acre. Oats are coming in the 65 to 90 bu/ac range. Good quality and weight reported in most of the harvested cereals. Protein levels are average, to above average in lower-yielding fields. Cereal straw is being dropped; baling is right behind the combine and bales are being removed from fields within a short period. More acres than normal baled for cattle producers; bales per acre are fewer than normal.

Canola has quite a range, from 20% to 25% complete; several producers are waiting to finish up. Strong winds have blown canola swaths around, making combining a challenge. Early canola yields reported in the 25 to 30 bu/acre. Swathing in later seeded and re-seeded canola has started. There are some reports of pods shattering in standing canola due to heavy winds and rain showers.

Flax harvest has begun; very few fields have been completed at this stage. No yield reports yet.

Rapid color change and leaf drop is ongoing in soybeans, in many cases due to dry conditions. Yield estimates range from 20 to 35 bu/ac; harvest may start next week.

Sunflowers continue to mature; the backs of heads are yellow. Stands are short. Some corn is starting to shut down; dry conditions are a significant concern for final yield. Cobs formed have fewer rows than average, and in some cases, cobs are extremely small.

Cooler, wetter weather has slowed grasshopper and flea beetle feeding activity.

Recent rain has helped regrowth on some pastures. Producers have been moving cattle to fall grazing areas. There is still a shortage of feed as producers bale up as much straw as possible. More rain is still welcome as there is some regrowth in pastures and alfalfa making some fall gains, alfalfa starting to re-flower, raising the possibility to take a second cut in many fields. Dugouts have filled up slightly, up to 60% capacity. Streams remain quiet, but there is some water in a few creeks but remains very shallow.

Northwest Region

While a mid-week storm brought precipitation to the Roblin and Swan Valley districts, the rest of the region was able to move forward with harvest progress. Accumulated precipitation was highest in the west and northwest side of the Swan Valley and ranged from 51 to 100 mm. While recent precipitation has helped surface moisture conditions in some areas, subsurface soils remain very dry and water sources continue to be depleted.

Field pea harvest is 99% completed across the region with the odd field still standing.

Spring cereal harvest progress moves closer to completion; 40 to 45% harvested in The Pas with average yields of 60 to 75 bu/ac; 65% harvested in the Swan Valley with yields ranging from 40 to 70

bu/ac; 85 to 90% harvested in Roblin and Dauphin areas. Some sprouting concern has been noticed with recent precipitation.

Desiccation of canola continues as stages are reached. Canola harvest is underway in the region with the exception of The Pas. Approximately 10 to 15% harvested in the Swan Valley and Roblin area. Yields so far are reflective of the varying conditions of the canola crop and range from 15 to 20 bu/ac in poorer stand and 35 to 45 bu/ac in better stands.

Soybeans continue to ripen, moving from R6 to R7 in the northern part of the region while the southern part of the region is more advanced. Fababeans and Flax remain standing and continue to ripen.

Recent moisture has improved fall pasture conditions across the region. However, water supplies in dugouts, rivers, and sloughs remain quite low. More moisture is needed to replenish water supplies for next grazing season. Where there is sufficient growth, beef producers are waiting until a killing frost before taking a second cut of alfalfa to respect the fall dormancy period. Baling of straw and sourcing of feed is ongoing. Corn silage harvest has not yet begun

Central Region

Mostly sunny and near average temperatures this week with a shower system moving across the region bringing rain on Thursday but clear on the weekend allowing for good progress made on harvest of remaining cereals and oilseeds.

Soils are moist to saturated in areas with highest rainfall. Forecast this week is for sunny, warm and dry conditions, which should allow for good progress on harvest operations.

Central Region continued

Winter cereal planting is progressing on suitable harvested fields. Wheat, oats and barley harvest is considered mostly complete with good progress accomplished on the remaining wheat acres west of the escarpment with over 95% done overall. Some sprouting reported on later wheat harvested due to the recent rainier conditions. Most available cereal straw has been baled and removed from fields. Little to no crop residue burning to date.

Most harvested fields have been harrowed, field tillage is picking up pace with the improved topsoil moisture. Volunteer grain growth is abundant. Soil sampling is being done on harvested fields with elevated residual nitrogen reported across all stubble types. Manure application continues as harvest progresses. Perennial weed regrowth and winter annual weed emergence are favored by the recent rains and offer an opportunity to apply control measures ahead of next years growing season.

Canola harvest progressed well, with many fields swathed while others are left to stand for direct harvest. Some swathed fields have been disturbed by strong wind conditions increasing harvest losses. Harvest progress is estimated at 40 to 50% with reported yields ranging from 15 to 50 bushels per acre. Harvested grain quality is very good so far. Canola regrowth is a concern in some fields with some fields starting to flower again. Termination of those fields may require swathing or desiccation to harvest the grain. Grasshopper feeding slowed with the recent cool wetter conditions. Flea beetle feeding is also slowed on later maturing stressed canola fields.

Flax fields are ripe with harvest started and earliest yield reports in the 15 to 25 bu/acre. Harvest progress is estimated at 35 to 45 % complete. Some flax fields are being treated with harvest management products to terminate growth of greening spots as well as some weed growth.

Sunflower stands are relatively short from the prolonged dry conditions. Recent rains have been beneficial with seed filling. Flowering is complete with back of the heads yellow in the R8 stage, some sclerotinia head rot observed. Blackbird feeding pressure is increasing, as flocks start to aggregate on field edges.

Corn growth varies with moisture conditions of the season. Better growing and developed cornfields are in the late milk stage and to hard dough and dented.

Soybeans are in the beginning maturity to ripe and drying down stages (R7 to R8). Harvest of earliest fields could be starting this week in the Red River Valley. Dry edible bean harvest has begun on earliest planted fields in areas with lighter soils. Early reported yields are in the 800 to 1,000 lbs/ac range, and higher expectations as harvest progresses.

Potato harvest is underway with direct hauling from the field for processing. Yields have been fair to good. Disease concerns remain low.

The recent rain and cooler conditions has improved pasture and forage conditions significantly. Grasshoppers are less noticeable and less damaging. Extra straw is being baled for livestock feed. Some annual grain crops are being put to alternative use as silage & feed. Second cut alfalfa and pastures have nicely greened up. Nitrates are still a concern in cereal or canola regrowth being considered

for grazing. Even the browned off hay fields and pastures that were severely moisture stressed have recovered well. The recent rains will provide pasture for fall grazing and help later crops such as corn but winter feed will still be in short supply. Cattle will not require supplementation on most pastures as forage growth is adequate. Water availability is better but surface supply and quality is still low.

Eastern Region

Small, localized rainfall occurred several days this past week. Temperatures ranged from seasonal to below seasonal over most of the reporting period with above season daytime temperatures occurring over the weekend. Although there were harvest stoppages because of precipitation, overall rapid progress was made on harvesting, manure application, fieldwork and the seeding of winter cereals.

Spring wheat harvest continued this past week with an estimated 95% of acres harvested. The remaining grain being harvested suffering quality degradation to varying degrees. Yield reports range from 45 to 70 bu/ac with reports indicated good quality and bushel weights. Wheat proteins ranging from 10.5 to just over 14%. Producers reporting that many buyers have implemented protein discounts.

Oats yields have been disappointing overall, yield reports ranged from 50 to 100 bu/ac with 70 bu/ac averages with lighter bushel weights. Oats harvest progress estimated at 95% complete. Bushel weights range from 37-40lb/bu; overall oats quality is below average for the year.

Canola yield reports range from 10 to 40 bu/ac, averaging 20 to 25 bu/acre. Canola harvest proceeded rapidly the previous week, with about 60% of the crop in the bin and the rest ready to go as weather allows. Overall, canola is yielding better than expected although expectations were low.

Eastern Region continued

Flax continues to ripen and dry down. Below average yield expected given how poorly the crop handled drought stress. All stands have areas that simply dried out

instead of completing filling and going through a regular maturity process.

The majority of soybean fields are at R7 (at least one brown pod on plant). Very early varieties are well along in R7 or are at R8 (95% brown pod) and are drying down. Soybeans continue to look better because of the August rains. Soybean maturity seems to be moving along normally across the region.

Sunflower fields are at the R8 stage (back of head yellow but bracts remain green). Sunflowers continued to look good although yield expectations are somewhat moderated because of variability in head sizes in the crop.

Grain corn is at the dent stage in many fields, anything from milk to very early dent reported. Yield expectations overall continue to be lower than average with some interest in ensiling the crop rather than taking it for grain, to help address the feed shortages in the region.

Seeding of fall rye and winter wheat into canola stubble was ongoing over the reporting period as canola harvest progressed.

Pasture and hay lands continued to show improvement over the reporting period but are not proving to be a significant source of extra forage. Second cut is ongoing for beef producers with a very wide range in progress and the activity will be ongoing over the coming weeks. Beef producers who delayed their second cut and are finding that quality of the forage has declined significantly (forage has gone to seed) but has resulted in increased tonnage. Producers continue to work at making sure they secure enough feed one way or another and that means lots of straw

being baled, greenfeed opportunities were taken and more grain corn is going for silage. Corn salvaging was ongoing this week with most short season varieties completed, with later-maturity hybrids too wet to ensile this week.

Interlake Region

Scattered rains over the region this past week brought amounts up to 47 mm northwest of the Shoal Lakes, with less falling southeast towards Winnipeg.

Soils remain dry to very dry at Inwood, Moosehorn, and Fisherton, but have been replenished to an optimal level, based on field capacity in the top 30 cm. Deeper in the soil profile, the eastern Interlake adjacent to Lake Winnipeg remains dry to very dry, at depths to 120 cm. Rainfall has replenished surface soils, causing drought-stressed crops to break out of dormancy and regrow in cereal and canola fields, leading to harvest problems.

Canola regrowth is thicker than the original crop in many cases, and some growers are choosing to swath, other to desiccate and harvest what they can, while others are opting to sell or bale as greenfeed or silage canola crops that have been written off.

Rains have also provided a boost to livestock ranchers, where cattle on pasture may be left until October, given sufficient regrowth and greening up following this summer's extreme conditions. Overwinter feed supplies remain short, and baling of crop residue is occurring on every acre possible.

Improved soil surface moisture has seen farmers begin some limited fall tillage on cereal stubble.

Specific crop-related topics from the Interlake region are unavailable this week.