

# Issue 3 (Week 21) – May 24, 2022

## Crop Report

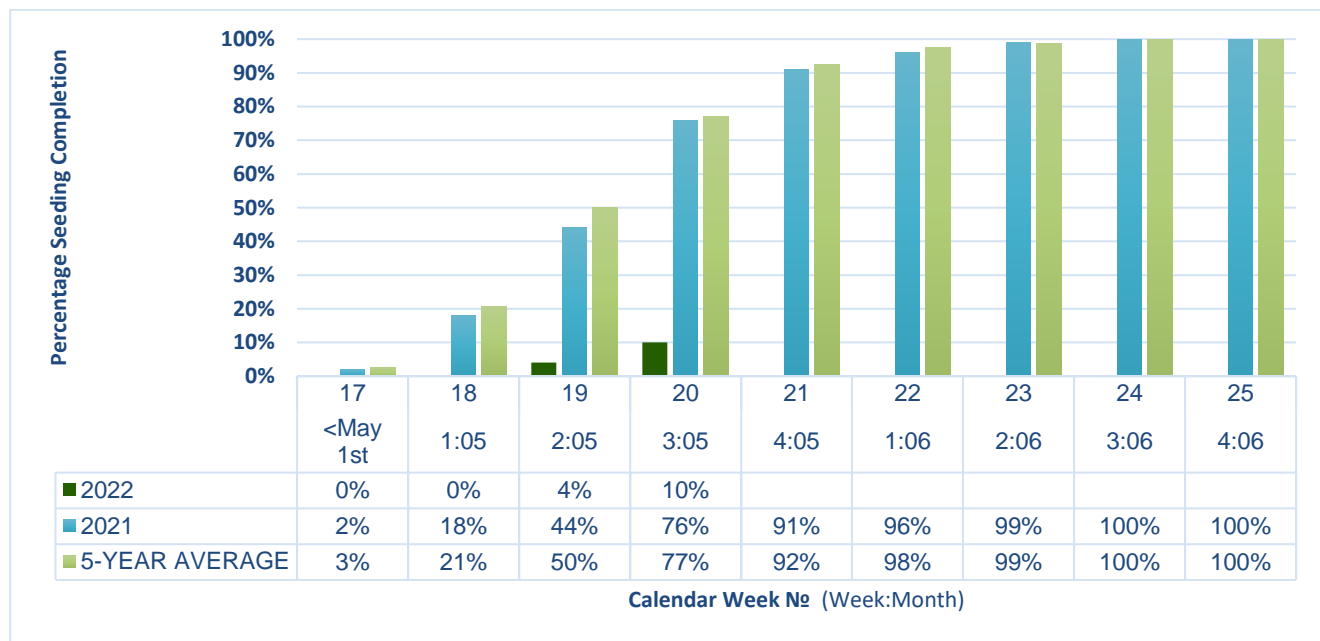


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### Weekly Provincial Summary

- Heavy rains the previous week again slowed seeding efforts, leaving fields damp to saturated, and farmers rapidly adjusting plans to find drier fields, switching intended planting order, or harrow/tilling ahead of planting to condition and dry soil where possible.
- Provincial seeding progress sits at about 10% completion, behind the 5-year average of 77% for Week 20 (Figure 1). Estimates are that most farms and pastures remain about 3 to 4 weeks behind normal in terms of seeding progress and forage growth.
- Farmers are extremely concerned about seeding delays, leading some farmers to switch a small amount of planned corn or soybean acres into canola and spring wheat, while planned field pea acres have dropped in some parts of the Southwest in favour of more canola.
- Weather conditions were cloudy and cool much of the previous week, leading to shifting acreage plans, or order-of-operations changes. Farmers with a more flexible mind-set or the ability to modify equipment are the quickest to respond to changing situations.
- A few warm, dry days ahead will see a surge in planted acres ahead of Saturday’s forecasted rain.
- 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 late last week, with increasing precipitation as the showers moved north of the US border. Better drying weather arrived late Saturday, and some areas were able to resume seeding over the holiday weekend. Most soils across the province remain wet (Figure 2), forcing farmers to seed whatever crop they can on their driest ground. Farmers are prioritizing corn, field peas, soybeans, potatoes, and dry edible beans ahead of spring wheat or canola, considering the soon-approaching insurance coverage seeding date deadlines on the listed crops. Some broadcast canola seeding has occurred, while farmers are attempting to dry ground using shallow tillage or harrowing in preparation for all crops.

No part of agro-Manitoba has received less than 131% of normal rainfall for the period of April 12 to May 22, while large parts of Central and Eastern Manitoba have had over 260% of normal rain during that time (Figure 3). Extremely wet conditions have impacted local infrastructure, making roads soft or impassable, as well as washing out culverts and bridges in some instances.

Figure 2: Topsoil Moisture Condition

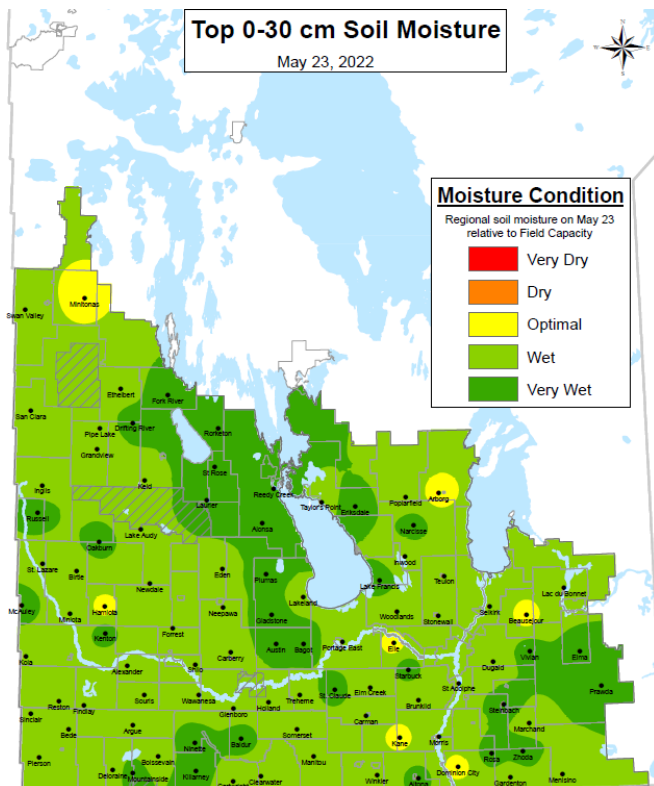
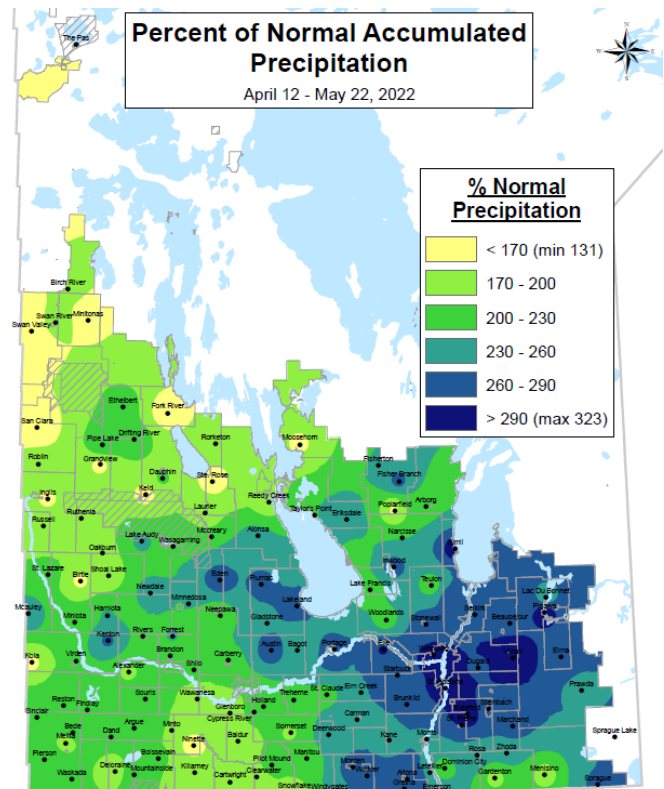


Figure 3: April 12-May 22 Percent of Normal Precip.



## Cereals

- A shift in producer mentality has many farmers prioritizing corn, field pea, soybean, and dry bean acres over spring cereals, unless ground conditions are favourable.
- Some winter cereals in the Central region were planted as ground cover, but have survived well and are being kept as commodity crops, with top-dress fertilizer application wrapping up this week.
- Winter cereal crops that were not underwater are growing quickly with recent warmer weather and crops that sat underwater for an extended period have not fared as well, and will require reseeding.

- Farmers are pushing to complete a significant amount of seeding and land preparation this week, in advance of Saturday's forecasted rain.
- Volunteer canola is widespread on many fields, and moving into the first true leaf. 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.
- The earliest wheat and corn fields are about to emerge, germination has been rapid in most cases with soil temperatures warmer than air, buffered by water in the soil.
- Farmers face significant pressure to plant silage corn prior to the May 31<sup>st</sup> crop insurance deadline in all regions. They may be switching to a small grain cereal to be used as greenfeed if delayed further.

## Oilseeds

- 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.
- Canola crops are being seeded where soil conditions permit, with acres planted rising in the Southwest Region and west of the Escarpment, as farmers in the Red River Valley and Eastern Manitoba focus on corn, peas, or soybeans.
- 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.
- No reports of sunflower acres planted to date.
- Soybean planting progress has made a relative jump in the past three days, with many ag retail locations treating seed and farmers planting as fast as possible.
- Few farmers have switched out of soybeans into shorter season crops, since soybeans are chosen by their relative maturity, appropriate for their growing location, while switching from corn or field peas into canola is more common.
- Flea beetle feeding has been observed on rapidly emerging volunteer canola.

## Pulses

- Soybean planting has become a higher priority than many cereal crops, as seeding deadlines are approaching.
- MASC has permanently moved deadlines for full-coverage insurance on soybean seeding back to June 8 (Area 1), June 4 (Areas 2 and 3).
- Field pea acres have been cut back in the Boissevain area, as producers think they will not have enough time to seed and still obtain favourable yields. Other areas still progress with pea seeding, but will switch out if not in the ground by June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Pre-emergent herbicide passes are ongoing, where fields support ground sprayers, on peas and some soybeans.
- Wild oats, volunteer canola, kochia, foxtail barley, and wild buckwheat are the most prevalent weeds.
- Some dry edible bean crops have been treated and planted; more progress is expected to ramp up and near completion on lighter, drier ground by the end of the week.

# Forages & Livestock

## Forages

- Top-dress fertilizer applications have been made on some hayfields.
- Pastures growth is slow due to cool overnight temperatures, but should improve with this week's forecasted sun and heat.
- Native hay, alfalfa, and grasses are growing well.
- Nearly all regions of the province remain short on feed supplies, and remaining overwinter supplies are being stretched thin by delaying cattle from turn-out to pasture with wet conditions and limited new growth.
- Some pastures have been sacrificed to provide some feed for turned-out cattle, with supplemental feed.
- Pasture growth is estimated to be about 2 weeks behind normal.

## 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.
- All creeks, streams, dugouts, and sloughs have refilled to capacity.

# Regional Comments

## Southwest

Better weather arrived over the weekend, restarting seeding in most parts of the region after heavy rainfall soaked fields the previous week. Farmers are cautious in moving machinery onto untested fields, with many wet spots remaining near sloughs and river flats. Seeding is a combination of traditional drilling and broadcasting small oilseeds, in an effort to seed as quickly as possible. Approximately 20% of peas and cereal crops are planted, with canola further behind. Regional seeding progress sits at 10% complete across all crop acres.

## Northwest

Cool and wet weather the previous week continued to halt progress. Dauphin and Grandview received the most rain at 48 mm for the week, and have seen minimal seeding progress. Planting progress has been most advanced in the Swan Valley and Roblin areas, where wheat is approximate 10% seeded, and field peas are about 18% done.

Some fields that had been flooded required debris cleanup. Gully erosion occurred in some fields near the Duck Mountains, notably near Ethelbert, washing out large portions, clearing topsoil, and leaving only glacial till substrate behind.

## Central

Seeding progress remains highly variable across the region, with pockets approaching 80% complete, while others, only a few miles away, have not yet started. Carman area and north is approximately 25% complete, while Altona area is just starting to broadcast fertilizer. Pilot Mound to Cartwright area has just started planting (about 2% complete), while Holland area sits at approximately 5% done. The regional average sits at approximately 12% seeded.

Farmers are planting wherever fields conditions allow, and progressing at a good pace considering the late spring. A mix of crops are sown across the region, with priority going to finish planting corn, potatoes, oats, and soybeans where possible. Producers are working around wet, low-lying areas, and will see an uptick in progress by mid-week.

## **Eastern**

Rainfall this past week brought 35 to 55 mm to the region, leading to standing water on many fields, stopping progress for a few days. Many rivers flowing in the region saw water levels rising as overland flooding occurred in Whiteshell Provincial Park and surrounding areas.

Corn, sunflower, and field pea acres are about 50% seeded. Farmers in the region are reconsidering planting any more corn or sunflowers due to seasonal lateness, and decisions will be made this week. Some dry bean acres have been switched into soybeans. Planting progress sits at about 13% complete in the region, with some areas east of the Red River, from Emerson to Aubigny a little further ahead.

## **Interlake**

Seeding resumed in the south Interlake on Victoria Day, where field conditions allowed. Planting is proceeding on a patchwork basis, crop-by-crop and field-by-field as conditions permit. Several days of drying weather are needed before most fields can be touched. Overall regional seeding progress is less than 5% complete.