

Issue 20 – September 10, 2024

Crop Report



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Weekly Provincial Summary

- Agro-Manitoba received variable amounts of precipitation over the past seven days. Precipitation for the past week ranged from 0 mm to 15.8 mm (Table 1) with the Northwest region accumulating the largest amounts of precipitation. Pipe Lake (15.8 mm) received the most precipitation.

Table 1. Range of seven-day accumulated precipitation (September 2 - September 8) in Manitoba's Agricultural Regions.

Region	Wettest Location	Driest Location
Central	Plumas (5.5 mm)	Several (0.0 mm)
Eastern	Rosa (4.2 mm)	Several (0.0 mm)
Interlake	Petersfield (10.9 mm)	Several (0.0 mm)
Northwest	Pipe Lake (15.8 mm)	Swan River (0.8 mm)
Southwest	Oakburn (3.7 mm)	Several (0.0 mm)

- Climate normals for total accumulated precipitation from May 1 to Sept. 8 range from 240.8 mm to 355.8 mm and are based on 30-year historical data. Precipitation accumulation in most areas have exceeded 100% of normal precipitation since May 1. Much of the Central region has accumulated more than 110% compared to the 30-year average.
- Soil Moisture 0 - 120 cm shows a regional representation of soil moisture conditions for the top 120 cm on Sept. 8, 2024 relative to field capacity. The majority of the province is showing optimal or wet conditions at the 0 to 120 cm depth.
- 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 – Sept. 8, 2024. GDD Accumulation is between 95% and 105% of normal for the majority of agro-Manitoba.
- To find interactive soil temperature/moisture and air temperature information see Agri-Maps Current Weather [viewer](#).

Table 2: Percentage of Harvest Completion by Crop and Region to September 9, 2024

Crop	Southwest	Northwest	Central	Eastern	Interlake	MB AVG
Winter Wheat	100%	99%	100%	100%	95%	99%
Fall Rye	100%	99%	100%	100%	95%	99%
Spring Wheat	65%	40%	80%	85%	70%	68%
Barley	75%	50%	90%	85%	65%	76%
Oats	70%	50%	90%	85%	50%	73%
Field Pea	100%	95%	100%	100%	95%	98%
Canola	25%	15%	45%	30%	20%	30%
Dry Beans	-	-	-	-	-	-
Regional AVG	38%	25%	51%	47%	34%	40%

Crops still unharvested, or negligible acres displayed as – or omitted from this table.

Overview

Harvest continues in winter cereals, spring cereals, and peas. Yield reports range from 40-110 bu/acre for fall rye and winter wheat, 25-90 bu/acre in spring wheat, 80-180 bu/acre in oat, and 90-115 bu/acre in barley. Canola harvest has started in all regions with Central regions at 45% complete. Pea yields range from 30-65 bu/acre. Corn fields are at the R5 stage(dent). Earlier seeded sunflower fields were in the R8 (back of the head fully yellow, bracts remaining green) growth stage while later seeded fields were at the R7 growth stage (back of the head turning yellow). Overall crop condition is considered good.

Cereals

- Harvest nears completion in fall rye and winter wheat, with close to 99% of acres estimated as harvested. Reported yields range from 40 to 90 bu/acre for winter wheat and fall rye in the North Interlake and Eastern regions, and 80 to 110 bu/acre for fall rye in the South Interlake and Central regions.
- Spring cereal harvest continues, 68% of wheat, 76% of barley, and 73% of oats estimated as complete.
- Spring wheat yield estimates range from 60 to 90 bu/acre, with an average of 70 bu/acre in the Central and Eastern regions. In the North Interlake, yields range from 25 to 55 bu/acre, and up to 70 bu/acre in the South Interlake. Some downgrading of wheat due to FHB and bleaching.
- Oat yield estimates range from 80-180 bu/acre, with generally good bushel weights.
- Barley yields range from 90 to 115 bu/acre.
- Corn is at the R5 stage (dent).

Table 3: Spring Wheat Quality Rating by Region

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

Oilseeds

- Canola harvest continues in most regions of the province. Swathing and pre-harvest applications are ongoing. 28% of the canola crop has been harvested across the province with the Central region reaching 45% complete.
- Earlier seeded sunflower fields were in the R8 (back of the head fully yellow, bracts remaining green) growth stage while later seeded fields were at the R7 growth stage (back of the head turning yellow). Overall crop condition is considered good.
- Flax fields moved fully into growth stage 12 (seeds ripe). Ripening was moving ahead rapidly with leaves and branches drying down and green stems starting to turn.

Pulses and Soybeans

- Field pea harvest has wrapped up with 98% of acres estimated as complete. Yield reports range from 30 to 65 bu/acre.
- Dry bean harvest has started with some dealers receiving the first loads of beans such as light red kidney, cranberry, black and pinto beans.
- Soybeans in all regions are at the R6 to R7 stage.

Forages & Livestock

Forages

- Dairy producers are well into third cut harvest in Eastern Manitoba. Yields have been above average. Beef cattle producers continue to work on second cut of tame hayfields and yields are reported as very good.
- Corn silage harvest has not yet begun. The milk line on corn cobs is ranging between 25% to 50%, however whole plant moisture remains high and is preventing harvest operations currently. Kernel integrity is a concern for this year's crop.
- Overall forage and pasture growth is more than last year due to the early season moisture.
- More producers than typical have opted to use grass intended for hay as bale silage due to high humidity and morning dews preventing adequate drying of hay earlier in the season.
- Most bales have been removed from fields, and most second cuts have been done, though the second cut is poor, yielding perhaps 1 to 2 bales per acre at best.
- Forages under nurse crops appear to be in good shape and have survived the dry spell. Major creeks, such as the Pipestone, have halted flow due to the dry weather, and the Souris River is flowing at low levels. Producers should consider nitrate levels in feed if frost occurs
- When contemplating harvesting alfalfa, producers need to be mindful of the critical harvest fall period ([critical harvest fall period for alfalfa](#)).

Livestock

- Cattle on pasture are in nice condition. Well managed pastures are looking good for this time of year with a combination of stockpiled forage and new growth. Water levels in dugouts are decreasing as is expected but remain adequate.
- Pastures are in good condition but are starting to fade into maturity. Producers are picking bales from the second cut, and oat straw is being dropped behind the combine and baled in some cases.
- With adequate moisture and warm temperatures, pastures are still green with rotational grazed pastures in better condition. Producers continue to bale straw and haul in feed for the wintering period.
- Some producers are having issues with foot rot, flies and pink eye on pastures. Dugouts are approximately 65% full.

Regional Comments

Southwest

Good weather conditions with low humidity, above-normal temperatures, and some decent afternoon winds have allowed for a good stretch of harvest. Temperatures have ranged from 27.6°C to 33.6°C, with minimum overnight temperatures between 0.8°C and 6.9°C and daily averages around 16.5°C. These frost-free temperatures are helping crops complete their natural maturation.

Winter cereals are complete, and spring cereals are 70% done. Peas have been harvested with variable yields depending on the moisture conditions. There are reports of some below average yields due to excess moisture in some pocket areas.

All canola fields are physiologically mature, though there are some immature low spots. Canola is in late maturity (100% seed color change), and harvest is underway, with 20-25% complete.

Soybeans are undergoing rapid color change and leaf drop, with the growth stage at late R7 and R8. Some corn is starting to shut down, with most of the crop at the R5.5 stage.

Sunflowers are at R7 to R8 stage and are reaching above-normal heights and have generally passed the flowering stage, with blackbirds present. Soybeans and dry beans are starting to mature, and corn is in good shape with the heat. However, some marginal areas with corn are beginning to mature early due to drought conditions.

Northwest

A mix of weather this week still allowed for good harvest progress. Unsettled weather events did bring thunderstorms to parts of the region, including hail in the Swan Valley area. There was varying degrees of damage to some crops. Pipe Lake station received the most recorded precipitation at 16 mm, while the lowest recorded precipitation was Swan River station with just under 1 mm. Some areas along the western portion of the region received a light frost, with temperatures close to 0 but it wasn't a killing frost. Swan Valley station was lowest recorded overnight temperature at 0.5 °C. High day time temperatures helped crops to move along over the weekend with The Pas station the highest at 32.6 °C.

Some crops remain lodged from previous high winds and continue to be a challenge for harvest and may possibly affect quality with recent rains and heavy dew. Some post-harvest field operations are being done as time allows.

Field pea harvest is approximately 95% complete. Average yield so far is 60 to 65 bu/acre.

Spring wheat harvest continues across the region and is approximately 40% complete. Lodged fields have made for some slow progress in some fields. Average reported yield so far is approximately 65 to 70 bu/acre. Some fields are averaging less at 40 to 50 bu/acre, and some have reported up to 80 bu/acre.

Canola harvest is also underway and is approximately 15% complete across the region. Some areas are more advanced in progress while other areas haven't started yet. Swathing and desiccation continues as stages are reached. No reported yields yet.

Soybean crops are in the R6-R7 stage and looking good. Recent heat has helped and advanced the crops quickly.

Winter wheat and fall rye crop harvest is approximately 99% complete.

Central

Regional highs were between 28 - 34 °C, but nighttime lows were between 2 - 8 °C. with most locations receiving less than 1 mm of precipitation. The most rainfall was in Plumas (5.5 mm), and Gladstone (3.9 mm) in the northwest of the region. These warm and dry conditions allowed for rapid advancement of field activities. Producers are busy applying pre-harvest herbicide, swathing, cutting, and harvesting. Harvest has been slower for some this year due to increased straw production due to moist conditions early in the year. Producers have also started other fall activities including bailing, harrowing, cultivating, ditching, and the planting of cover crops.

Harvest is complete for fall rye and winter wheat. Fall rye yields range from 80 to 110 bu/acre, and winter wheat is approximately 90 bu/acre.

Spring cereal harvest is nearing completion, with approximately 80% of wheat, and 90% of barley and oats harvested.

Spring wheat yields are in the range of 60 to 95 bu/acre, with an average of around 70 to 80 bu/acre. However, some fields have yielded as high as 105 bu/acre. Protein levels are between 11 to 15%. Many farms reported increased root rot this year, and elevated levels of ergot bodies around field edges. Levels of fusarium head blight varied greatly from field to field, with some grain quality being reduced to grade two.

Most barley fields are harvested, with the remainder likely to be harvested over the coming week. Yields are in the range of 80 to 120 bu/acre, with an average yield around 90 bu/acre. However, the highest yielding crops are as high as 130 bu/acre.

Most oat fields are harvested, with the remainder close to being harvested. Early yields reported in the range of 110 to 180 bu/acre, with the average around 150 bu/acre. Some fields have been as high as 200 bu/acre. There is a greater volume of straw being reported on many farms this year.

Field pea harvest is complete. Yields varied greatly, Fields which had waterlogging yielded in a range of 30 to 55 bu/acre, with some as low as 20 bu/acre. Fields on lighter soil with less moisture issues yielded higher, closer to 60 to 70 bu/acre. Harvest was difficult for some due to pea crops ripening unevenly, with areas of the field previously saturated maturing more rapidly than freer draining areas of the field. There were higher levels of stem and root diseases this year.

Soybeans are mid to late R6 (full seed) to R7 (beginning maturity). Many fields have started to change colour and drop leaves. For the most part the crop is progressing well, and the warm weather will hasten maturity. Dry beans are being cut and pre herbicide applications are being applied. Harvest has started, with some dealers receiving the first loads of early maturing beans such as light red kidney, cranberry, black and pinto beans. Like many of the crops this year, there will likely be a large range of dry bean yields but no yield estimates at this point.

Canola harvest is progressing rapidly, sitting at approximately 45%. Canola crops vary greatly in their appearance and height, with some looking very healthy, but others have limited branching and are barely knee height. The latest planted fields are just finishing pod filling. Canola harvest will be stretched longer than normal as there was a wide variation in planting date this year. Yields vary greatly from 25 to 55 bu/acre, with an average of 45 bu/acre. Warm conditions at flowering led to heat blast in some fields.

Flax is at stage 12 (seed ripe), with stem colour changing and leaves dropping. Overall flax crops are good aside from areas which had waterlogging early in the season, and there are a few patches within fields which will likely yield poorly.

Sunflowers are at R8 (back of the head fully yellow, bracts remaining green), with some of the later seeded crops still at R7 (back of head turning pale yellow). The crop is progressing well and will benefit from the predicted warmth this week.

Silage and grain corn are at R5 (dent), with the most mature showing milk line movement. The crop continues to progress rapidly, but rainfall would benefit kernel fill. Silage harvest is yet to begin, with producers waiting for corn plants to reduce in moisture.

Eastern

Rainfall in the Eastern region ranged from trace amounts to 3.5 mm. Day and nighttime temperatures ranged from seasonal to above seasonal during the week. The weather allowed producers to make steady progress on harvesting and field work.

Approximately 85% of spring wheat, oats and barley acres have been harvested in the Eastern Region. Yield and quality reports for spring wheat showed an average yield of about 75 bu/acre and a wide range in protein levels from 10% to 15%. Yield and quality reports on oats suggested an average yield of 145 bu/acre with bushel weights ranging from 35 lbs to over 45 lbs. Barley yields on the limited acreage in the Eastern Region were ranging from less than 90 to about 110 bu/acre. Pre-harvest applications and/or swathing will continue this week with the latest seeded fields now quickly coming due for these operations.

Corn crops were at the dent stage with earlier maturing hybrids well dented and having milk line movement. Past precipitation and current warm temperatures continue to benefit the crop as kernels fill. Growers and agronomists are satisfied with the pace of the crop relative to potential September frost risks. It was noted that a wider than usual range in crop development from plant to plant can be found within fields that were challenged by excessive moisture issues this spring. On such fields a September without a killing frost would be helpful for preserving crop yield and quality.

Canola harvest is around 30% complete. Reported yields ranged from 35 to 50+ bu/acre with the average at around 45 bu/acre. The wide variation in planting dates means a long harvest season. Pre-harvest herbicide applications and swathing will continue over the next three weeks as more and more of the crop comes due. Late seeded canola is in the final stages of pod filling and well along with straw color change.

In most fields, soybeans are well into the R6 (full seed) growth stage with leaf turn and leaf drop very evident. In fields of earlier seeded crop or those seeded to early maturing varieties, plants in early R7 (beginning maturity – at least one brown pod on plants) were easily found. Overall, crop condition remains good, and the predicted warm weather is expected to accelerate crop development.

Field pea harvest was completed early last week after previous weather delays frustrated efforts to get this crop off. Yields were disappointing and varied greatly within fields because of extensive damage due to persistent excess moisture during the growing season. On the limited acres in the Eastern Region, producers considered themselves fortunate if they had field areas that yielded 40 bu/acre or better. Field areas yielding 20 bu/acre or less were easy to find.

Earlier seeded sunflower fields are in the R8 (back of the head fully yellow, bracts remaining green) growth stage while later seeded fields are at the R7 growth stage (back of the head turning yellow). Overall crop condition is

considered good. Crop development was expected to proceed rapidly given the predicted warm temperatures for this week.

In the last week, flax fields moved fully into growth stage 12 (seeds ripe). Ripening was moving ahead rapidly with leaves and branches drying down and green stems starting to turn. Overall crop condition was rated as good aside from previously flooded and saturated field areas.

Interlake

Precipitation continues to be variable with minimal to no rainfall in some parts of the regions. Amounts this week ranged from trace for most, to a few areas receiving up to 10mm. Inwood and Petersfield saw the highest amount between 7.2 mm and 10.9 mm of rainfall in the region. Daytime high temperatures were in the high 20s, with average temperatures of 16.3°C.

Harvest continues, with good progress in the past week with swathing and desiccation of crops. Winter cereal harvest for many in the region is almost complete; overall progress is estimated at 95% done. Yield reports range from 40 to 100 bu/acre for fall rye and winter wheat. Spring wheat harvest is estimated at 70% complete. Spring wheat yields are reported in the 50 to 80 bu/acre range, with most yielding 65-75 bu/acre. The quality is good but with fusarium being found in some samples as well as some bleaching caused by the rain.

Barley yields to date range from 80 to 100 bu/acre and oats is 120 to 145 bu/acre. There have been reports of light weight oats by producers. Corn fields range from milk stage to dent stage R5. Some reports of strong winds significantly affecting yields of later-seeded cereals. Straw has been baled right after cereal harvest and picked up, allowing for fall tillage operations.

Pea harvest is well underway with 95% complete. Early yield reports range from 45 to 65 bu/acre with good quality. Most soybeans are at R6 to R7 stage.

Canola harvest has begun, with early-season varieties being taken off. Harvest is about 20% done with early yield reported in the 45 to 55 bu/acre with good quality. Yield reports are low in areas with strong wind effects on standing and swathed canola. Sunflowers are at R5 to R7 stage. Flax is at growth stage 11 to 12. Desiccation applications will start in the coming weeks. Fall rye and winter wheat seeding will begin soon. Most greenfeed has been harvested and yields are good.