Issue 15 – August 6, 2024

Crop Report

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Weekly Provincial Summary

- Agro-Manitoba received variable amounts of precipitation over the past eight days. Isolated rains occurred in several regions. Precipitation for the past eight days ranged from 0 mm to 28.5 mm (Table 1). Sprague (28.5 mm) received the most precipitation.

Table 1. Range of eight-day accumulated precipitation (July 29 – August 5) in Manitoba's Agricultural Regions.

Region	Wettest Location last Week	Driest Location last Week
Central	Holland (8.7 mm)	Cartwright (2.0 mm)
Eastern	Sprague (28.5 mm)	Richer (1.0 mm)
Interlake	Eriksdale (11.0 mm)	Stonewall, Riverton (0.0 mm)
Northwest	The Pas (21.8 mm)	*Several* (0.0 mm)
Southwest	St. Lazare (13.0 mm)	Argue, Dand (0.0 mm)

- Climate normals for the total accumulated precipitation from May 1 to August 5 range from 169.8 mm to 269.1 mm and are based on 30-year historical data. Precipitation accumulation in most areas have exceeded 100% of normal precipitation since May 1.

- Soil Moisture 0 - 30 cm shows a regional representation of soil moisture conditions for the top 30 cm on August 5, 2024 relative to field capacity. The majority of agro-Manitoba is showing optimal or dry 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 – August 5, 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.

Report compiled by Manitoba Agriculture
Tel. (204) 745-5660
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Manitoba

Overview

Fall rye and winter wheat are drying down with fields between hard dough and physiological maturity. Harvest has started on the earliest winter wheat and fall rye fields. Corn fields range from tasseling 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. Most spring cereals range from soft dough to physiological maturity. The earliest seeded canola crops are well into pod filling with some seed colour change. Increased flower blast due to the very warm temperatures continued to be noted by both producers and agronomists. Sunflowers range from R3 (bud elongation) to R5.3 (30% flowering). Soybeans are in the R2 (full bloom) to R4 (full pod) stage, with the majority of fields at R3 (beginning pod).

Waterhemp has been confirmed north and west of St. Claude and a suspected infestation was found in the Neepawa – Gladstone area. It may be found in bare patches or edges of fields and in glyphosate-resistant crops like soybean and corn. For further information please refer to the Manitoba Crop Pest update August 1, 2024.

Cereals

- Fall rye and winter wheat are drying down with fields between hard dough and physiological maturity. Harvest has started on the earliest fields; no yield reports are available at this time.
- Most corn fields are between tasseling and silking.
- The earliest seeded spring cereals range from hard dough to physiological maturity. Later planted fields are in the milk to soft dough stages.
- Harvest is expected to start in early seeded barley fields this week.
- Spring wheat quality is rated mostly fair to good with 5% of the crop being reported as poor in the Southwest, Northwest, Central, and Interlake regions (Table 2).

Table 2: Spring Wheat Quality Rating by Region

	Southwest	Northwest	Central	Eastern	Interlake
Excellent	10%	20%	5%	-	20%
Good	55%	60%	70%	70%	65%
Fair	30%	15%	20%	30%	10%
Poor	5%	5%	5%	-	5%
Very Poor	-	-	-	-	-

Oilseeds

- The earliest seeded canola is in the pod fill to early ripening stage. The last fields seeded continue to flower. Seed colour change has been noted in the earliest fields, with reports of some swathing occurring.
- Sunflower growth progressed rapidly in the warm conditions with stands ranging from the R3 (bud elongation) to R5.3 (30% flowering).
- Most flax fields are at growth stage 9 (late flowering with most capsules formed) to growth stage 10 (white seeds in capsules and lower leaves starting to yellow).

Pulses and Soybeans

- Field peas are in the R4 to R5 stage and are starting to change colour.
- Soybeans are in the R2 to R4 stage, with the majority in the R3 (beginning pod) stage.
- Iron deficiency chlorosis can still be found in fields, but most fields have recovered.

Forages & Livestock

Forages

- Good progress has been made putting up hay and silage. First cut of most tame forages is complete and work on native stands continues.
- Hay yields are being reported in the 2.5-3 tonnes per acre range on tame hay stands.
- Dairy producers are into second cut harvest of alfalfa fields and are reporting good yields.
- The majority of first cut beef hay harvest is complete. Beef producers are beginning second cut and reporting suitable yields.
- 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.
- Cereal silage is about half done and yields look to be average to above average. Yields in the northwest region reported to be 8 tons/acre.

Livestock

- Pastures are slowing due to recent heat and dry conditions in the northwest and southwest regions. Pasture management practices are making a difference, but limited soil moisture reserves are affecting all pastures. Cooler weather and precipitation are needed to improve annual forage and pastures.
- In the eastern and central regions pasture growth is good and cattle are making the most of strong growth.
- Producers are attempting to control fly numbers on pasture and are looking for pink eye and foot rot where conditions remain wet underfoot.
- Dugouts are at 80% of normal capacity, but reports indicate that dugouts are drying out in parts of the Southwest region.

Regional Comments

Southwest

The southwest region has experienced above-normal temperatures throughout the week, with very little to no rain. Crops are beginning to show the effects of these dry conditions and are approaching the wilting point in some areas.

Winter wheat is at the hard dough to ripening stage. Harvest has started in fall rye, with some swathing and combining occurring. Spring cereals are maturing quickly, with the majority at the hard dough stage. Barley is ripening rapidly due to the hot weather, and some swathing activity is expected by the end of this week.

Canola is in the pod fill stage to early ripening, though some late-seeded crops are still in full bloom. The crop looks good but would benefit from moisture.

Soybean crops are at the R3 to R4 stage. Most of the crop appears green and tall, with no major signs of water shortage, but moisture is critical for grain filling and pod development. Any precipitation at this stage would be appreciated.

Flax fields are transitioning out of the flowering stage, with no major disease issues. Some lodging is visible in low-lying areas. Sunflowers are starting to flower, and while there have been reports of insect damage, no spraying has occurred yet. Corn is advancing well and benefiting from the hot weather. Most corn crop is silking, the R1 growth stage.

Northwest

Another week of high temperatures continue to advance crops. Highest temperature was 33.7°C at the Laurier station and the lowest overnight temperature was 5.0°C at the Minitonas station. Minimal to no precipitation across the region for the week, with The Pas station receiving the most at 22 mm. High temperatures and dry conditions continue to deplete surface moisture.

Winter wheat and fall rye crops are in the hard dough stage and looking good in most areas. Most spring wheat is in the soft dough stage while the remainder is in the milk stage.

Most field peas are in the R5 to R6 stage and the remainder of crop not far behind. Some fields will be the appropriate stage for desiccation in the next week or so. A rain would benefit some crops in the last bit of pod development.

The majority of canola has completed flowering. The remainder of the crop continues to flower and develop pods. High temperatures have caused some pod abortion.

Soybean crops are in the R2 to R3 stage and looking good. Recent heat has helped advance the crops quickly. A rain would benefit the crops to help fill pods.

Central

The central region was warm and dry throughout the week. Precipitation ranged from a low of 2 mm in Cartwright to 8.7 mm in Holland. This dry period allowed for rapid dry down of the fall rye, winter wheat and spring barley to be harvested this week, as well as the earliest canola swathed. Fields have dried since the high rainfall earlier in the year, but there are dead spots in low lying areas from wet conditions earlier in the season. Warmer temperatures have promoted rapid development of corn, soybean and edible beans which have markedly improved in their appearance over the past month. It is likely that the moist conditions in the spring have limited root growth in many crops.

Fall rye and winter wheat are drying down with fields at physiological maturity. The earliest fields have already been harvested. Most spring wheat is between hard dough and physiological maturity, with pre harvest applications being applied this week. Most oat and barley fields are at mid hard dough to physiological maturity, with the earliest barley harvested this week. Later seeded spring cereals are in the late milk to soft dough stages. Some lodging is present in barley and wheat fields due to wind and rainfall events earlier in the season, but much of the early season lodging has recovered. Many farms have reported increased root rot this year.

Field peas are beginning to mature (R5) and are changing colour. There is yellowing in low lying areas, and there has been greater than normal levels of root rot. Soybeans are between full bloom (R2) to full pod (R4), with most

beginning to pod (R3). A small number of soybean fields were planted after MASC insurance deadline, and these are at earlier stages.

Canola is at pod fill, with later planted fields at the end of flowering. The earliest fields are at physiological maturity, with reports of a few fields swathed. Warm conditions at flowering have led to increased incidence of heat blast in some fields.

Flax is between stage 9 (late flowering with most capsules formed) and stage 10 (white seeds in capsules and lower leaves starting to yellow). Sunflowers are at R4 to R5 stages, with the earliest fields at 40% flowering.

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

Eastern

Up until Friday, trace amounts of rain fell in some districts across the Eastern Region as part of isolated rain showers making it one of the driest weeks since the start of the cropping season. Temperatures during the weekdays remained above normal and field crops that had not suffered from extended water stress continued to advance rapidly. Standing water issues continue to subside. Over the weekend, isolated thunderstorms and hailstorms were reported in some parts of the region with the extent of crop damage unknown at this time.

Fall rye and winter wheat harvest has begun but reliable yield estimates are not yet available given the limited acres covered. Pre-harvest herbicide applications in winter cereals had been completed. Early seeded spring wheat, oats, and barley range from hard dough to physiological maturity with some pre-harvest applications possible by the end of this week. The last spring wheat fields seeded have only recently been sprayed with fungicide and have completed flowering. The last oat and barley fields seeded are at milk to early soft dough. Root rot has been noted in spring cereals, and some disease-free plants have been drying out prematurely due to shallow and inadequate root systems unable to cope with recent hot weather.

Corn stage ranges from very early tassel to silking in the earlier seeded fields. Many corn fields remain uneven although the problem continues to lessen in the warm weather.

Soybean growth stage ranges from very late R2 (full bloom) to early R4 (full pod) in most fields with most of the crop at R3 (beginning pod). Rapid soybean development continues with the warm temperatures. Overall crop condition is good.

In canola, fungicide applications have been completed. The earliest seeded canola crops are well into pod filling with flower drop complete. Ongoing seed colour change has been noted in the earliest seeded fields. The last fields seeded have increased flower drop as they transition to pod formation and filling.

Overall, field pea stands are at the R5 (beginning maturity) growth stage. However, plants in field areas that had been saturated with water are rapidly drying down due to rot root. Harvest timing and management may become challenging for area growers given the unevenness of crop maturity.

Sunflower growth progressed rapidly in the warm conditions with stands ranging from early R4 (inflorescence opening) to the R5.3 (30% flowering) 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 stress conditions.

Most flax fields range from late 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 is rated as good aside from flooded and saturated field areas.

Interlake

The Interlake region continues to experience warm weather conditions, with high humidity, and minimal rainfall. Precipitation continues to be extremely variable with scattered thundershowers. Most areas received trace amounts of rainfall, while Eriksdale received 11 mm of rain this past week. High temperatures and good moisture have allowed excellent progress in crop advancement.

Winter wheat is at the hard dough stage, with advanced fields at physiological maturity and harvest expected to start soon. Fall rye is at hard dough stage with most advanced fields starting to dry down. Pre-harvest applications on fall rye is ongoing. Spring cereals are starting to turn with noticeable colour change 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. Most grain corn is tasseling (VT), and some is as advanced as silking (R1).

Most peas are at the R3 to R5 stages. Peas look excellent, pods are filling well. Soybeans have seen rapid growth in hot 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 R4 with pods forming at the bottom of plants. Minimal signs of iron deficiency chlorosis (IDC) remain. 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. Sunflowers are as advanced as R2 to R3 stage, with the earliest seeded approaching early R5. Flax is at the 9-leaf stage.