

Issue 22 – September 24, 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 4.9 mm to 212.2 mm (Table 1) with the South Central and Eastern regions accumulating the largest amounts of precipitation. Heavy precipitation events occurred in the Eastern region causing localized flooding. Intense rains were seen in communities including Elma which received 105.5 mm over a 3-hr period on Sept. 17. Elma (212.2 mm) received the most precipitation.

Table 1. Seven-day accumulated precipitation (September 16 - September 22) in Manitoba's Agricultural Regions.

Region	Wettest Location	Driest Location
Central	Winkler (162.0 mm)	Somerset (13.9 mm)
Eastern	Elma (212.2 mm)	Beausejour (34.0 mm)
Interlake	Selkirk (46.7 mm)	Poplarfield (4.9 mm)
Northwest	Keld (29.4 mm)	Birch River (8.2 mm)
Southwest	Shilo (66.4 mm)	Pierson (7.7 mm)

- Climate normals for total accumulated precipitation from May 1 to Sept. 22 range from 267.3 mm to 382.1 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 and Eastern regions have accumulated more than 120% compared to the 30-year average.
- Soil Moisture 0 - 30 cm shows a regional representation of soil moisture conditions for the top 30 cm on September 22, 2024, relative to field capacity. Soil moisture is variable across agro-Manitoba with the majority showing optimal or wet soil moisture conditions at the surface depths. Localized areas of the Interlake and Southwest are showing dry or very dry conditions.
- 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. 22, 2024. GDD Accumulation is between 100% 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](#).

Table 2: Percentage of Harvest Completion by Crop and Region to September 24, 2024

Crop	Southwest	Northwest	Central	Eastern	Interlake	MB AVG
Winter Wheat	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Fall Rye	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Spring Wheat	90%	75%	95%	95%	95%	90%
Barley	95%	70%	95%	95%	85%	90%
Oats	90%	70%	95%	95%	85%	88%
Field Pea	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	99%
Canola	50%	45%	70%	40%	50%	55%
Dry Beans	-	-	25%	-	-	25%
Regional AVG	56%	47%	68%	54%	54%	58%

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

Overview

Harvest continues in spring cereals and canola. Yield reports range from 25 to 90 bu/acre in spring wheat, 80 to 180 bu/acre in oats, and 90 to 115 bu/acre in barley. Canola harvest continues and is approximately 55% complete. Corn crops continue to develop rapidly with cobs in the dent growth stage and milk lines moving down kernels as they approach physiological maturity. Soybeans in all regions are at the R7(beginning maturity)-R8(full maturity) growth stage. Harvest has begun in some fields with approximately 10% being harvested.

Next week’s crop report will be available on Wednesday, October 2.

Cereals

- Spring cereal harvest continues, 90% of wheat, 90% of barley, and 88% 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.
- Oat yield estimates range from 80-180 bu/acre.
- Barley yields range from 90 to 115 bu/acre.
- Corn crops continued to develop rapidly with cobs in the dent growth stage and milk lines moving down kernels as they approach physiological maturity.

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. 55% of the canola crop has been harvested across the province with the Central region reaching 70% complete. The Northwest region is at 45% complete.
- Earlier seeded sunflower fields are moving into the R9 (bracts becoming yellow and brown, physiological maturity) growth stage while later seeded fields are well into the R8 growth stage (back of the head fully yellow, bracts remaining green). Overall crop condition is considered good.
- Flax fields are fully in growth stage 12 (seeds ripe) with leaves and branches dried down and most green stems about to turn brown. Pre-harvest herbicide applications are complete, and harvest has started in some areas.

Pulses and Soybeans

- Dry bean harvest has started with approximately 25% of the crop being harvested. There is a wide range of yield, from 500 to 3,500 lbs/acre. Quality to date is reported as good.
- Soybeans in all regions are at the R7(beginning maturity)-R8(full maturity) growth stage. Harvest has begun in pockets around the province.

Forages & Livestock

Forages

- Most hay bales have been collected, and some proso millet straw have been baled after combining. A significant amount of oat or wheat straw has also been baled this year. Corn silage is underway, with approximately 50% complete and yields ranging from 6-10 tonnes per acre for dryland.
- Overall forage and pasture growth is more than last year due to the early season moisture.
- 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 beautiful condition. Well managed pastures are looking excellent for this time of year, however grass growth appears to be slowing down. Some producers are beginning to supplement animals with hay on pasture. The animals are nibbling on the bales largely because it's something different rather than because grass is limited. Water levels in dugouts remain adequate.
- Pastures rarely look this great in September and are still producing regrowth, although as temperatures fall and days shorten, this growth is reducing. More producers baled straw this year.
- With the high rainfall last week, most dugouts have recharged, and many creeks and rivers are very high. Excess moisture is causing issues underfoot.
- Most greenfeed harvest is complete. Alfalfa seed harvest has begun with early yield reports above average. Post harvest weed control has started. Rains have greened up perennial weeds, as well as volunteers on harvested crop land. Some fall fertilizer application has begun.

Regional Comments

Southwest

There was significant rainfall in the southwest this week but some harvesting was still possible. Temperatures ranged from 24.1°C to 28.2°C, with overnight lows between -1.3°C and 6.3°C, resulting in daily averages around 14.5°C.

The harvest is estimated to be 50% to 55% complete. The quality of cereal crops is good, with yields reported as average to above average. Seeding for winter cereals has made limited progress this year, but conditions are favorable due to soil moisture and warmer temperatures forecasted.

Spring wheat harvest is 90% complete, with most of the crop being of good quality. Yields range from 60 to 80 bu/acre, depending on variety and local moisture conditions. Recent rains have led to some reports of bleaching in harvested samples, but this has not significantly affected grain quality. The barley harvest is 95% complete, with average to above-average yields, and oats are 90% complete.

Grain corn is drying down in marginal areas, while silage is progressing and is at approximately 50% complete. Most of the crop is at the R5.9 stage.

All canola fields are mature, with swathed canola completely harvested; the remainder is being straight cut, with 40-45% still left. Canola has had variable yields, mostly between 35-45 bu/acre. Sunflowers are starting to turn yellow, sitting at the R7 to R8 stage.

Soybeans are beginning to mature. Much of the crop is at the R8 growth stage, with some early-maturing varieties already shedding their leaves, although there are no reports of soybean harvesting yet. Dry beans are also maturing.

Northwest

A slower week of harvest progress. The entire region received precipitation this week with Keld station receiving the highest at 30 mm and Birch River receiving the least at 8 mm. A couple of warm days saw daytime temperatures reaching high 20's while over night temperatures hovered around 0 degrees at Drifting River, Ruthenia, Pipe Lake, San Clara and The Pas stations. Heavy dews in the morning have also narrowed the harvest window at this time of year.

Harvest continues to be a challenge and slow at times where crops had been lodged this season. Post harvest operations are occurring on some fields as time allows.

Spring wheat harvest continues across the region and is approximately 75% complete. Lodged fields have made for slow progress in some fields. Average reported yield so far is approximately 65-70 bu/acre. With some fields averaging less at 40-50 bu/acre and some going 80 bu/acre plus.

Canola harvest is underway and is approximately 45% complete across the region with some areas more advanced. Swathing and desiccation continues as stages are reached. Reported yields so far have been quite varied based on crop conditions throughout the season as well as disease pressure, but generally lower than average. Average yields so far have been approximately 30-40 bu/acre.

Soybean crops are mostly in R7 stage and looking good. Some of the most advanced soybeans are moving towards R8. With good weather, soybean harvest is expected to start soon in some fields.

Seeding of winter wheat and fall rye has been underway with seeding deadlines approaching. Earliest seeded crops have emerged and look good with recent moisture and warm temperatures.

Central

Significant rainfall occurred this week with the most rainfall in Winkler (162 mm), Windygates (124.5 mm), and Morris (114.2 mm). The least was received in Somerset (13.9 mm), Pilot Mound (18.1 mm), and Plumas (19.6 mm). Regional highs were between 24-27 °C, with nighttime lows between 3 - 5 °C.

Cover crop seeding is complete. Mid-September is typically considered the last opportunity for establishment; however, the rainfall will be appreciated for growth. Seeding for winter cereals continues as conditions allow, but establishment will likely be good due to available soil moisture and warm temperatures.

Spring cereal harvest is nearing completion, with approximately 95% of wheat, 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%. Barley yields are in the range of 80 to 120 bu/acre, with an average yield around 90 bu/acre. The highest yielding crops are as high as 130 bu/acre. Oat yields are in the range of 110 to 180 bu/acre, with the average around 150 bu/acre.

Soybeans have progressed rapidly over the past week given the warm and dry conditions, with the crop between late R7 (beginning maturity) to R8 (full maturity). Dry bean harvest will continue as conditions allow. Dry beans have yielded anywhere from 500 – 3,500 lbs/acre, with an average around 2,000 lbs/acre.

Canola harvest is sitting at approximately 70%, and harvest will continue as conditions allow. 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 dates this year. Yields vary greatly from 25 to 65 bu/acre, with an average of 45 bu/acre.

Pre-harvest herbicides have been applied in flax, but only a very small number of acres have been harvested. Fast harvest progress will be made once conditions allow. Overall flax crops are good aside from areas which had waterlogging early in the season, and those patches within fields will likely yield poorly.

Sunflowers are at R9 (bracts becoming yellow and brown, physiological maturity). The crop is mostly progressing well, with producers preparing to apply pre harvest herbicides. It is expected there will be more head rot this year due to the recent wet conditions.

Corn is mostly at the end of R5 (dent), with milk lines well advanced down the kernels. With the warm fall the crop progressed rapidly, but the recent wet and cooler weather has slowed progress. However, most fields will likely be able to reach physiological maturity before a killing frost. Corn silage harvest is approximately 30% complete, although high plant moisture and kernel integrity is a concern for this year's crop.

Eastern

There were very large rainfall accumulations that occurred in many central and southern districts of the Eastern Region. Standing water is still evident on some fields and growers are doing what they can to speed up the process of drainage and drying. While no frost was reported, nighttime temperatures below 5 °C did occur in some areas.

The harvest of spring wheat, oats and barley remains around 95% complete in the Eastern Region. Yield and quality reports for spring wheat showed an average yield of 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 averaging about 85 bu/acre. Pre-harvest applications, swathing and harvesting will continue over the next few weeks. With

the rainfall last week, growers and agronomists have reported concerns with quality loss and sprouting going forward.

Corn crops were in the dent growth stage and milk lines moving down kernels as they approach physiological maturity. It was noted that black layer had been achieved on some earlier seeded fields or fields seeded to earlier maturing hybrids. The pace of crop maturity slowed last week given the weather and the amount of excess moisture.

Soybean fields ranged from late R7 (maturing – increasing numbers of brown pod on plants) growth stage to R8 (full maturity). A start to harvest in some northern districts may be possible by the end of this week if weather allows. Overall, crop condition remains good.

Canola harvest remains around 40% complete. Reported yields ranged from 35 to 55+ bu/acre with the average at around 43 bu/acre. Late seeded canola is physiologically mature and drying down. Sunflower fields are at the R9 (bracts becoming yellow and brown, physiological maturity) growth stage. Flax fields are in growth stage 12 (seeds ripe) and the crop is drying down. Overall crop condition was rated as good aside from previously flooded and saturated field areas.

Interlake

Harvest continues, with significant delays following recent rains across the Interlake region. The South Interlake region including Stonewall, Petersfield, Selkirk and Woodlands received rainfall amounts ranging from 28 mm to 46.7 mm. In the northern part of the region, Teulon received 29.2 mm; all other areas received less than 20 mm. Temperatures reached up to 27.4°C last week, with average temperatures of 15.4°C to 16.8°C.

Soybeans are turning rapidly in most fields. Soybean crops range from late R7 to R8 (95% brown pod and drying down). Harvest should start within two weeks if the weather conditions are favorable.

Canola harvest progress was limited due to weather conditions. Canola harvest is estimated at 50% complete. Yield reports are in the 45 to 55 bu/acre with good grade. Before the rain, harvesting and field work were proceeding rapidly as farmers tried to make up for time lost due to earlier rainfall events. Swathing in later seeded and re-seeded canola started in some areas. Most sunflowers were either in R8 or R9 growth stages. Desiccation applications continue with harvest expected to start in the coming weeks if the weather allows. Flax is at growth stage 12 with ongoing desiccant applications.