

Issue 21(Week 40) – October 3, 2023

Crop Report



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Weekly Provincial Summary

- Precipitation was varied across agro-Manitoba during the week of September 25 to October 2 with values ranging from 0 mm to 40.7 mm (**Table 1**). The highest amounts of precipitation in the past eight days was in the Northwest, Interlake, and parts of the Southwest regions. Ingelow (40.7 mm) received the most precipitation.

Table 1. Eight-day accumulated precipitation in Manitoba's Agricultural Regions.

Region	Wettest Location last Week	Driest Location last Week
Central	Plumas (13.5 mm)	Gretna(0 mm)
Eastern	Stead (8.7 mm)	Menisino (0 mm)
Interlake	Arborg (21.6 mm)	Taylor's Point (3.5 mm)
Northwest	Keld (36.1 mm)	Alonsa (1.8 mm)
Southwest	Ingelow (40.7 mm)	Waskada (0.1 mm)

- Climate normals for total accumulated precipitation from May 1 to October 2 range from 281.3 mm to 400.7 mm, and are based on 30-year historical data. Total accumulated rainfall remains variable across agro-Manitoba. Areas of the province near Fisherton have received more than 100% of normal precipitation since May 1. Much of the Central region's accumulated precipitation remains below 70% 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 October 2, 2023 relative to field capacity. Soil moisture levels are variable throughout agro-Manitoba with the majority of the province showing very dry to optimal conditions at the 30 cm depth. Localized areas are showing wet conditions relative to field capacity.
- Soil Moisture 0 - 120 cm shows a regional representation of soil moisture conditions for the top 120 cm on October 2, 2023 relative to field capacity. The majority of the province is showing optimal to dry conditions to the 120 cm depth. Some areas of the Southwest and a few localized regions are showing wet 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 – October 2, 2023. All

locations, have accumulated more than 100% of the 30 –year average since May 1. The majority of agro-Manitoba has accumulated more than 115% of normal GDD.

- To find interactive soil temperature/moisture and air temperature information see Agri-Maps Current Weather [viewer](#).

Overview

Harvest progress sits at 85% complete across the province (**Table 2**), which is ahead of the 5-year average (73%). Harvest has wrapped up for most of the spring cereal crops, with barley at 100% complete, oats at 100% complete and spring wheat at 99% complete. Overall, cereal crops remain in fair to mostly good condition.

Table 2: Percentage Harvest Completion by Crop and Region to October 3, 2023

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	100	99	100	100	99	99
Barley	100	100	100	100	100	100
Oats	100	100	100	100	100	100
Field Pea	100	100	100	100	100	100
Canola	80	85	98	75	80	86
Soybeans	55	50	90	75	75	69
Corn	-	-	15	10	-	6
Dry Beans	90	-	97	-	85	96
Regional AVG	80	86	95	80	89	85

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

Many corn fields have reached physiological maturity and are drying down. Grain corn harvest has started in the Central region and is sitting at 15% complete. Canola harvest continues with approximately 86% of the acres being harvested across the province. Soybean fields are mostly in the R8 growth stage with harvest progress sitting at 69% provincially.

Producers are encouraged to scout their fields for weeds that have escaped control. This is an important part of integrated pest management. Waterhemp has been found in the Central and Eastern regions and producers should seek identification of any unusual pigweeds in their fields.

Cereals

- Spring wheat yields range from 35 to 80 bu/acre, with highs of 90 bu/acre in areas that received more moisture and lows of 16 bu/acre in drier areas. Protein levels range from 13.5% and higher and grading #1 or #2 Canada. Oat yields range from 80-130 bu/acre, with yield reports of 60 bu/acre in drier areas. Barley yields range from 70 to 100 bu/acre.
- The spring wheat quality is rated as mostly fair to good (**Table 3**).
- The majority of grain corn has reached maturity. Approximately 15% of grain corn has been harvested in the Central region with early yield reports ranging from 80 to 200 bu/acre.
- Winter wheat and fall rye are emerging, recent rainfall will help with establishment.

Table 3: Spring Wheat Quality Rating by Region

	Southwest	Northwest	Central	Eastern	Interlake
Excellent	-	10%	-	10 %	-
Good	40%	60%	40%	90%	90%
Fair	50%	30%	50%	-	10%
Poor	10%	-	10%	-	-
Very Poor	-	-	-	-	-

Oilseeds

- Canola harvest continues with approximately 86% of acres being harvested provincially. Overall crop condition ranged from fair to mostly good. Reported canola yields range from 20-60 bu/acre.
- Flax crop is at stage 12 (seeds ripe). Flax harvest continues with approximately 39% of acres being harvested provincially. Yields range from 20 to 25 bu/acre.
- Sunflowers are at the R9 stage, desiccation has occurred on a number of acres.

Pulses and Soybeans

- Soybeans are mostly in the R8 growth stage, with harvest progress at 69% provincially. Yields have been variable and dependent on summer rainfall. Yield ranges from 20 to 30 bu/acre on the earliest harvested fields to 30 to 60 bu/acre on fields harvested over the last week.
- Dry bean harvest is approximately 96% complete. Yield ranges from 1200 to 2500 lbs/acre.

Forages & Livestock

Forages

- Most green feed harvest is complete. Producers are trying different mixes, including oat/pea, in addition to single crop green feed. Yields are good, and will help to supplement alfalfa and grass hay supplies. Hay yields have been extremely variable, dependent on rains. Livestock water supply is currently adequate; some dugout levels have improved with recent rains, while others are reported as getting low.

- Corn silage harvest is largely complete in eastern Manitoba. Reports on yield have been very good. Producers who grew corn for silage were quite pleased with their yields as the warm weather early on in the season kick started most corn into an excellent crop. Corn silage yields are ranging from 13 to 15 tonnes/acre.
- The status of individual pastures remains highly dependent on soil type, moisture levels and grazing management strategy exercised throughout the summer. Some producers are supplementing hay on pasture to ensure nutrient requirements of cattle are being met. Others are beginning to move cattle onto fenced hayfields or harvested cropland to graze available regrowth and/or stubble.
- Hay levels are rated at 40% surplus, 50% adequate and 10% short. Straw, green feed and feed grains are all rated at 100% adequate.
- Forage growth on hay & pasture is mostly finished due to dry conditions and nearing the end of the growing season.

Livestock

- Water levels in dugouts are low but continue to hang on. This is of particular concern on pastures located in areas that have consistently missed out on rain.
- Pasture condition is rated at 100% fair. Grass conditions on pasture are dwindling as we progress further into the fall and plant growth naturally slows. The status of individual pastures continues to be highly dependent on moisture levels, grazing management strategy, and soil type.
- Proper stocking density and rotational grazing helped some producers extend their grazing season however, even then many producers had to start supplemental feeding early on in the fall. Many producers started off with carryover feed from last year which was beneficial as the hay yield this year was reduced.
- As the grazing season wraps up, many producers are beginning to move livestock back to winter accommodations, or supplementing grazing by providing bales.
- Many producers faced challenges this past summer with flies and pink eye and the grazing season being cut short due to lack of moisture.

Regional Comments

Southwest

Rain during the week slowed harvest but it continued on the dry days. Many producers are caught up on cereals, and are well into the canola and soybeans. Heavy dews and rains have continued to limit harvest hours, but crop moisture levels have dropped. Most areas are looking for rain, post-harvest, to benefit soil moisture levels for next year, and improve tillage conditions in some soils. Temperatures have been extremely variable, with daytime highs ranging from low teens to high 20s. Overnight lows have settled to just above 3°C to slightly below. Average daily temperatures range from 15°C to 17°C, higher than last week.

Spring wheat harvest for many in the region is complete. Overall progress is estimated at 95-100% done. Only a few isolated fields left. Yields have generally been good; Straw has been baled immediately following cereal harvest with most bales collected off the fields. Some post-harvest weed spraying is also occurring. Oats and barley harvest also 100% complete.

Canola harvest is estimated at 80% complete. Yield reports range from 25 to 55 bu/acre, with average yields expected to be in the 35 to 45 bu/acre range.

Flax harvest continues, with 30% complete. Yields ranging from 20 to 25 bu/acre.

Most soybeans are R8. Harvest progress is estimated at 55% complete, with some producers just starting and others finished. Early yields reported in the 20 to 45 bu/acre range. Average is expected to end up at 30 to 32 bu/acre range. Some of the later maturing varieties benefited from the late rains.

Most sunflowers are at R9. Desiccation applications continue. Corn silage chopping continues, with some areas complete. Yields are variable, dependent on rainfall amounts through the growing season.

Fall rye and winter wheat are in, with good emergence. Later seeded fields would benefit from rain to aid emergence.

Corn is physiologically mature, with grain moistures ranging from 23 to 28%. Heights are variable due to dry conditions. Corn silage chopping continues, with some areas complete. Silage is past its optimum stage, and now producers are more on the dry side at about 40% moisture or less.

Northwest

Generally a good week of harvest conditions allowed for progress. Precipitation mid-week brought varying amounts of rain across the region, heaviest in the south eastern portion of the region including Dauphin and Ste. Rose areas. Daytime temperatures have been in low to mid 20's while nighttime temperatures cooling off, but staying above 0°C. Harvest activities halted across much of the region due to rains beginning late Friday or early Saturday.

Spring wheat harvest had another good week of progress, with most areas approximately 99 % done. Yields have been ranging from 50-90 bu/acre, while some fields have done poorer and some better. Initial reports of quality have been good, however some reports of lower protein now as well.

Canola harvest continued over the week and is approximately 85% complete. Desiccation and swathing still continue as some later seeded crops reach appropriate stages. Yield reports have ranged from 40-55 bu/acre with a few reports of above and below this range. Reports of green stems making harvest challenging.

Soybeans are in the R8 stage. Harvest progress is approximately 45-50% complete. There has been some challenges with plants not drying down and staying green. Yields have been average to above average around 45-50 bu/acre, with some yielding lower due to lack of rain.

Central

Intermittent rainfall and heavy morning dews have limited harvest and field operations, producers were still able to make progress with harvest this week. A number of producers are finished their 2023 harvest.

Many producers are grateful for the fall moisture replenishing moisture reserves, which will be needed in the spring. This fall rain has also helped with the emergence of fall rye, winter wheat, and the establishment of cover crops. This warmer than typical fall and available moisture has also resulted in a flush of weed seedlings in fields.

Corn harvest is well underway, with rainfall last week setting back harvest. Approximately 15% of corn is harvested so far. Fields that have received the least amount of rainfall are in the poorest condition, and yields vary greatly. Some yields are as low as 80 bu/ac to as high as 200 bu/ac depending on how much moisture the crop received throughout the growing season. Moisture is mostly between 20 – 34%. Most silage corn fields are harvested, or approaching harvest, with approximately 80% harvesting already complete. Yields are ranging between 13 to 16 tonne/acre.

Canola harvest is mostly complete, with only the odd field yet to be harvested. Yields vary greatly, between 20 to 55 bu/acre, with averages closer to the 30 to 40 bushel range. Some fields still had high canola yields. Some fields near Elie achieved 70 bu/acre and around Portage 60 bu/acre, in some cases. Flax harvest is 80% complete. Sunflower fields are quickly approaching harvest, with most fields receiving a desiccant in the past weeks. The earliest sunflower fields may be harvested next week.

Approximately 90% of soybeans have been harvested, with soybean yields between 20 to 30 bu/acre on earliest harvested fields and from 30 to 40 bu/acre on later harvested fields. Edible bean yields in the region ranged 1800 to 2500 lbs/ac, with the lowest at around 750 lbs/ac and the highest at around 3250lbs. Harvest progress for dry beans is at 97%.

Eastern

Rainfall accumulations varied across the Eastern region over the reporting period. Producers are hoping to continue making progress on canola, soybean and corn harvest this week as weather allows. Fall field work is ongoing.

Spring wheat harvest is considered 100% complete. Average yield on spring wheat has been better than expected at around 70 bu/acre with 13.5% or higher protein levels and grading #1 or #2 Canada. Oat harvest was complete with yields at around 130 bu/acre on average and good bushel weights. Barley harvest is also complete with yields averaging out at around 100 bu/acre.

Corn fields have achieved growth stage R6 “black layer” or physiological maturity and are drying down as weather allows. The majority of the crop is in good to excellent condition. Corn harvest has begun in the Eastern region, with early yield reports averaging 150 bu/acre with good test weight at 57 lbs/bushel. It is estimated that 10% of the corn has been harvested.

Canola harvest progressed again this week, with about 75% of acres harvested. Yields are at 50-60 bu/acre on average with good quality. Canola harvesting is expected to continue as weather allows.

The majority of sunflower fields have been desiccated. The crop remains in good to excellent condition as producers wait for the crop to dry down. No harvest reports as of yet.

The flax crop is at stage 12 (seed ripe). Desiccation of most fields has occurred. Harvest is expected to commence once fields have dried down and weather allows. No harvest reports as of yet.

Soybean harvest continued this week with about 75% of acres harvested. Yield reports range from low to mid 30 bu/acre to as high as 60 bu/acre depending on the variety and the rains received over the growing season. The average yield for the area would be in the 45 bu/acre range. Some reports have come in, of lower soybean yields in the Whitemouth area, due to sclerotinia.

Interlake

The north Interlake region received about 25 to 35 mm of rain last Thursday, which delayed harvesting activities. Some areas in the south Interlake received light showers during the week. Crops are drying up but moisture levels are not dropping as fast as expected due to light rainfall.

Spring wheat harvesting is at 99% complete. CWRS average yield at 65-80 bu/acre, mostly all #1 or #2 Canada. High-test weights and proteins ranging from 13.9-15.5% with the average being about 14.5%. Harvesting of spring wheat expected to wrap up by next week.

Oat harvesting is done with yields at 130-170 bu/acre depending on rainfall received over the season. Barley harvesting is 100% complete, with average yield 80-100 bu/acre.

Soybean harvesting is well underway and about 70-75% complete depending on variety and seeding date. Soybean yield estimates range from 35 to 55 bu/acre depending on the amount of rainfall.

Canola harvest sits at 80% complete with yields between 40 to 60 bu/ac. Canola harvesting expected to be widespread this week if the weather is suitable.

Sunflowers fields have been desiccated. Harvesting is expected to occur in 2 to 3 weeks given favorable weather conditions.

Corn has advanced to R6 growth stage; close to physiological maturity and is drying down. Many of the corn crops are in good to excellent condition. No harvest report in this region. Corn silage chopping continues with yields ranging from 14-15 tonnes/acre. Harvest process is about 90% complete.