

CROP REPORT #10 – June 29, 2021

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Weekly Provincial Summary

- High temperatures, strong winds, and lack of widespread rainfall has continued to stress Manitoba crops.
- First-cut hay is underway, with reported yields ranging from 50 to 80% of normal, though with high quality.
- Many crops are maturing faster than normal and moving into reproductive stages faster than expected due to drought stress.
- Herbicide applications are nearly complete, with some second-pass spraying to come in soybeans and corn.
- Fungicide applications on cereals and canola are unlikely to occur on many fields, given the forecast and lower expected yield potential.
- [Alfalfa weevil](#) damage is causing forage crop yield losses in parts of the Eastern and Interlake regions.
- The Governments of Canada and Manitoba have provided livestock producers with funding options to address dry conditions on pasture regarding alternative water strategies. Visit the [News Releases](#) page for more details.
- See [Current Crop Topics](#) page for resources on managing crops and spraying under dry conditions.

Special: Pesticide Spray Drift & Incident Reporting

Manitoba has had a very dry and windy spring (Figure 1). As a result, pesticide-spraying conditions may have been less than ideal on many days. Therefore, it is crucial that growers and applicators proceed with caution when making a spray decision. It is important to check your local weather conditions and to review pesticide product labels prior to making a pesticide application. Most products advise a wind speed below 15 km/hr.

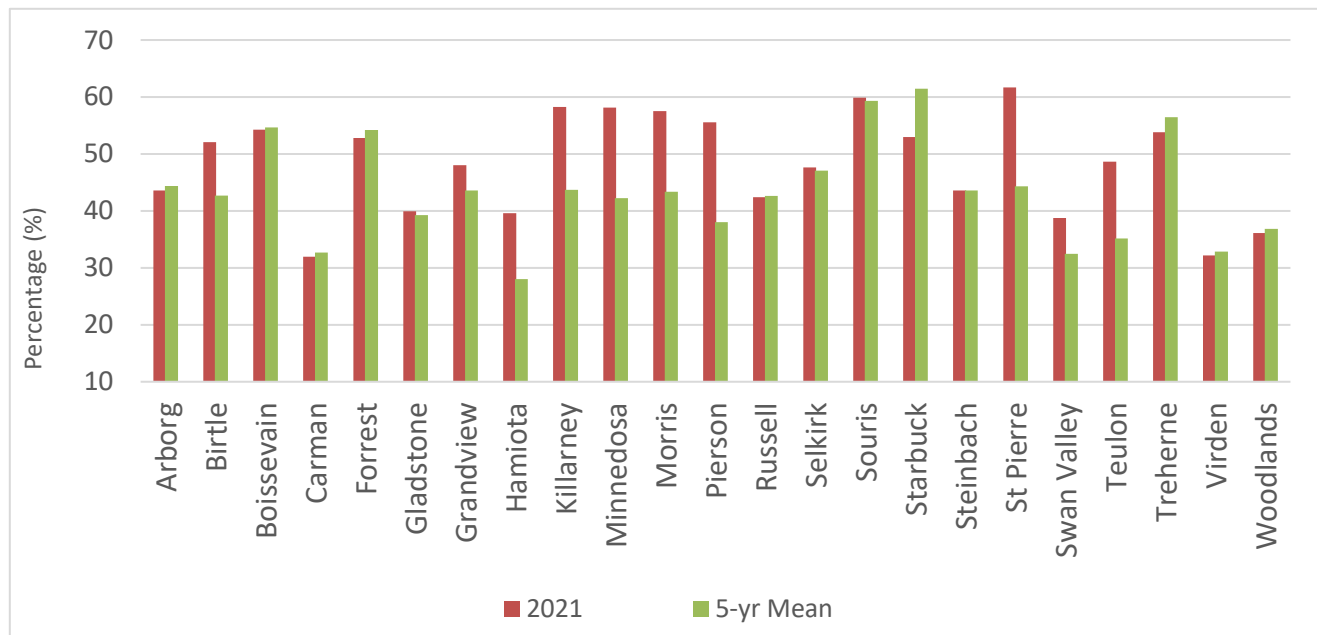


Figure 1. Percentage of hourly average wind speed >15km/hr from May 1 to June 15 over a 24 hour period at selected locations in Manitoba, compared to 5-year mean.

The [Guide to Field Crop Protection](#) summarizes important product-specific information to consider prior to making a spray decision. Additionally, a detailed product specific information is available on the pesticide labels. More information is available at [Pesticide Label Search - Canada.ca](#)

Pesticide spray drift incidents may occur even when an applicator is abundantly cautious. Pesticide incidents including a spray drift incident may be reported to Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development by filling out the [Pesticide Incident Reporting Form](#). A thorough review of [Pesticide Incident Reporting Checklist](#) prior to submitting a pesticide incident reporting form is recommended. The checklist will allow the reporting party to review all the important steps prior to reporting a pesticide incident to Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development.

All pesticide incidents involving human and/or environmental exposure must be reported to Health Canada at [Report a Pesticide Incident - Canada.ca](#).

Southwest Region

Normal daytime highs arrived this week, as temperatures ranged from 28 to 30°C but nighttime lows were cooler, dropping to 2 to 6°C. Average daily temperatures were 17°C over most of the previous week. Crop growth has improved significantly, but lack of moisture hindering the yield potential in most of crops. Thunderstorm systems brought some rain to the Southwest over the past week and on the weekend. Melita, Reston, and Boissevain had 25 to 30 mm rain with less falling further north. Pocket areas close to Rapid City got 40 to 50 mm of rain on the weekend. Many districts can use more moisture, as crops are progressing rapidly, using up all available moisture.

All crops are shorter than normal, and majority of crops have suffered from dry and cold conditions in early spring, sometimes frost and in many cases, insect pressure. Patchy germination is evident in all crops; most crops are stagey.

Early seeded cereal crops are starting to head, and in most cases are shorter than normal. Dry conditions and heat affected tiller

development and overall yield. Later-seeded cereals are in the flag leaf stage. Little to no fungicide application is occurring, as conditions right now are not favorable to disease. Overall 40% of wheat crops are rated excellent, 40% rated good, and 10% of cereals are in poor conditions due to dry weather conditions in the southwest.

Peas and flax have fairly even stands and are progressing well. Flax looks very good, most fields are even, but short. Peas also shorter than normal, and flowering; fungicide applications have begun. Early seeded canola is at flowering or starting to bolt. Several fields are very uneven because of cool conditions and flea beetle damage. Heat over the next few days will have an impact on early seeded crops. Later seeded crops are cabbaging out.

Most soybeans are at the third trifoliolate or higher; majority of fields are very short. As with all crops, stands are stagey due to early dry and cold conditions. Some interveinal chlorosis has been noted. Second pass herbicide

applications will soon wrap up in soybeans. Applications have been delayed due to slow canopy closure and low weed pressure. Nodulation is occurring, and flowering will start soon. Most corn – both grain and silage – has improved in both growth and colour.

Flea beetle pressure has been lowering considerably; canola is finally beyond the susceptible stage. Grasshoppers are being monitored closely. Diamondback moth numbers are still low. Traps will be removed this week. Bertha armyworm counts are low.

Some producers have started haying. First cut looks to be below average, however weather conditions are making very good quality feed. Recent rains have helped pasture but early overgrazed pastures are not looking good. Grasshoppers are starting to cause problems in some areas. Dugouts are 50 to 70% full. In some areas, producers have started to haul water to supplement pasture water sources.

Northwest Region

There were scattered isolated showers through the Northwest region last week. With the exception of pockets in the region, as well as Roblin and The Pas areas where 13mm fell, there were no significant accumulations. Daytime temperatures were over 25°C, however nighttime temperatures were cool and dropped to single digits. Strong winds continued to be an issue through this week, causing stress and damage to crops, blowing fields and posing challenges to pesticide applications. Soil moisture conditions have deteriorated further this week and are a continued concern.

Spring cereals across the region are mostly in the flag leaf stage with heads emerging in the earlier seeded fields. Cereals are rated at 80% in good condition, as they have been better able to withstand the challenging spring conditions. Yield potential of the cereal crop is still positive. Winter wheat and fall rye are heading out in the Roblin area. There are winter wheat fields in the Dauphin area already starting to turn colour.

The pea crop is starting to flower and it is shorter than average due to dry conditions, but crop density remains high. The forecasted extreme heat during flowering is a potential issue.

Canola across the region is in various stages and generally is in poor to fair condition as it is showing the effects of insect feeding, dry conditions, spring frost and wind. Most of the canola is in the late rosette stage and starting to bolt. The exception are those fields that were reseeded or seeded late and these fields are in the seedling/early rosette stage. Flea beetle feeding, dry conditions and cutworm damage is becoming more

noticeable as the season progresses.

Herbicide and fungicide applications continue as correct crop stage is reached and conditions allow. The continuous strong winds and intermittent showers across the region have made spraying a challenge.

Bertha armyworm monitoring continues across the region; cumulative trap count numbers remain low. Damage from flea beetle feeding is becoming more apparent with bare spots in fields. Grasshopper feeding is a concern on pastures and cereals.

Alfalfa crops are progressing rapidly with most fields in the early bloom stage. Alfalfa silage and first cut hay harvest has begun on the eastern side of the Dauphin area. Yields are expected to be lower due to dry conditions. Grasshoppers continue to be a problem. Pastures are holding out however require more moisture to continue growth. Water supplies are low. Corn silage crops are also growing rapidly with the heat and moisture that was received to date throughout the area.

Central Region

Southwesterly winds prevailed early in the week shifting north, cooling temperatures.

Some thundershower activity on the weekend in the region. Precipitation was light on Saturday but moderate on Sunday bringing up to 18 mm in areas along and west of the escarpment. Much of the eastern portion of the region and north of the TransCanada Highway received little to no rain. Topsoil moisture is poor to good at the moment with more rain needed to replenish soil moisture in many areas of the region, as crops are growing and evapotranspiration increasing. Sunny and warming temperatures

are in the forecast this week, which should stimulate crop and forage growth where moisture is adequate but will add stress to crops in areas with poorer soil moisture.

Winter cereals and perennial ryegrass fields are advancing in development. Fall rye and winter wheat fields are mostly done flowering and grain filling is evident. Wheat, oats and barley are growing well west of the escarpment where moisture conditions are more favourable than in the Red River Valley. Many cereal fields are short this year where soil moisture is poor. Development varies from the boot stage to flowering. Herbicide applications are considered done in cereals. Some fungicide applications have occurred to protect against fusarium head blight (FHB) in areas where moisture conditions are favourable and the crop is growing well. Growers facing drier conditions are hesitant to apply fungicide protectant against FHB.

Corn is growth varies with moisture conditions with stage ranging from V4 to V7. Second pass herbicide is going on before canopy closure. Field peas are looking good with development ranging from 7th node to flowering. Bacterial blight has been found in a number of fields this past week. Fungicide protectant is expected in areas with good moisture and favourable conditions for fungal disease development.

Canola staging varies greatly from cotyledon to 30% flowering in the more advanced fields, or within a field. Fungicide application is started on fields with good yield potential and favourable moisture conditions for sclerotinia development while other fields are struggling with limited moisture. [Heat blast](#) is a concern moving into flowering with a hot forecast for the next week.

Flax is growing well, now 10 to 15 cm high and some fields in the bud stage. Sunflower is tolerating the warmer and drier conditions prevailing now up to about V6 to V10 stage.

Soybean fields are into the 3rd to 5th trifoliolate to first flowers showing in some fields. Iron deficiency chlorosis (IDC) symptoms are showing in some fields but fading as the affected fields grow. First pass herbicide applications are mostly done in soybeans, and second pass underway on fields about to close up canopy. In-crop herbicide applications progressed well as conditions were favourable. Good weed control achieved from herbicide application reported. Warmer temperatures and sunny conditions are forecasted this week should allow spraying operations to continue where needed.

In potatoes, late blight spore trapping has begun but no spores found. Colorado potato beetles have become active so monitoring for eggs and larvae is started. True armyworm, a potential cereal pest, pheromone baited traps remain in place with low cumulated counts in the region so far. Bertha armyworm traps are now set up to monitor the emergence of this potential canola pest over the next few weeks. Grasshoppers are a concern in crops in some areas where dry conditions prevail and the crop is under stress.

Producers are interested in cleaning out existing dugouts, constructing new ones or drilling a new well to improve their water supplies. Cattle on pasture have adequate forage for grazing as we are in the peak season for forage production. Hay and pasture growth has improved but more rain is needed to sustain growth. Hay crops are variable depending on age of the stand, fertility and rainfall. Alfalfa is in full flower and grasses are headed out.

Hay crops overall will be below normal, the older grass hay stands will be well below normal. The native hay stands are struggling from the frost and the dryness. Beef producers have started cutting their hay fields as the forages are advancing more quickly due to the dry conditions. Alfalfa weevil and grasshoppers are a concern in hay and pasture.

Eastern Region

Rainfall recorded at the Eastern weather stations ranged from zero to 16 mm across the region. A number of isolated rainstorms that passed through the region that yielded anywhere from 10 to over 30 mm of precipitation in localized areas. Areas in the southeastern parts of the region received more rain. Daytime and nighttime temperatures were above seasonal norms during the reporting period. Last week, moisture deficit stress on annual crops started to be observed in areas of the northern districts where subsoils are known to have low water holding capacity. All producers would welcome an inch or more of rain. Many farmers are concerned about the current high temperatures as cereals are in the midst of flowering and especially as canola begins to flower. Crop development is moving at a rapid pace, being forced by high temperatures.

Winter wheat flowering is ending and fall rye has begun to head fill. Spring cereals are at early head emergence to flowering. Corn is at the V6 to V8 stage. Field pea crops are at 10% flowering stage with very low disease levels in the upper and lower canopy. Sunflowers are at the V7 to V9 stage. Canola is at 4-leaf to rosette stage on reseeded acres and at the bolt stage to early flowering on original seeded acres, with the odd field very close to fungicide timing at 20% bloom. Flax is at the stem extension stage to

early bud. Some symptoms of herbicide induced stress and temporary chlorosis are showing, which is normal in this crop. Soybean is at the 2nd to 3rd trifoliolate on reseeded acres and 4th trifoliolate to early flower (R1) stage on original crop. Symptoms of short-term nitrogen starvation (flash) as nodulation started up and IDC were receding this week.

Fungicides for FHB are going on cereals now as the crop gets to the correct stage. Flag leaf fungicides were completed except for some late seeded fields. Lots of debate amongst producers as to whether fungicides are going to be necessary because of weather conditions relative to FHB infection. A small number of canola fields were at or approaching fungicide application stage. It is expected that the current weather, if it continues, will influence how much canola gets a fungicide application. First pass field pea fungicides were applied last week.

Aphids in cereals was the largest insect concern over the reporting period. When scouting for FHB fungicides, high aphid levels in cereals were being found and insecticides were either being applied alone or applied in a mix with fungicides. Grasshoppers are an ongoing concern to producers but limited spraying was done during the reporting period. Lots of monitoring but limited damage so far. Some of the species being observed are not pest species, which will have an impact on decision-making later.

In southern parts of the region, first cut alfalfa is variable. Some producers are reporting 90% of normal yields down to 60% in areas that had a significant moisture deficit. Younger stands appear to have overwintered really well and produced better than expected. Older stands (3 to 5 years) have had

some overwinter kill in past years so plant populations are down but with advanced root structures they performed somewhat better due to moisture accessibility. Beef producers are also well into first cut and some are reporting very poor yields (50 to 70% of normal) due to lack of moisture.

In northern parts of the region, dairy hay first cut is complete. Dairy hay first cut around 50 to 60% of normal with good quality. Level of stand management and luck in getting timely rain were the two most important factors determining hay yields. Lots of variation on hay yields relating back to these two factors. Some hay fields had normal yields, if the management (especially use of fertilizer) and timely rainfall were on target. Tame beef hay is about 75% cut and 50% baled but wide variety amongst producers. Some done or almost done while others started. Wild hay cutting started last week. Yields 50 to 55% of normal. Quality seen as fair to average. Pastures condition was declining last week with supplemental feeding on pasture continuing.

Producers, both beef and dairy, remain concerned about feed supplies going forward. Increased rainfall over the coming weeks will be very important if improvements in the situation are to occur. Livestock water availability is rated as adequate.

Interlake Region

Limited crop report data available for the Interlake region for the week of June 16 to 22.

Winter cereals are fully headed out, while about some spring wheat is just starting to head and flower, the balance is still jointing. Wheat, barley, and oats are rated as 70% good to 25% fair. Peas are flowering, with good crop stands,

though shorter than normal. Pea fields are 15% excellent to 80% good, 5% fair.

Canola crops have improved somewhat, starting to cabbage over and beginning to bolt. Canola has improved to 65% good, the remainder fair. Soybean fields now have visible rows end-to-end, and the earliest crops are beginning to flower. Most crops are V2 to V3. Flax crops are more uneven, and stands thinner due to water and temperature stresses.

Sunflowers are shorter than normal, reaching the 8-leaf pair (V8) stage. Cornfields have improved and progressing well, but some fields look noticeably drought-stressed with spindly, rolled leaves.

Crop conditions improve moving south in the region, where greater rainfall has improved crop growth. Patchy or uneven crops noticeable throughout the region.

[Alfalfa weevil](#) is causing significant damage in some areas; some insecticide spraying is occurring. Spraying for lygus bugs and aphids is also occurring in alfalfa seed crops. Grasshoppers are hatching in hay, pastures, and roadsides, with some farmers choosing to spray whole fields or just the margins. Feeding pressure is increasing, but damage is lower in pastures with established legumes and shaded/low areas with longer morning dews.

Surface water is very limited in much of the northern Interlake; wells for livestock water are being drilled in the north Interlake, where dugouts in pastures have run dry. Rain is needed imminently for forage growth; livestock producers are facing feed and pasture shortages in the northern parts of the Interlake, particularly on poorer soils.

Haying has started, yields are lower than normal. Most timothy seed crops are in poor condition due to frosts and drought, and may be converted into hay.