

Issue 21 – September 17, 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 24.2 mm (Table 1) with the Central and Southwest regions accumulating the largest amounts of precipitation. Windygates (24.2 mm) received the most precipitation.

Table 1. Seven-day accumulated precipitation (September 9 - September 15) in Manitoba's Agricultural Regions.

Region	Wettest Location last Week	Driest Location last Week
Central	Windygates (24.2 mm)	Cartwright (0.8 mm)
Eastern	Elma, Rosa (4.6 mm)	Severai (0.0 mm)
Interlake	Eriksdale (16.0 mm)	Selkirk, Petersfield (0.6 mm)
Northwest	Ruthenia (13.4 mm)	Reedy Creek (1.1 mm)
Southwest	Kenton (16 mm)	Carberry EC (0.0 mm)

- Climate normals for total accumulated precipitation from May 1 to Sept. 15 range from 255.0 mm to 369.5 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 - 30 cm shows a regional representation of soil moisture conditions for the top 30 cm on September 15, 2024 relative to field capacity. Soil moisture is variable across agro-Manitoba with the majority showing optimal or dry soil moisture conditions at the surface depths. Localized areas of the East, Interlake, and Southwest are showing 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 – September 15, 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 17, 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	85%	70%	95%	95%	90%	87%
Barley	90%	70%	95%	95%	80%	88%
Oats	85%	70%	95%	95%	80%	86%
Field Pea	100%	98%	100%	100%	99%	99%
Canola	45%	25%	70%	40%	45%	49%
Dry Beans	-	-	25%	-	-	25%
Regional AVG	52%	39%	68%	54%	51%	55%

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 oat, and 90 to 115 bu/acre in barley. Canola harvest continues and is approximately 49% 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. 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.

Cereals

- Harvest is complete in fall rye and winter wheat, with 100% of acres being 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, 87% of wheat, 88% of barley, and 86% 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. Levels of fusarium head blight varied greatly from field to field, with some grain quality being reduced to grade two.
- 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. Swathing and pre-harvest applications are ongoing. 49% of the canola crop has been harvested across the province with the Central region reaching 70% complete. The Northwest region is at 25% 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 is expected soon if the weather cooperates. Overall crop condition is rated as good aside from previously flooded and saturated field 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.

Forages & Livestock

Forages

- Dairy producers have completed third cut harvest in Eastern Manitoba. Beef cattle producers continue to work on second cut of tame hayfields.
- Harvest of native forages is progressing in areas that were inaccessible due to moisture earlier this year. Many producers are baling straw as annual crops are being combined. Corn silage harvest has begun. Whole plant moisture in most fields is still a bit high and kernel integrity is a concern for this year's crop.
- Most bales have been removed from fields. Most second cuts have been done, although the second cut is poor, yielding 1 to 2 bales per acre at best, and some are still in the field waiting to be picked. Oat straw is being left behind by the combine and baled in some cases.
- Producers should be mindful of nitrates 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

- Overall forage and pasture growth is more than last year due to the early season moisture. Pastures rarely look this good in September and are still producing regrowth. More producers this year have opted to use grass intended for hay as bale silage due to high humidity and morning dews that prevented adequate drying of hay earlier in the season. Many producers are baling straw as cereal harvest continues, and some have reported higher production of straw this year.
- Cattle on pasture are in good condition. Well managed pastures are looking excellent for this time of year with a combination of stockpiled forage and green re-growth. Water levels in dugouts are decreasing as is expected but remain adequate.
- Dugouts are 35% full in the southwest, and major creeks like the Pipestone have halted flow due to dry weather, while the Souris River is flowing at low levels. Dugouts in other regions of the province are approximately 65% full.

Regional Comments

Southwest

A few rain showers in the area caused slight delays in the harvest during the week. Day time conditions included low humidity, above-normal temperatures, and some decent afternoon winds are helping the harvest.

Temperatures ranged from 29.1°C to 32.7°C, with minimum overnight temperatures between 4.2°C to 10.9°C, and daily averages around 18.5°C. Fall work has begun, with producers harrowing and spraying some fields for weeds missed during preharvest.

The harvest is estimated to be 50 to 55% complete. The quality of all cereal crops is good, with yields reported as average to above average. The winter cereals harvest is complete, and producers are seeding winter wheat and fall rye in fields after canola harvest.

The spring wheat harvest is 85% complete, with most of the crop being of good quality. Yields range from 60 to 80 bushels per acre, depending on the variety and moisture conditions in the area. Recent rains have led to some reports of bleaching in the harvest samples, but this has not significantly affected grain quality.

Barley harvest is 90% complete, with average to above-average yields, and oats are 85% complete. There are reports of lodging in oat fields, which is impacting harvest operations. Field pea harvest is 100% complete, with variable yields depending on moisture conditions.

Overall, 40-45% of the canola has been harvested. Yields are variable, with most fields producing 35-45 bushels per acre. Lodging has been an issue in canola this year due to heavy winds. Many producers are swathing their canola.

Soybean acres in the Southwest region are looking promising, benefiting from favorable fall weather conditions. Much of the crop is at the R7 to R8 growth stage, with some early-maturing varieties dropping leaves. There are no reports of soybean harvest yet.

Northwest

Generally, a good week for harvest progress with a pause mid-week due to precipitation in some parts of the region. A hot start to the week with highest daytime temperature recorded at Birch River station at 35 °C. The lowest overnight temperature in the region was recorded at the Minitonas station at 2.7 °C. Drifting River station and Swan Valley received the most precipitation this week at 12 mm.

Harvest in some areas has been a challenge and slow at times where crops had been lodged this season. This includes cereals, oilseeds as well as field peas. Post harvest operations are occurring on some fields as time allows.

Field pea harvest is approximately 98% complete. Average yield so far is 60 to 65 bushels/acre.

Spring wheat harvest continues across the region and is approximately 70% complete. Average reported yield so far is approximately 65 to 70 bushels/acre. With some fields averaging less at 40 to 50 bu/ac and some going 80 bu/acre plus.

Canola harvest is also underway and is approximately 20-25% complete across the region with some areas more advanced. Swathing and desiccation continue 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 to 40 bu/acre.

Central

Regional air temperature highs were between 28 - 34 °C, but nighttime lows were between 5 - 11 °C. Most locations received less than 10 mm of precipitation, high humidity and high winds. 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, and some lodging in cereals. Cover crop seeding is wrapping up as mid-September is typically considered the last opportunity for establishment.

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 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%. 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 were waterlogged 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 have progressed rapidly over the past week given the warm and dry conditions, with most now between R7 (beginning maturity) to R8 (full maturity). It is likely that the first soybean fields will be harvested in the coming week. Many fields have changed colour and leaves dropped. Dry beans harvest continues, with dealers receiving loads of early maturing beans such as light red kidney, cranberry, black and pinto beans. Like many of the crops this year, there is a large range in dry bean yields. Dry beans have yielded anywhere from 500 to 3,500 lbs/acre.

Canola harvest is progressing rapidly, sitting at approximately 70%. 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 65 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. Pre-harvest herbicides have been applied and the earliest fields may begin to be harvested in the coming week. Overall flax crops are good aside from areas which were waterlogged early in the season.

Sunflowers are between R8 (back of the head fully yellow, bracts remaining green), and (R9 bracts becoming yellow and brown, physiological maturity). The crop is progressing well.

Corn is at R5 (dent), with milk lines progressing down the kernels. With the warm fall, the crop is progressing rapidly, and most producers will likely be able to reach physiological maturity before a killing frost. Corn silage harvest has begun, although high plant moisture and kernel integrity is a concern for this year's crop.

Eastern

Over the reporting period, rainfall accumulations in the region ranged from trace amounts to about 8 mm with most areas receiving very little rainfall. Day and nighttime temperatures were above seasonal during most of the week and accompanied by high humidity levels and strong winds. The weather allowed producers to make rapid progress on harvesting and field work. Unsettled weather with rainfall rolled into the region on Monday morning bringing activity to at least a temporary halt as producers waited to see what unfolds.

About 95% 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 were averaging about 85 bu/acre. Pre-harvest applications, swathing and harvesting will continue over at least the next two weeks given how late some crops were seeded.

Corn crops continued to develop rapidly with cobs in the dent growth stage and milk lines moving down kernels as they approach physiological maturity. Growers and agronomists remain 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.

In most fields, soybeans are at the R7 (beginning maturity – at least one brown pod on plants) growth stage with leaf turn and leaf drop very evident. Some fields of earlier seeded crop or those seeded to early maturing varieties were in growth stage R8 (full maturity) and were drying down with a start to harvest possible this week if weather allows. Overall, crop condition remains good

Canola harvest is around 40% complete. Reported yields ranged from 35 to 55+ bu/acre with the average pegged at around 43 bu/acre. The wide variation in planting dates means a long harvest season. Pre-harvest herbicide applications and swathing will continue over the next two weeks as more and more of the crop comes due. Late seeded canola was mostly physiologically mature and drying down.

Earlier seeded sunflower fields are moving into the R9 (bracts becoming yellow and brown, physiological maturity) growth stage while later seeded fields were well into the R8 growth stage (back of the head fully yellow, bracts remaining green). Overall crop condition was considered good.

Flax fields are fully in growth stage 12 (seeds ripe) with leaves and branches dried down and most green stems well on their way to turning brown. Pre-harvest herbicide applications are complete, and harvest is expected soon if the weather cooperates. Overall crop condition was rated as good aside from previously flooded and saturated field areas.

Interlake

Intermittent rains resulted in minor delays and producers continue to make progress with harvest. The northern parts of the region received up to 16 mm, while southern areas received less than 10 mm. Many producers are

caught up on canola and cereals and are waiting for soybeans to be ready. Daytime high temperatures were in the low 30s°C, with average temperatures of 19.5°C. Swathing and desiccation of crops continues.

Winter cereal harvest has progressed well at 100% complete. Yield reports ranged from 40 to 100 bu/acre for fall rye and winter wheat. Spring wheat harvest is estimated at 90% complete with yield reports in the 50 to 85 bu/acre range, with most yield in the 65 to 80 bu/acre. The quality is good with noticeable fusarium in some samples as well as some bleaching following rains.

Oat harvest continues with yields ranging from 120 to 145 bu/acre and at 80% complete. Barley harvest is advancing well, with yields to date ranging from 80 to 100 bu/acre. Some oats are reported as light, but most are reported as adequate in weight.

Pea harvest is at 99% complete. Yield reports range from 45 to 65 bu/acre with good quality. Soybean turning rapidly in most fields. Most soybeans have advanced from R6 to R7 nearing physiological maturity but vary across the Interlake region; majority of fields are yellow-brown and actively dropping leaves depending on variety and seeding date.

Canola harvest is approximately 45% complete. Yield reports in the 45 to 55 bu/acre with good quality. Seed size is reported as smaller than normal. Swathing in later seeded and re-seeded canola should start in the coming weeks. Most sunflowers are at R7 to R8 stage. Flax is at growth stage 12. Desiccation applications has started in some areas.

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.