

Issue 23 – October 2, 2024

Crop Report



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Weekly Provincial Summary

- Agro-Manitoba received variable amounts of precipitation over the past eight days. Precipitation ranged from 0 mm to 7.6 mm (Table 1) with most regions receiving less than 1 mm. The Pas (7.6 mm) received the most precipitation.

Table 1. Eight-day accumulated precipitation (September 23 - 30) in Manitoba's Agricultural Regions.

Region	Wettest Location last Week	Driest Location last Week
Central	Somerset (1.0 mm)	Several (0.0 mm)
Eastern	Pinawa (1.9 mm)	Several (0.0 mm)
Interlake	Moosehorn (2.5 mm)	Several (0.0 mm)
Northwest	The Pas (7.6 mm)	Several (0.0 mm)
Southwest	Alexander (1.1 mm)	Several (0.0 mm)

- Climate normals for total accumulated precipitation from May 1 to Sept. 30 range from 279.1 mm to 397.9 mm and are based on 30-year historical data. Precipitation accumulation in most areas has 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 Sept. 30, 2024 relative to field capacity. Soil moisture is variable across agro-Manitoba with the majority showing optimal 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 – Sept. 30, 2024. GDD Accumulation is between 105% and 115% 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 30, 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	98%	90%	100%	98%	100%	95%
Barley	98%	90%	100%	100%	99%	98%
Oats	98%	90%	100%	100%	99%	98%
Field Pea	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Canola	75%	65%	85%	85%	80%	78%
Flax	30%	-	20%	-	-	17%
Soybean	25%	5%	40%	30%	50%	29%
Dry Bean	60%	-	60%	-	-	60%
Regional AVG	69%	61%	81%	75%	73%	73%

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

Overview

Harvest continues in spring cereals and canola. Spring cereals are nearing completion, and canola harvest is estimated at 78% complete. Soybean harvest progressed rapidly throughout the week, with 29% estimated as complete across the province. Flax harvest has started, with 17% estimated as complete. A minimal amount of corn has been harvested in the Eastern region. Progress has been made on fall field work including tillage and ditching. Fall herbicide and fertilizer applications have started.

Cereals

- Spring cereal harvest continues, 95% of wheat, and 98% of barley and oats estimated as complete.
- Spring wheat yield estimates range from 40 to 95 bu/acre, with averages estimated at 70 bu/acre. Protein ranges from 10 to 15%.
- Oat yield estimates range from 110 to 180 bu/acre.
- Barley yield estimates range from 80 to 120 bu/acre.
- Corn continues to develop rapidly with the warm weather, cobs are in dent stage to physiological maturity. Corn harvest has just started in the Eastern region.

Oilseeds

- Canola harvest continues in most regions of the province, with 78% estimated as complete. Canola yields range from 25 to 65 bu/acre, with averages ranging from 30 to 45 bu/acre.
- Flax harvest is estimated as 17% complete across the province, with yields ranging from 20 to 25 bu/acre in the Southwest.
- 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). Desiccation has started.

Pulses and Soybeans

- Dry bean harvest has started with approximately 60% of the crop being harvested. A wide range of yields are reported, but average yields estimated as 1700 to 2000 lbs/acre.
- Soybean harvest continues with yields ranging from 35 to 60 bu/acre, and an average of 45 bu/acre.

Forages & Livestock

Forages

- Baling of straw is almost complete and bales are being hauled into feed yards.
- Forage and pasture growth is more than last year due to the early season moisture.
- Harvest of remaining tame and native hayfields is wrapping up.
- Corn silage harvest is just starting in the Northwest region and ranges from 50 to 75% complete across the remaining regions. Reported yields range from 6 to 10 tonnes/acre.
- 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 excellent condition. Well managed pastures are looking good for this time of year, however growth is slowing as temperatures fall and days shorten.
- Producers have started supplementing animals with hay on pasture.
- Some operations are beginning to bring cattle in for weaning and fall marketing of calves.
- Excess moisture in some areas is causing issues underfoot.
- Water levels in dugouts remain adequate.

Regional Comments

Southwest

Temperatures have been variable, with daytime highs ranging from 27 to 32°C. Overnight lows have dropped as low as 0.8 to 6.5°C, but there have been no reports of frost yet. Heavy winds in the area during the weekend caused some disruption.

Harvest continues, with reports indicating an overall average completion rate ranging from 65% to 70%. A week of good weather would wrap up most acres. Significant progress has been made on planned tillage operations, and ditching continues. Some areas are looking for rain post-harvest to benefit soil moisture levels for next year and improve tillage conditions in some soils. Fertilizer application has started, and there is a lot of regrowth in canola and cereal fields.

The spring wheat harvest for many in the region is complete, with overall progress estimated at 95% to 98%. Yields have generally been good, and straw has been baled immediately following cereal harvest. Some post-harvest herbicide applications are also occurring. Oat and barley harvest is 98% complete, with some growers green feeding the regrowth in oats, which has headed out again.

Canola harvest is estimated to be 75% to 80% complete. Early yield reports range from 30 to 45 bu/acre, with average yields expected to be in the 35 to 40 bu/acre range. The flax harvest is estimated to be 30% complete, with yields ranging from 20 to 25 bu/acre.

Soybean harvest progress is estimated at 20% to 25% complete, no yield reports at this time.

Sunflowers are at the R8 stage, with early varieties turning yellow. Corn is at the R6 stage, with black-layer cobs starting their drying process. Hemp is either mature or harvested.

Northwest

A stretch of high temperatures have allowed for good harvest progress this week. Daytime highs reached upper 20's and low 30's °C. The Pas station received the highest precipitation this week at 7.6 mm. Heavy dews in the morning continue to narrow the harvest window at this time of year. Extreme winds and wind gusts across the region on Monday were a challenge and caused canola swaths to blow. The highest wind gusts were recorded at Keld station at 86 km/hr.

Spring wheat harvest continues across the region and is approximately 90% complete. Lodged fields have made for some slow progress in some fields. Average reported yield so far is approximately 65 to 70 bu/acre. With some fields averaging less at 40-50 bu/acre and some going 80 bu/acre plus.

Canola harvest is approximately 65% complete across the region. Progress is more advanced in Swan Valley and The Pas while Dauphin/Ste. Rose continues to be behind due to many challenges this spring.

Swathing/desiccation is mostly wrapped up. Reported yields have been quite varied based on crop conditions throughout the season as well as disease pressure but are generally lower than average. Average yields so far have been approximately 30-40 bu/acre.

Soybean crops are in R7 to R8 stage and looking good. Soybean harvest has begun in the Swan Valley area and expected to begin soon in the rest of the region.

Seeding of winter wheat and fall rye is complete. Earliest seeded crops have emerged and look good with recent moisture and warm temperatures.

Central

The Central region received very little or no rainfall, with Somerset (1 mm) receiving the most. Warm, dry, and windy conditions throughout the week allowed for much of the standing water in fields and ditches to recede and for more producers to return to the fields early in the week. Some areas in Winkler and Morris which received high amounts of rainfall the previous week had to wait much longer for fields to dry to allow for field activities. Some rural roads remained impassible into the beginning of the week.

Winter cereals and fall cover crops are developing well and have benefited from fall rains and the warm conditions. Spring cereal harvest is complete. Some pre-harvest sprouting and lodging issues were seen in cereals that were not harvested before last week's heavy rain event. Spring wheat yields range from 60 to 95 bu/acre, with an average of 70 to 80 bu/acre. Protein levels are between 11 to 15%. Barley yields range from 80 to 120 bu/acre, with an average yield around 90 bu/acre. Oat yields were in the range of 110 to 180 bu/acre, with the average around 150 bu/acre. A greater volume of straw was reported on farms this year. This made harvest slower for some producers and encouraged more producers to bale straw this year.

Soybean harvest is at 40% complete, with harvest progressing rapidly over the past week given the warm and dry conditions. Early yields have been very good for most producers, ranging from 35 to 60 bu/acre, with averages close to 45 bu/acre.

Dry bean harvest is approximately 60% complete. There is a large range in dry bean yield. Dry beans have yielded anywhere from 500 to 3,500 lbs/acre, with an average around 1,700 - 2,000 lbs/acre. There have been some quality issues following the high rainfall received the previous week, particularly where the beans were already cut.

Canola harvest is approximately 85% complete. 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. Yields vary greatly from 25 to 65 bu/acre, with an average of 45 bu/acre.

Flax harvest is underway with pre-harvest herbicides applied. Overall flax crops are good aside from areas which had waterlogging early in the season, and there are a few patches within fields which will likely yield poorly.

Sunflowers are at R9 (bracts becoming yellow and brown, physiological maturity) with a pre harvest herbicide applied on many fields. There are more diseases and head rot this year due to the recent wet conditions, and some producers have reported midge damage.

Corn is mostly at the end of R5 (dent), with milk lines well advanced down the kernels. With the warm fall, the crop has progressed rapidly, and many fields are very close to physiological maturity. It is possible that some of the most advanced fields may begin to be harvested towards the end of the week, if conditions allow. Corn is expected to reach physiological maturity before a killing frost.

Eastern

During the reporting period, trace rainfall occurred across the Eastern Region and daytime temperatures were well above normal during the week. Most days featured moderate to strong winds which aided with crop dry down. Producers made significant progress on harvest and field work during the week as crops and fields dried out. Those in districts that experienced higher amounts of rainfall had to wait until at least mid-week before any progress could be made. These growers had to deal with more difficult field access, muddy conditions and standing water in some fields, although these challenges lessened somewhat as the week went on.

Spring wheat, oats and barley harvest is almost complete. Yield and quality reports for spring wheat show 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 suggest an average yield of 145 bu/acre with bushel weights ranging from 35 lbs to over 45 lbs. Barley is averaging about 85 bu/acre. The last of the crop being harvested has lost quality because of sprouting and bleaching but represents a small proportion of the overall cereal harvest.

Many corn crops have reached black layer and are drying down with the remainder in late dent and close to physiological maturity. A few reports of some very limited harvest activity were received and there is potential for some harvesting of early maturing hybrids later this week if the weather conditions continue to be favourable.

Soybean harvest continues with fields at R8 (full maturity) and ready to harvest or continuing to dry down. About 30% of the crop has been harvested with yields ranging from 35 to 60 bu/acre and an average of around 45 bu/acre.

Canola harvest is around 85% complete. Reported yields ranged from 20 to 50+ bu/acre with the average around 40 bu/acre. Sunflower fields are at the R9 (bracts becoming yellow and brown, physiological maturity) growth stage. Pre-harvest herbicide and desiccant applications have started and will continue as fields mature. Flax is in growth stage 12 (seeds ripe) with the crop drying down. Pre-harvest herbicide applications are complete and harvest is just beginning.

Interlake

Good weather conditions across the Interlake throughout the week. Precipitation continues to be variable with minimal to no rainfall throughout most of the region. Good harvest progress was made last week.

Spring wheat harvest is complete, with yield reports ranging from 50 to 85 bu/acre. Oat and barley harvest is estimated as 99% complete, with oat yields ranging from 120 to 145 bu/acre and barley yields ranging from 80 to 100 bu/acre. Some reports of light oats.

Corn is at dent and close to physiological maturity depending on the hybrid. No reports of grain corn harvest to date; moisture levels are still over 30%.

Pea harvest is complete with an average yield of 45 to 65 bu/acre with good quality. Soybean harvest started last week and is estimated at 50% complete with early yield reports ranging from 40 to 55 bu/acre. Late seeded soybean crops for most areas ranged from the late R7 to R8 (95% brown pod and drying down).

Canola harvest is estimated at 80% complete, with many producers in the southern areas of the region close to completion. Yield reports range from 45 to 55 bu/acre with good quality. Swathing in later seeded canola is ongoing. Most sunflowers are in the R8 or R9 growth stages and some fields have been desiccated. There have been reports of head rot due to excess moisture during the growing season. Harvest is expected to start in the coming weeks. Flax is at growth stage 12 with noticeable dry down of leaves and branches and brown stems. Some preharvest herbicides have been applied in flax.

Fall herbicide applications have begun. Tillage operations and fall fertilizer continue where possible. Alfalfa seed harvest started in the north Interlake. Fall rye and winter wheat are growing well with even germination.