Southwest Region
Little to no rainfall over the past week allowed producers to make good progress harvesting. However, rainfall on Monday resulted in 30 to 75 mm of precipitation.
Cereal crop harvest ranges from 20 to 40% complete with average to above average yields and good quality. A few early seeded canola fields have been harvested south of Highway #1. Pea harvest is nearly complete with yields average to above average and good quality. Sunflower crops are starting to mature with ray flowers beginning to drop. Corn continues to develop with good yield potential.

Northwest Region
Significant rain fell over the eastern side of the region with amounts ranging from 12 mm near Dauphin to 50 to 100 mm near Ste. Rose. Winter wheat harvest is complete. Spring wheat harvest has just begun around Roblin and Dauphin, with 15% complete around Ste. Rose and 25% around Swan River. Yields range from below average to average with good quality. Canola development is further behind with only 10% swathed around Roblin and Dauphin, 45% in Ste. Rose and 65% in Swan River. Pastures in the eastern side of the region are suffering from excess moisture. Feed supplies will be tight because of little carryover in the feed yard, lower first cut hay yields and minimal native hay put up.

Central Region
Warm temperatures last week advanced crops and allowed for good progress with harvest. Spring wheat harvest ranges from 25% complete in some areas up to 50% complete in the Treherne and Morden areas. Wheat yields are ranging from 45 to 70 bu/acre. Barley yields are 70 to 90 bu/acre and oat yields are 90 to 130 bu/acre. Canola is being swathed and harvested yields range from 30 to 50 bu/acre. Early maturing edible bean varieties are close to being cut with later maturing varieties yellowing off. Winter wheat and fall rye are being seeded. White mould is being reported in a number of edible bean and soybean fields. Potato harvest continues with above average yields being reported. Livestock producers are doing second cut alfalfa hay and baling straw.

Eastern Region
Warm temperatures this past week helped crops mature and aided harvest. Winter wheat harvest is almost complete. Yields range from 60 to 85 bu/acre with an average of 70 bu/acre; sprouting has resulted in downgrading. Barley harvest is over 50% complete and yields range from 50 to 80 bu/acre. Much of the spring wheat has been desiccated. Straight cut wheat is being harvested. Early seeded spring wheat yields are 40 to 50 bu/acre. Canola is 50% swathed and harvested yields are average with good quality. Sclerotinia infections are evident in late seeded canola fields. Soybeans are advancing and are in the R6 growth stage. White mould is still being reported in some soybean fields. Sunflowers are in the R6 growth stage. Corn also made significant progress and is in the late milk stage. Feed supplies remain a concern with many producers. Producers are taking second and third cuts, as well as baling straw, to supplement feed supplies.

Interlake Region
Above average day time temperatures and dry conditions during the past week advanced crop development. Rains began overnight Sunday continuing into Monday. The Ashern/Moosehorn area and Eriksdale area west received up to 45 mm. Harvest progress in the region ranges from 0 to 30% complete. The earliest planted wheat fields, along with barley and oats, have started to be harvested. The majority of spring wheat acres in the south Interlake
are mature and now need to dry down before harvest can start. Cereal grains in the northern part of the region are further behind in development, with the exception of the Ashern/Moosehorn area where cereal harvest is underway. Approximately 70% of the canola crop has been swathed and harvest has started. In the northern areas, swathing of canola has just begun. Field pea harvest has started. There was good progress made with haying across the region; in some areas first cut continued and in other areas second cut has started. Harvest of greenfeed crops is general.

Commodities

Canola
The canola crop in the province is ripening and waiting to be swathed, swathed and waiting to be combined or a few fields are combined. Yields are varied (25–50 bu/ac) depending on the area, early season stresses like frost or excess moisture and/or disease. Presence of sclerotinia, blackleg and alternaria pod spot are becoming very obvious in fields in the past couple of weeks. When assessing time of swathing, determine whether plants are ripe because of maturity being reached or disease presence.

A reminder for canola going into the bin, the drier and cooler it can be binned at and maintained in the bin, the less spoilage you have to worry about. Under the Canada Grains Act, the maximum moisture at which canola can be marketed, as straight grade (dry) is 10% moisture. This is NOT the safe level to store it at right off the field. Canola goes through a period of “sweating” after binning. If heat and moisture are not quickly removed, mold growth and increased respiration occurs (increasing temperature and moisture). Seeds can be conditioned - using aeration, natural-air drying or a combination to ensure safe storage (reduces temperature and moisture). Under Manitoba conditions, canola can be stored for long periods of time at moisture levels of 8 to 9% if seed temperature is below 20°C. For more information visit Canadian Grains Commission website for article at http://www.grainscanada.gc.ca/storage-entrepose/jmills/shsap-depae-2-eng.htm.

Flax
The majority of flax crop is ripening and changing color. In preparation for harvest, desiccation or swathing should not occur until 75% of the bolls have turned brown. Diseased spots and premature ripening is appearing in some fields. Walk in and determine the reason – is it pasmo? It looks like brown spots on the leaves and on the stems, further details at http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/diseases/fac19s00.html. If you are seeing pasmo infections, the disease presence is an indication that fungicide applications may be warranted in future flax crops in that field.

Sunflowers
The sunflower crop is finishing flowering (R5 – R6) and in more advanced fields in the southwest and central regions, flowering is complete and the back of the heads are starting to turn yellow (R7 – R8). Disease incidence is still a problem in fields, visible disease such as sclerotinia wilt (basal and mid stalk) will show dead plants, but also watch for head rot, phoma, phomopsis, alternaria and verticillium wilt. With no fungicide treatment available and being long-lived soil borne diseases, incidence of verticillium and sclerotinia emphasizes the importance of maintaining a 3 or 4 year rotation between sunflowers with non host crops. For more information visit http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/diseases/ and www.canadasunflower.com.

Soybeans
Soybeans continue to develop and the majority of the crop is in the R6 stage with the exception of the northeast part of the province are not as advanced. High humidity, rain and crop canopy closure have all added to white mould problems in many fields and some have up to 40% of the plants infected. Parts of fields that were water stressed are starting to die prematurely but they would have added very little to yield anyway. Overall plants are short and pod set is very close to the ground.

Last week we got some good heat during the day and warmer night time temperatures.

Potatoes
Harvest of direct haul potatoes for off field delivery to market (processing and tablestock) continued last week. Direct Ranger
Russet harvest for processing is complete or nearly so. One additional case of late blight was confirmed in the province last week. As well, there was one new case of late blight confirmed in the Grand Forks North Dakota area last week. It is recommended that scouting of fields for late blight continue until harvest. As foliar symptoms of other diseases, such as white mold, can appear similar to late blight proper identification of any symptoms is essential for disease management. Send any suspect plants to the Crop Diagnostic Lab on the University of Manitoba campus (545 University Crescent, Winnipeg, MB R3T 5S6). Contact MAFRI staff to assist in disease identification and to facilitate delivery of samples to the lab. It is recommended that producers continue with a fungicide spray program as top growth needs to continue to be protected until harvest is completed. The continued protection of potato vines will minimize the risk of late blight spores contacting the tubers at harvest therefore reducing the risk of late blight developing in storage and allowing the entry of secondary rot organisms into tubers.

Aphid monitoring this week found a significant increase in the number of green peach aphids collected at one site in the southern region. It is possible that these are migrant aphids from the south that came in on the wind but they may also just be moving out of crops being swathed nearby. This may or may not indicate an increase in all areas. Regardless, aphid season is still well under way at this point and diligent scouting should continue as other crops are swathed/harvested and warm temperatures continue.