Southwest Region

Seeding operations resumed at the beginning of the week and warm and sunny conditions prevailed most of the week. A few scattered showers resulted in minimal accumulations; moisture conditions are rated as good.

Approximately 70% of the cereal crop is seeded; some areas have completed seeding with some areas still waiting for drier conditions. Fifty percent of the canola and flax crop has been planted and producers are starting to plant sunflowers.

Early seeded cereal crops are in the 2 to 3 leaf stage and some early seeded canola crops are starting to emerge. Weed control will be starting in the early seeded cereal crops.

Pasture and hayland have improved from the recent rains and several producers have started moving cattle to pasture.

Northeast Region

Favorable weather conditions were widespread across the Northwest region. Field conditions are variable as some wet soils remain; however, spring operations have generally resumed.

Approximately 70% of the planned cereal acres are seeded with the most progress seen in the southern half of the region. Total canola seeded acres is estimated at 35% complete. The Roblin area is 60% complete, while canola seeding progress is variable in other areas, ranging from 15 to 45% complete. Approximately 35% of the wheat acres has emerged and ranges in development from 2 to 4 leaf stage.

Pre-seed herbicide applications are being done. Hay and pasture growth is developing well. Livestock are being moved to pasture.

Central Region

Producers are welcoming this week’s forecast of warm temperatures and no rain. The west side of the region was back in the field by the end of last week while the east side is waiting and should resume seeding early this week.

Portage, Carberry, Somerset and Pilot Mound areas are finishing up cereal seeding and should be done in the coming week. Corn, soybean and sunflower seeding will continue this week and some producers may start seeding edible beans at end of week.

Germination of the early seeded crop is a concern to a few producers due to the cool and wet conditions of the last two weeks. Frost damage is evident on cereals with symptoms of yellow banding on the leaves.

Winter wheat growth is very good and a number of producers were able to spray herbicides. Some fields in the Somerset area with volunteer winter wheat are showing symptoms of wheat streak mosaic. Herbicide applications will begin on early seeded cereals. Burnoff herbicide applications will be taking place this week given the good weed growth.

Diamondback moths have been found in pheromone-baited traps in the Altona and Carman areas. Flea beetle activity is noticeable on volunteer canola and early seeded canola at low levels.

Forage and pasture have enough moisture and will welcome the heat for growth. The expected earlier harvest of alfalfa maybe delayed a few days because of the cool wet weather in the last two weeks.

Eastern Region

Seeding was delayed by cool weather and rain showers early in the week. Light field work started Friday afternoon to help dry unseeded fields and control weed populations.

Early seeded cereal crops are emerging nicely; wheat and barley development ranges from emergence to 3 leaf stage and oats range from emergence to 2 leaf stage. Canola development ranges from emergence to cotyledon stage. Soybeans, flax, corn and sunflowers are expected to emerge next week.
with the warmer temperatures. Fields that experienced higher rainfall amounts have thin crop stands and patchy emergence in some low areas.

Winter wheat fields are tillering and in-crop spraying will continue this week. Weed populations are high, particularly in unseeded fields. Wet field conditions prevented some burnoff herbicide applications from occurring. Wild oats are the primary weed problem in many seeded fields.

There is evidence of diamondback moths and flea beetles in some areas but trap counts still remain relatively low.

Hay fields and pastures have improved following the precipitation and warm weather late in the week. More cattle are expected to be placed on pasture this week and next week.

Interlake Region

Temperatures were cool at the start of week but improved over the weekend. Only trace amounts of precipitation was received throughout the region.

Seeding was delayed until end of the week in areas where soils were saturated from the recent rains. Seeding progress in the south Interlake ranges between 75 and 100% complete with a few pockets about 50% completed. Canola and soybeans are the predominant crops currently being planted. In the Arborg, Riverton and Ashern areas, seeding is estimated to be 50% complete, with 75% of the cereals seeded and 25 to 30% of the canola planted. Seeding was delayed until the weekend in the area west of Fisher Branch due to wet field conditions.

Pre-seeding herbicide applications are being made.

Early planted wheat crops are in the 2 to 3 leaf stage. Herbicide applications have started on winter wheat crops.

Warm temperatures have improved pasture grass and hay crop growth. A few cattle herds are grazing pastures with supplemental forage feed being provided.

Commodities

Cereals

The above normal temperatures and good seedbed conditions in April allowed many producers to start seeding their spring cereal acres. At the end of April, cereal seeding progress ranged from 15 to 95% complete with the most progress seen in the Central and Eastern regions. Seeding progress slowed into May due to the cool and wet conditions but with the forecasted warm, dry weather, seeding of spring cereals should wrap up within the next week or so. Staging of cereal crops range from just seeded to 3 leaf stage.

Early growth has been slow in recent weeks due to the cool and wet conditions. Depending on amount of moisture received, emergence and stand establishment have been impacted in some fields. There have also been reports of yellow banding on cereal crops. Banding occurs when temperatures at the soil surface fluctuate widely, i.e. cool temperatures at night to warm temperatures during the day. The leaves will present with alternate color bands of yellow and green leaf tissue that correlates with the high and low temperatures. Banding can also occur when frosted leaves are quickly dried by surface heat generated by solar radiation. Injury is temporary as symptoms will eventually fade away. Majority of winter wheat acres survived the winter extremely well and crop growth this spring has been excellent. Herbicide applications will be winding down shortly. Producers should be scouting their fields for disease pressure.

Greenhouse Plants

Sales for bedding plants from local suppliers to retailers have been brisker than normal in the April period. Retail demand has fallen since the rain and cooler temperatures prevailed in May. Retailers report that sales have picked up considerably over the past weekend due to the return of more seasonal normal temperatures. Both warm season vegetable transplants such as tomato and pepper as well as flowering plants such as marigold have begun to move smartly leading up to the May long weekend.

Potatoes

The warm weather experienced during April resulted in a significant amount of the Manitoba’s potato crop being planted before cool wet weather arrived at the end of April.
Prior to the change in weather, close to 70% of the potato planting was completed on the western side of the province and 50% of the potatoes on the eastern side. The wet weather only delayed farmers on the western side of the province by about a week and they are close to completion of planting. On the eastern side of the province, producers were delayed a little longer and are now back in the fields completing planting.