Southwest Region

Most of the region received rainfall over the past week with the majority of accumulation occurring on the weekend. Strong winds were also reported. Overall moisture condition is rated as good; however some areas are reporting excess moisture.

Seeding of cereal crops is 90% complete with early seeded crops in the 3 to 4 leaf stage. With good growing conditions producers will begin spraying for weed control by end of the week. Oilseed crop seeding is 70% complete with some of the early seeded crops starting to emerge. Sunflower, corn and soybean planting are 50% complete. Peas and lentils are 100% seeded and have emerged with most producers preparing to spray for weeds. With good weather this week producers will complete seeding.

Winter wheat and fall rye crops look good in most areas with some of the early rye in the flag leaf stage. Wheat streak mosaic was reported in the Tilston area with producers having to reseed.

Pastures are in good shape and many producers have cattle out grazing. Dugouts are three-quarters to full.

Northwest Region

Over the weekend, most areas in the region received precipitation.

Along with some periods of very high winds, planting and preseed herbicide operations were interrupted. Some producers continue to deal with wet soil conditions and have little seeded to date. Producers in The Pas have just completed wheat planting with none emerged. Overall, approximately 90% of cereals have been seeded with 60% at the 2 to 4 leaf stage. About 75% of the canola acres are seeded and 40% has emerged. Some poor germination has been reported with some reseeding being done.

Flea beetle activity on canola has been a concern on some of the early seeded canola stands. Wild oats and other annuals are emerging in-crop.

Forages and pastures are rated in good to excellent condition.

Central Region

Rainfall resulted in varied accumulations across the region which will delay the finishing of seeding for a few days. Weeds are growing very well with the rain and warm weather and producers will want to get some spraying completed this week. Fields are being sprayed with burndown chemicals prior to seeding to control emerged weeds.

Cereals are in the 4 to 5 leaf stage and starting to tiller. Canola growth is variable, ranging from cotyledon to 4 leaf stage. Sunflowers and soybeans are just emerging. A few fields have had germination issues; some canola, wheat, oats, barley and corn acres were reseeded due to excess moisture, crusting or seed rot. Early seeded potato fields are starting to emerge and hilling has begun.

A few fields in the Portage and Carberry areas were sprayed for flea beetles. In a number of canola fields the flea beetles are feeding on plants but canola growth is able to keep ahead. Producers should be aware that cutworms are appearing in fields. Diamondback moths are being collected in traps and canola fields will be monitored for larvae in the coming weeks.

Cattle are being put out on pastures and the recent rain will keep pastures growing well.

Eastern Region

Seeding in the region resumed earlier in the week which allowed many producers to wrap up their spring planting by the weekend. The majority of unseeded acres include soybeans and canola. In a few areas seed rot damage in oat fields due to excess moisture prompted some re-seeding to occur. Excellent germination for all crops in the majority of fields has lead to very good plant populations.

Cereal crop development ranges from emergence to early tillering stage, while canola ranges from emergence to first true leaf stage.
Soybeans, corn and sunflowers are just emerging. Herbicide spraying in winter wheat fields is complete and fields are tilling.

Optimal growing conditions are favoring hay fields and pastures. First cut alfalfa is expected to begin later this week.

Weed populations continue to increase with ideal growing conditions this past week. In-crop spraying in cereals has begun and is expected to increase once field conditions improve. Flea beetle activity is a concern in some areas where canola emergence was delayed due to prolonged cool weather and recent temperature increase. There’s evidence of damage to young canola seedlings but no reports of spraying insecticides. Diamondback moth counts are high in a few areas indicating a potential concern later this summer.

### Commodities

#### Cereals

Cereal seeding progress ranges from 90 to 100% complete with crop development ranging from 1-leaf to tillering stage. As a result of excess moisture impacting germination and establishment, some wheat, barley, oat fields have been re-seeded in the Central and Eastern Regions. However, the majority of cereal acres are advancing nicely.

The warm weather last week brought with it rapid crop and weed development. Weed control was a priority last week for many producers and herbicide applications will continue this week once fields have dried. Yield loss caused by weeds can be reduced by maintaining good weed control during the critical weed removal period. Scout fields to determine which weed species are present, weed density, crop and weed staging. Refer to product labels as they outline the recommended crop and weed stage for application, as well as rates, application information (water volume, nozzles and pressure), tank mix options, possible effects of growing conditions, and restrictions (rainfall, re-entry, re-cropping, etc).

In winter wheat, disease pressure has been low to date but this could change quickly with humid conditions and warmer temperatures. With foliar diseases (leaf rust, tan spot, septoria leaf disease complex) producers should continue scouting their fields prior to and up to flag leaf emergence, along with keeping an eye on the weather forecast, in order to react to any potential issues. If disease pressure, weather conditions and crop yield potential warrant application, foliar fungicides should be applied preventatively, before the disease is well-established in the crop, and according to product label to provide maximum benefit.

Recent strong winds may result in sandblasting injury; however the recent rainfalls will likely help mitigate some of the risk. Light, sandy soil areas are the most common areas of sandblasting in a field. Sandblasting injury is caused by winds impacting soil particles against the plant leaves. The symptoms can appear as small abrasions on leaves and often will appear coppery in color. Severe winds can also shred plants making them prone to desiccation.

#### Fruit Crops

Flea beetles are present in some canola fields but are not yet causing economic damage. Forages have advanced nicely under excellent growing conditions. Alfalfa is 30 cm tall but not yet budding. Pastures are showing good growth and cattle are being set out; isolated cases of supplemental feeding are occurring.

**Interlake Region**

Warm, dry conditions prevailed early in the week, with cooler weather moving in on the weekend. Spotty showers fell across the region over the weekend, along with strong winds on Sunday.

Dry weather over the past 7 days allowed for rapid seeding progress. Seeding is complete in the southern areas of the region while in the northern areas seeding is 80% complete. Some areas are still too wet to seed with soybeans, canola and greenfeed some of the crops remaining to be seeded.

Early seeded cereals are in the 4 to 5 leaf stage and early canola is at the 2 to 4 true leaf stage. Herbicide applications are underway on early seeded canola and cereal acres.

In winter wheat, disease pressure has been low to date but this could change quickly with humid conditions and warmer temperatures. With foliar diseases (leaf rust, tan spot, septoria leaf disease complex) producers should continue scouting their fields prior to and up to flag leaf emergence, along with keeping an eye on the weather forecast, in order to react to any potential issues. If disease pressure, weather conditions and crop yield potential warrant application, foliar fungicides should be applied preventatively, before the disease is well-established in the crop, and according to product label to provide maximum benefit.

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**Strawberry, raspberry and saskatoon transplanting is completed.**

 **Strawberry fields are experiencing 10-20% bloom, growers are starting to scout for tarnish plant bug.**

**Most Saskatoon growers have completed their first fungicide spray for protection against Entomosporium leaf and berry sport disease. Orichards south to**
north have completed flowering or are at petal drop stage.
All fruit growers expect normal to early harvest this year with the warm April and late May temperatures.

Hay
Warm spring temperatures initiated growth early in many hay fields, getting this year’s hay harvest off to an early start. Above average temperatures forecasted, combined with good soil moisture in most areas will accommodating vigorous new growth; alfalfa stands are 20 to 30 cm tall and up to 7 days ahead of schedule. Winter kill is minimal and less than expected in alfalfa after the wet fall and mid-winter rains. Average to above average yields are expected. On-farm hay and corn silage volumes are average to below average; some livestock were put out to pasture early in areas where supplies were lower; this will reduce pasture yields for the season. Hay prices are average to above average.

Pasture
Warm spring temperatures induced pasture growth early this year, initiating the move to pasture a little sooner than recommended. This early grazing will reduce pasture yields for some producers. Cattle transfers will continue over the next 2 weeks. Pasture availability is high and rental rates are below average.

Potatoes
Warm weather this past week has allowed completion of planting of the majority of the potato crop. Potatoes planted in April are either emerged or will be emerging shortly. Temperatures this year have been above long term averages allowing the potato crop to be off to an excellent start to the growing season.