Southwest Region

Seeding operations continued at the start of last week but was halted by the weekend’s rainfall; high amounts of precipitation were recorded across the region. Strong winds were reported north of Souris and in the Medora area. Several areas also received hail. Overall moisture situation is rated as excessive.

Cereal crop seeding is 80% complete and oilseed crops 70% complete. Early sown cereals are in the 3 leaf to tillering stage.

Low lying areas have standing water. Dry weather is needed for producers that still have acres to seed. The wet conditions will delay weed control measures.

Trap counts of Diamondback moths are low to date and cutworm activity was reported around the Ste. Rose area.

The cool, moist conditions have promoted good pasture growth. Some hay fields are suffering from standing water.

Central Region

Heavy rains hit much of the Central region. Rapid runoff has washed out some roads and erosion is an issue in some areas; standing water in fields is widespread. Drains and ditches are full, and some fields are unable to drain until water levels drop. Rivers and coulees are rising, and areas adjacent to water are backing up into fields. Producers are currently waiting for water to drain to assess the impact on seeded crops.

Seeding is essentially complete with some canola, soybeans and edible beans left to go in. Staging of crops varies widely; the earliest seeded cereals are at the 5 leaf stage and tillering. Canola development ranges from germination to 4 leaves and the majority of the corn, sunflowers and flax have emerged. Soybean development ranges from germination to first trifoliate stage. Fifty percent of the potatoes have emerged.

Herbicide applications have been delayed due to wind and wet conditions. Weeds are getting ahead of some crops.

Most winter wheat fields have received herbicide application.

Dugouts are full. Pastures, hay and alfalfa fields have been doing well, although some may suffer due to the recent rains. Most cattle are on summer pasture.

Northwest Region

Spring seeding continued last week with seasonal temperatures and favorable weather conditions. A widespread weather system late in the week brought significant rain to the southern areas of the region with lesser amounts through the Swan Valley area.

Prior to the rainfall, good progress was made on canola seeding with approximately 15% of the acres remaining to be seeded. In-crop herbicide spraying on wheat had just begun prior to the rain; wet conditions will delay applications. Majority of wheat is in the 2 to 4 leaf stages. Peas are 3 to 4 true leaf stages.

Trap counts of Diamondback moths are low to date and cutworm activity was reported around the Ste. Rose area.

The cool, moist conditions have promoted good pasture growth. Some hay fields are suffering from standing water.

Eastern Region

Seeding operations in the Eastman region are nearly complete. Precipitation early in the week plus excessive rainfall amounts over the weekend resulted in extensive flooding in fields throughout the region. Drains, ditches and rivers are at full capacity creating slow runoff of conditions.

Crop staging in cereals range from 2 leaf to tillering while canola ranges from cotyledon to 4 leaf stage. Recently seeded soybean fields had excellent emergence. Corn and sunflowers were also emerging very well.

Weed populations continue to increase with ideal growing conditions this past week. In-crop spraying in cereals and canola has begun and is expected to increase once field conditions improve.

Producers are scheduling fungicide applications in winter wheat fields as yield potential looks promising.

Flea beetle activity is a concern in late seeded canola as damage was witnessed in early seeded fields. Diamondback moth counts are high in a few areas indicating a
potential concern later this summer. First cut alfalfa will begin once field conditions improve.

Interlake Region
Significant rainfall amounts were recorded across the region. The entire region is experiencing field flooding from rain as well as drainage backup.

Seeding is complete in the southern areas of the region while the northern areas are 80 to 90% complete; good progress was made through Wednesday and Thursday last week. Herbicide applications were general across the region. Wet conditions will delay seeding operations and herbicide applications.

Hay and pasture are showing good production potential although field flooding may cause harvest issues. Most cattle have been released on pasture and supplemental feeding is still taking place in some areas.

Commodities
Cereals
Cereal seeding progress ranges from 90 to 100% complete with crop development ranging from 1-leaf to tillering stage. Excess moisture is the main concern; field by field assessments will be ongoing for the next couple of days.

The primary damage to plants from wet soil conditions is caused by oxygen deprivation. Without oxygen, the plant cannot perform critical life sustaining functions such as nutrient and water uptake, root development, etc. In cereals, the extent of damage due to wet conditions is dependent on numerous factors such as stage of plant growth, duration of flooding, weather conditions and soil characteristics.

To confirm plant survival, check the color of the growing point and look for new leaf growth three to five days after water drains from the field. Healthy growing points will be firm and yellowish-white, not mushy and discolored.

If considering weed control measures, it is important to keep in mind that crop tolerance and weed control may be reduced if applications are made to plants growing under stress, which includes saturated or water-logged soil. Always refer to product labels as they will outline possible effects of growing conditions.

Fruit Crops
Strawberry fields are experiencing 20-25% bloom.

Growers are starting to scout for tarnish plant bug, little activity detected yet.

First fungicide spray for protection against Entomosporium leaf and berry spot disease completed by most growers. Orchards are post-bloom and entering green fruit stage.

All fruit growers expect normal harvest this year with the overall warm spring temperature.

Wet conditions have slowed down field activities.

Greenhouse Crops
The Victoria Day long weekend saw peak sales of transplants that remained strong through the week until the rain began. Sales tapered off as consumers were unable to plant what they had purchased and intended to hold off until conditions improved. Depending on the site, high winds and excessive rainfall has impacted the landscape market and the suppliers of that market. Some losses of plantings were reported due to those extreme conditions. Lower sites are underwater while unstable sites on higher ground may have experiences soil erosion.

Continued individual inquiries on aphid control indicate that some greenhouses are still battling with infestations. The species has not been identified. The most popular control agents being considered are combinations of insecticidal soaps and pyrethrums. Depending on the stage of the infestation bio-controls such as commercially available lady bugs (Adalia bipunctata) can be used in the green house very effectively. Prior to release of the lady bug larvae, aphids have to be present as a food source for the lady bug larvae. If the aphid infestation is heavy the introduction of the ladybug may take time to impact the aphid population.

Movement of bedding plants is expected to continue to be strong for the next 4 weeks.

Vegetable Crops
Rainfall amounts reported over the past four days in the Portage area ranged from just under 100 mm to well over 100 mm. Potential losses due to the excess rainfall in commercial vegetable fields have not been able to be properly quantified as of today but will be assessed over the coming week.
The updated version of the “Guide to Vegetable Crop Protection” will be available to all commercial vegetable growers from the Crops Knowledge Centre in Carman later this week. Please contact Tom Gonsalves (Vegetable Crops Specialist) at 745-5671 or tom.gonsalves@gov.mb.ca for further details. The publication was published by the Vegetable Growers Association of Manitoba with technical assistance provided by Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives.