Southwest Region

There was little to no seeding progress made over the past week due to rain showers on several days. Moisture situation is rated as excessive in most areas. Approximately 15 to 20% of the acres currently remain unseeded. Producers are looking at alternative seeding options such as broadcasting and harrowing; aerial seeding has been used in areas. Some producers are starting to change seeding plans because of the late seeding.

Weed control has started in the early seeded crops; wet conditions at application have resulted in ruts. Majority of the early seeded canola is in the 3 to 4 leaf stage. Crop has been advancing slowly because of the cool weather.

Winter wheat and fall rye is in the flag leaf to heading stage.

Northwest Region

There has been very little seeding progress in the area over the past week. All districts in the region have areas in fields that are flooded as a result of excessive rains over the past week. This has resulted in germination issues and plant seedling mortality in those areas and has put a halt to the completion of seeding operations; the Ethelbert-Fork River area is still about 25% unseeded. Some attempts have been made to broadcast canola. The overall moisture situation is rated as full to excessive.

Annual crops on well drained soils are doing well. However, crops would welcome ideal growing conditions to recover from the saturated soil conditions.

Excess moisture is also impacting herbicide applications as weeds and crops are at the proper stage of growth in many fields.

There have been reports of cutworm activity in the Swan Valley. There has also been some spraying for flea beetles in that area of the province as well.

Hay and pasture crops are growing well.

Central Region

The region received varying amounts of precipitation over the past week. Small pockets of hail also went through the region last week but no significant damage was reported.

From the previous heavy rains, the area of Rosenort to Rathwell to Elie and to Winnipeg was the most affected area in the region. Approximately 20 to 25% of the acres will be affected with drowned out areas. Another 25% of the acres are showing stress with canola being impacted the most, followed by oats. Gladstone area had 15% of the acres affected by excess moisture with the Plumas area being hardest hit. Treherne area had 2 to 5% of the acres drowned out, mainly in low areas. Morden area hasn’t been as impacted with only 5% of the acres being affected adversely. Morris area was impacted the most to the west and north. The earlier seeded crops handled the water better; duration of flooding dictated crop damage. The area around Altona has lost 5% of the acres; another 10% of the acres are showing excess water stress. Crops in the Somerset/Pilot Mound areas are yellowing from the high moisture but a small amount of that area should be affected.

An increasing number of fields are showing symptoms of water stress with the losses contained to the field drains. Other fields where the field drains are the same level as the municipal drains are impacted more because water was slower to move.

Producers are finished seeding in some areas while others are trying to finish for the first time before attempting to reseed fields if necessary. Canola will be the crop of choice for reseeding because of the early maturing varieties. Approximately 20% of the edible bean acres remain to be planted.

Herbicide spraying is being done by ground resulting in ruts. Aerial herbicide and fungicide spraying is taking place. Winter wheat is being sprayed with fungicides for leaf diseases.
Diamondback moth are still evident in the trap counts and larvae are beginning to hatch so fields should be checked. Cutworms were being sprayed in some fields and producers should monitor fields once conditions dry. Alfalfa is into the bud stage and will start to be cut this week. Expected yields are 2 tonnes/acre.

Eastern Region
Precipitation during the week delayed seeding and spraying operations in the region. The sporadic rain showers also caused flooding in some fields. Areas of Eastern region impacted the most include Ridgeville, Emerson, Dominion City, Arnaud, Niverville, Blumenort, Landmark and Ste. Anne. Oat, wheat and corn fields are showing resiliency to the water stress; yellowing of the crop is noticeable in some low areas of the fields. In general, the percentage of crop exhibiting yellowing symptoms ranges from 10 to 60%.

Canola acres appear to be impacted the most, particularly in the Dugald area. However, in other areas of the region such as St.Pierre canola acres are handling the water stress. Overall, plant stands are thinner in low spots and crop development is delayed. More field assessments will over the next week.

Cereals are in the tillering stage while corn ranges from 2 to 5 leaf stage. Flea beetle damage is noticeable in late seeded canola fields. Diamond back moth counts are high indicating a potential issue later this summer. Soybeans appear to be handling the excess water to date; low areas of fields have delayed growth but soybean plants continue to emerge daily. Staging of soybeans range from emerging to cotyledon.

Alfalfa cutting has begun with average yield expected. Overland flooding of pastures in the Vita and Stuartburn areas is creating concern for livestock producers.

Interlake Region
The region received more precipitation over the past week. Water ponding on cropland is evident and affects from 5 to 30% of field area. Canola acres appear to the most affected; cereal crops are fairing better but are showing symptoms of excess moisture stress. The Marquette/Warren areas, as well as much of the Northern Interlake, are the most affected areas in the region.

Early seeded canola is at the 4 to 5 leaf stage while early seeded cereals are at the 5 to 6 leaf stage. Winter wheat is at the boot to early headed stage. Producers resumed herbicide application by mid-week where field access was possible. Some aerial application is taking place. Herbicide decisions are more important when fields are impacted by excess moisture as producers must take into consideration yield potential and the additional cost of aerial application. Forage crops are progressing well, but harvestability of high quality hay is hampered by water ponding on most fields. Pastures are producing well.

Commodities
Cereals
Cereal seeding progress ranges from 95 to 100% complete with crop development stage ranging from emergence to 6-leaf and tillering. Excess moisture and timely herbicide applications continue to be the main concerns for many producers. Field by field assessments is still ongoing. Erratic crop emergence and poor plant stand establishment may result from the excess moisture many fields have experienced or continue to experience. For most cereals, a normal plant stand would range from 18 to 28 plants per square foot. Cereal crops can compensate for stand reductions so plant stands less than the “ideal range” may or may not suffer a yield penalty.

If considering reseeding, producers will have to consider the yield potential of the current crop - less any additional expenses like increased herbicide use for a thin, less competitive crop, etc., compared to the replant yield potential (assuming a full stand is achieved and that yield potential may decline due to later seeding dates) less extra costs of seed, time and field operations. Other factors that must be considered are crop insurance coverage and options, herbicide residues, disease potential etc. It is often the variability within the field that makes the decision more difficult. If considering reseeding, producers will need to contact their local MASC insurance agent.
Edible Beans
Approximately 85% of the edible beans have been seeded.
Edible beans planted 10 to 14 days ago are emerging well and are in the cotyledon and starting into unifoliate stage.
Emergence issues due to crusting and water sitting on fields will lower the plant stand. There are a few fields will not see edible beans in 2010 because of wet soil conditions. MASC edible bean seeding deadline for Area 2 & 3 was June 6 and Area 1 deadline is June 10. Contact MASC to discuss extended seeding deadlines.

Field Peas
Most field peas are in the 4-6 node stage of development and are at the optimal timing for weed control with the imidazolinone group of chemistry. The recent 10-14 days of excess moisture and cooler temperatures have many field pea crops and weeds under stress and not growing actively. These conditions can result in the potential for reduced weed control and enhanced crop injury. Growers should avoid early morning heavy dew applications when plants are under most stress. Peas on canola stubble at this point are handling recent moisture conditions better then those grown on heavy cereal stubble.

Lentils
Most lentil crops are in the 4-6 node stage of development and are at the ideal stage for weed removal. Lentil crops and weeds are also under various degrees of moisture stress and are not actively growing which can result in reduced weed control and enhance crop injury. Growers should avoid early morning heavy dew applications when plants are under most stress.

Soybeans
The majority of the soybeans were planted in the two week period from May 10-24. Conditions were ideal at that time but since then many areas have received excess rainfall which is delaying emergence in low, wet areas of the fields. Most fields have a range of stages from seeds just germinating to the first trifoliate. Overall the crop is in the unifoliate stage. There are some reports of soil borne diseases affecting seedlings. Producers who only used an on-seed inoculant in first time soybean fields are concerned about nodulation problems in spots of the field that had water standing. Soybeans appear to be handling the water as well as or better than some other crops seeded at the same time.

Fruit Crops
Strawberry fields are experiencing 30-40% bloom.
Growers are starting to scout and spray for tarnished plant bug.
Saskatoon orchards are in the green fruit stage.
Spray activities have been hindered by wet field conditions.

Potatoes
With potato crops well emerged or emerging producers are proceeding with hilling operations and weed control operations. For the fields that received excess moisture it is a challenge to get field operations completed in a timely manner.
Heavy rainfall in the Portage, Elm Creek, Carman area during the weekend of May 29 and 30 will cause problems in some portions of potato fields. Producers are still assessing the situation as their fields dry up. They can then start to consider what to do with the portions of their fields that have been damaged by excess moisture and potato plants sitting in water for extended periods of time.

Vegetable Crops
Recently the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) announced the approval of an emergency use renewal registration for CARZOL SP Miticide-Insecticide (formetanate hydrochloride) for control of onion thrips on dry bulb onions in Manitoba and other jurisdictions. For copies of the emergency use label please visit UAP Canada Inc. website at http://www.uap.ca/index.htm
The rainfall from a week to ten days ago (approximately four inches plus in the Portage area) did cause losses in some commercial vegetable fields. However vegetable producers who were contacted in the Portage area reported parts of some fields that were adversely affected were not as large as was originally expected given the amount of rainfall.

Greenhouse Crops
Movement of bedding plants is expected to be strong for the next 3 weeks. Wet conditions slowed both
retail and wholesale product movement. With the return of sunny weather over the weekend sales again picked up for both new plantings and replacement plants damaged by the deluge. Aphid and thrip infestations continue to be a concern for some operators. Biocontrols are becoming the control methods of choice particularly in the vegetable greenhouse sector. Contractors started Landscape projects early this spring and much progress was reported with projects being well ahead of schedule. The rains halted work which has slowly resumed with the drying days we have received over the past week. This is perfect weather for laying sod with moisture reserves being more than adequate with moderate heat.