Southwest Region

Most of the region saw scattered rain showers throughout the past week. Warm temperatures over the weekend were sufficient to dry fields enough for spraying operations. Crops are advancing with the heat; crops are shorter in height and are tillering quickly. Majority of acres in the region needs to be sprayed. Producers are keeping an eye on crop staging as spraying continues. Throughout the region approximately 15% of the acres remain unseeded; this varies from area to area. Most producers are still looking at seeding. However, there remain areas where land is too wet and will not dry before seeding deadlines.

Winter wheat is heading while majority of fall rye acres have headed. Both crops look good.

Forage crops are advancing well and producers will start haying within the next couple of weeks. Pastures are doing well.

As overall averages, flooded field conditions exist on approximately 10% and an additional 15% of planted fields are extremely wet to saturated. The remaining field acres are upwards of 50 to 80% yellowed due to wet soil and some possible nitrogen losses. Variable situations exist throughout the region; Roblin area appears to be least challenged with The Pas near normal.

Approximately 30% of herbicide applications have been completed on wheat. Where producers can spray the crops, rutting is evident in many fields.

Cereal leaf diseases are developing with reports of Tan Spot observed on lower leaves of wheat.

Diamond back moth counts continue to be low through the area.

Forage and pasture growth is good. Some low lands are wet and heat is needed. Dugouts are full with the creeks and streams in full flow.

Central Region

Once again the Central region received varying amounts of precipitation. Hail was reported in few locations last week but no reports of damage. The cool weather this past week has helped stressed crops to recover.

A large number of the fields in the Fannystelle, Starbuck and Elie region still have water issues and may not be reseeded this year.

Reseeding is taking place over the whole region and is not specific to any one crop. Canola is being floated on and harrowed because of wet field conditions. Few producers were able to seed edible beans and soybeans.

Weed control is an issue in certain fields and airplanes are being used. A number of fields have been sprayed in the last week and producers will be keeping an eye on control given the stress on crop and weeds. Producers are inquiring about nutrient availability due to the heavy rains.

Winter wheat and fall rye are starting to head out. Fungicides are being applied to winter wheat to control leaf and head disease. Wheat streak mosaic is still evident on fields in the Somerset area.

Diamondback moth traps continue to show high numbers and producers should be aware larvae are hatching.

Producers are trying to use the weather forecast to cut alfalfa and put into good quality feed. Pastures are maintaining good growth if fields do not have standing water.

Eastern Region

Further precipitation kept spraying equipment off the fields until late in the week. The window for applying herbicides on some early seeded fields is closing quickly. Ground and
aerial applicators are getting called to spray some of the wetter fields. Earlier seeded fields are managing the excess moisture better than late seeded crops. Barley and oats are tillering while some wheat fields are approaching flag leaf. Some tan spot and septoria has been reported with low intensity. Plant death is prominent in areas where water in the field is still noticeable (1 to 10%); crop yellowing (5 to 25%) while low lying areas are still pale green (10 to 75%). Canola staging ranges from 4-leaf (75%) to early flowering.

Soybean development ranges from cotyledon to third trifoliate leaf stage. Nodulation is well established on plant roots. Damage from excess moisture is noticeable in low areas (5 to 15%). Rapid plant growth late the week was noticeable with the increase in temperatures.

Corn is in the V4 to V5 stage and looks good. Sunflowers are in V3 to V6 and also look good. Winter wheat is 75 to 100% headed out with very good plant stands.

Diamond back moth counts were lower last week but total counts are high indicating a potential problem later this summer.

Alfalfa fields are budding with producers cutting late in the week. Estimated yield is 1.5 to 2 tons/acre.

Interlake Region
Last week precipitation varied across the Interlake as a result of thunderstorms. The Gunton area reported between 85 and 100 mm on rain in one afternoon. The area north and east of Fisher Branch also reported 75 mm on Tuesday evening.

Crops are being impacted as some areas have been saturated for several weeks. In the north, areas between Riverton and Arborg, and west to Fisher Branch are the most affected while in the south the most affected areas are around Teulon, Gunton and Marquette.

Pale green cereal crops are prevalent in wetter parts of fields due to water stress or loss of nitrogen. Herbicide applications continue with ground sprayers leaving ruts. Aerial herbicide applications have been made in the wetter areas. Herbicide decisions are difficult where water damage is high.

Early planted canola crops are in early bud stage. Water stress on young canola has resulted in a high degree of crop loss and is most prevalent in the north Interlake. Some canola that was just seeded prior to excessive rains has not emerged.

Soybean crops range from just emerged to the second trifoliate leaf stage.

Winter wheat crops have headed out and fungicide application is underway.

Alfalfa hay crops have started to bloom with harvest being postponed by dairy producers until the weather pattern changes to sunny and drier conditions. The height on the more productive alfalfa hay fields is now between 26 and 30 inches.

Pastures are generally in good condition as grass growth is excellent. Pastures are being damaged from hoof action as cattle graze on the wet soils. Several years of excess moisture has left low lying areas with little sod and a change in pasture species.

Commodities
Cereals
For Manitoba cereal producers, weed control, the approaching seeding deadline, fungicide applications and variability of crop stands and yield potential are the issues being dealt with this week.

Spring cereals including all types of spring wheat, barley and oats are eligible for full coverage when MASC’s June 20th seeding deadline is met. As the seeding date gets later, producers should consider maturity and disease package of the variety, as well as increasing seeding rates to target the high end of the recommended plant population range to help shorten the time to maturity and account for decreased tillering.

Trace amounts of leaf rust were found on the hard red spring wheat variety AC Domain south of Winkler in early June. Scouting should continue across southern Manitoba with producers implementing control measures where crop development and disease levels warrant. Remember, the top leaves in spring cereals contribute the most to grainfill. Therefore any fungicide program should protect the upper leaves; hence why fungicide applications should be targeted around flag leaf emergence.

If producers are faced with variability of crop stand or yield potential, they should revisit their costs of production (COP). For example, if producers calculated their COP using a 100 bushel per acre oat crop, they may need to rework their economics using lower projected yields. Using updated
numbers may make decisions easier to make.
The majority of winter wheat acres are heading and starting to flower. Based on the June 11 fusarium head blight risk forecast map by MAFRI, the risk of infection for crops at early anthesis is in the moderate to high risk level. However, since local conditions will vary based on weather conditions, soil properties, and rate of crop development, producers must scout their fields. In order for fungicides to be effective, the timing of fungicide applications is critical, along with quality application equipment and methods (type of spray nozzles, nozzle configurations, travel speed, water volume).

Edible Beans
Edible bean seeding was delayed last week due to the wet weather. Beans are still being planted and are past the first crop insurance deadline. Early seeded edible beans are at the first trifoliate stage. Later seeded beans are germinating with good plant stands while other fields are dealing with excess water, crusting or poor germination.

Few fields of edible beans were seeded into hard, wet soil conditions and depending on planter, the furrow may not have closed which can cause poor seed to soil contact.

Producers who seeded edible beans and wanting to spray a burn off chemical were hampered by weather and may have a weed issue which was not expected.

Peas & Lentils
Field peas and lentils have been handling the excess moisture remarkably well to date. This is likely due to the earlier April seeding and the more advanced stage of growth for these crops. Weed spraying is virtually complete with most products providing average to above average control to date with little in the way of crop injury being reported. Monitoring for disease development will be ongoing in the days and weeks to come as conditions remain ideal for disease development.

Soybeans
The majority of soybeans are in the first to second trifoliate stage. Fields with better surface and/or internal drainage are mainly in the third trifoliate stage. Soybean plants are continuing to emerge from low spots in fields. A few acres of soybeans are still being planted for the first time in the Fannystelle-Starbuck areas. This stretches out the planting period over seven weeks.

Nodules are starting to show up on roots. Weed spraying has been delayed and some flowering canola is visible in fields that didn’t have a pre-seed burnoff. Soybeans appear to be handling the water as good as or better than some other crops seeded at the same time.

Fruit Crops
Strawberry fields are experiencing 60-80% bloom. Growers are starting to scout and spray for tarnish plant bug.

Spray activities have been hindered by wet conditions field conditions.

With the excessive precipitation this spring and saturated soil conditions there has been more incidence of iron chlorosis in fruit crops. Although iron is an abundant trace element in soil, plants may have difficulty in absorbing enough when soils are saturated with water. The condition should be reduced when the soil dries out, however if soils remain saturated, iron foliar sprays may be the best solution. Iron foliar sprays can be applied at the onset of symptoms. If the treatment is successful the plants should begin to green up about 10 days after spraying. Foliar applications are a temporary measure and successive treatment may be applied. Saturated soils also stress root systems and they are more susceptible to root rot and other diseases.

Iron Chlorosis on Fruit Photos found at: www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/cd/lr/photolibcdlr.html

Potatoes
The impact of the wet cool weather over the past three weeks on potatoes is varied across the province. Less affected are areas of the province that grow potatoes on well drained soils or producers have installed tile drainage. Areas that will be most affected are any fields with imperfectly drained soils. There are some potato fields that have been replanted however the extent of replanting is unknown at this time. The wet conditions have made it a challenge for all potato producers to complete field operations (hilling, herbicide and fungicide applications).

Vegetable Crops
Last week at least one carrot field in the Portage area was re-planted due to damage from the excessive
rainfall a few weeks ago. Additional vegetable crop acres have been affected to varying degrees. Also last week, late blight was confirmed in the province on seedling tomatoes that were produced in Manitoba. The infected seedlings were being sold to the public. The infected seedlings remaining for sale have been destroyed. Plants susceptible to late blight include; potato, tomato, eggplant, various nightshade weeds and other members of Solanum genus. The disease affects all tissues of susceptible crops (i.e. Foliage, Fruit, Tuber, etc). General information on late blight can be found at the following Manitoba Agriculture Food & Rural Initiatives link:
http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/diseases/fac26s00.html
Registered fungicides for protection against late blight in conventional vegetable production system can be found in the Guide to Vegetable Crop Protection (2009-2010) available to commercial vegetable producers from the MAFRI Crops Knowledge Centre in Carman (to order contact Tom Gonsalves at tom.gonsalves@gov.mb.ca).

In organic cropping systems if there is no late blight present in the crop, growers can use organically approved copper based fungicides. There are no effective organic control measures available for late blight if it is confirmed in the crop. If the disease is confirmed in an organic field, the recommendation is to destroy the crop in order to prevent the disease spreading.

If you have suspected late blight in a commercial operation, samples can be sent for identification to MAFRI's Crop Diagnostic Lab, 545 University Crescent, Winnipeg, MB or via your local MAFRI GO office.

Resource links:
Late blight control in potatoes (in Guide to Field Crop Protection):
http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/cropproduction/gaa01d01.html
Copper based fungicides (MAFRI Guide to Field Crop Protection):
http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/cropproduction/gaa01d01.html
Organic management of late blight of potato and tomato factsheet (United States University eXtension Educational Partnership):
http://www.extension.org/article/18361
BCMAL late blight of potato and tomato images and factsheet:
http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/cropprot/lateblight.htm
University of Maryland late blight video:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L9A09WRtLAQ&feature=player_embedded