Southwest Region

High rainfall amounts were reported throughout the region in the past week, with the Minnedosa area one of the hardest hit. Early seeded crops appear to be tolerating the moisture better than late seeded crops. Approximately 15-30% of crop acres will not get seeded due to excessive moisture, although greenfeed may still be planted on some of these acres.

Early seeded cereal crops are in the tillering stage, canola varies from just emerging to cabbaging, flax is in the emergence to 3-4 inches tall stage, sunflowers are in the 2-4 leaf stage, peas are covering the ground and seem to be handling the moisture well, and lentils are filling in but are starting to show symptoms of moisture stress.

Some weed spraying occurred last week, but many fields still need to be done. Disease pressure in cereal crops remains high. Some fungicides have been applied, but the recent rain has made only aircraft applications possible.

Winter wheat crops are about 30% headed and producers will be looking at spraying for fusarium head blight this week. Fall rye crops are headed and look good.

Hay crops are fairing well too, but getting the crop cut and baled in good condition will be difficult with the recent moisture. Pastures are growing well, but water ponding is reducing grass quality and the ability of cattle to move about.

Northwest Region

Most of the region is very wet after significant rains moved in mid-week. Estimates remain at 15% of fields unseeded, 10% flooded and 15% saturated. The wet conditions are causing severe yellowing in crops, poor root development, dead plants and premature bolting.

There have been fewer challenges in the areas of Roblin, The Pas and Grandview north, where yield potentials are higher. Remaining areas have extremely variable conditions.

A limited amount of seeding and reseeding was done at the start of the week and about 50-60% of fields have been sprayed for weeds. Many weeds are evident, including advanced volunteer canola in cereals. Cereal leaf diseases are prevalent. Canola pest monitoring trap counts remain low.

Pastures are good but poor weather conditions are delaying an average hay harvest. Producers relying on native hay are reporting increased lake water levels and flooding in low-lying lands.

Central Region

Stress from excessive moisture is a concern throughout the region, with standing water reported in some fields. Many low lying areas will not recover.

Early seeded crops seem to be handling the moisture the best. Crops seeded a bit later are struggling, although some of the most recently seeded crops are doing relatively well. Heat-loving crops are advancing very slowly.

Seedling and reseeding operations continued last week until the rains started. Greenfeed may be seeded in some fields as they dry up.

Weed control applications continue to be challenged by the weather conditions. Ruts are evident in many fields and the poor conditions may result in performance concerns.

Corn is suffering from excess moisture and is growing slowly due to cooler temperatures. Soybeans are in the unifoliate to second trifoliate stage and seem to be handling the wet conditions relatively well.

Leaf diseases are evident on the majority of cereal crops. Fungicide spraying continues in winter wheat, and has started in some early seeded spring wheat. Wheat streak mosaic virus has been confirmed in the Somerset area. Fungicide spraying has started in early seeded canola.

Diamondback moth traps continue to show high numbers in eastern parts of the region; on-going monitoring of fields is required. Western areas report light to
moderate flea beetle activity. Wireworm activity in cereals is reported in western areas. Ground squirrels are reported in many fields in the Somerset/Pilot Mound area. Small areas of 2 to 10 acres are often severely damaged, particularly where canola is grown on recently broken pasture or adjacent to pasture or hay fields. Hay is growing rapidly. Grasses are headed and alfalfa is starting to bloom. First cut has begun for dairy quality alfalfa and is being mostly used for silage in order to limit the amount of time the cut hay is in the field. Haying operations are a struggle due to frequent rains. Pastures are generally growing well, with ample grass for grazing, despite some pastures being flooded.

Eastern Region
Uneven crop growth is a concern for many producers as a result of excessive moisture, and will result in yield losses in 2010. Earlier seeded fields are managing the excess moisture better and appear to be recovering, while later seeded fields are still heavily stressed and continue to struggle. Cereals are in the flag leaf stage and a few have started to head out. Leaf diseases in cereals are prominent in lower leaves and on flag leaves. Dead plants are prominent in areas where water in the field is still noticeable. Crop yellowing is appearing in many fields throughout the region. Canola staging ranges from 6-leaf (25% of fields), to bolting (50%) and flowering (25%). Soybeans are in the second to third trifoliate stage. Soybean damage from excess moisture is noticeable in low areas (5-15% of fields), but nodulation is well established on plant roots. Corn is in the 6-8 leaf vegetative stage and looks good. Sunflowers are in the 4-8 leaf vegetative stage and also look good. Winter wheat has headed out and plant stands are good. Diamondback moth counts are high, which will necessitate season-long monitoring. Herbicide spraying is behind schedule. Fungicide applications on cereal crops are well under way. Spraying for sclerotinia in canola has begun and will intensify later in the week as the crop continues to enter the flowering stage. Alfalfa fields are in the early to mid-bloom stage, with farmers struggling to bale what has already been cut.

Interlake Region
More showers across the region this past week prevented crops from recovering from previous rain events. Crop damage has become more evident as sun and heat returned over the weekend. Pesticide application was general in the early part of the week. Both aerial and ground application equipment were active, although field rutting by ground equipment has been significant. Crop damage has occurred on some fields as a result of herbicide applications on stressed crops. Field application activities in the past week included: fungicides on winter wheat, herbicides on most annual crops and insecticides on alfalfa seed crops to control alfalfa weevil and other insects prior to leafcutter bee turn-out.

Commodities
Canola
Canola crop staging varies widely, with the majority of the crop ranging from the four to six leaf stage up to flowering. Re-seeding of canola continued last week, until stopped by rain; emergence in these fields may be compromised by the heavy rain following seeding. Staging differences are due to the wide range of seeding dates. The earliest fields were seeded in mid to late April, the majority of the crop was seeded in May, rain delays and re-seeding accounted for acres seeded in late May through to June. Crop stands are variable, in some cases due to wet conditions at seeding time, resulting in uneven and poor emergence, in others due to excess moisture stress. The majority of fields have received one herbicide application. Fungicide application has begun for sclerotinia control in early seeded fields where crop stage and stand warrant. Applications are targeted when the majority of the field is in 20-50% bloom. Stands that are bolting and flowering very prematurely due to excess moisture stress may not have a fungicide applied. Producers
are evaluating application decisions on a field by field basis. Fields will continue to be monitored, as weather conditions going forward will determine whether a later fungicide timing may be appropriate. See Canola Council of Canada for assessing the risk for sclerotinia development at https://canola-council.merchantsecure.com/canola_resources/product11.aspx

Edible Beans

Edible beans continue to struggle through this rain and saturated soil conditions. Edible bean growth varies from the second trifoliate stage in the Portage area to the first trifoliate stage in the remainder of the province. Weeds are becoming an issue in bean fields. Spraying for weeds will resume when the fields are dry enough to carry the sprayer.

Greenhouse Crops

Growers should be vigilant for any disease or pest problems on their stock prior to shipping. The recent late blight issue has impacted growers, retailers and consumers. Good sanitation and careful inspections will assist in preventing similar situations from happening in the future.

An issue that has arisen due to the weather conditions lately is humidity. Growers without the capacity to dehumidify the greenhouse environment are having difficulty controlling that humidity. We are seeing a near perfect environment for disease both outside and in the controlled environments. Again be vigilant for potential problems.

Soybeans

A few days of warm weather last week helped the soybeans advance slowly as last month’s warm weather has given away to below normal temperatures for June. The majority of soybeans are in the second to third trifoliate stage. Soybeans continue to emerge where lower spots in the fields are drying out but some areas received considerable rainfall and seed has rotted where water is standing.

Nodules are starting to show up on roots and plants are fixing nitrogen. Some weed spraying occurred last week and in wet fields the ground rigs made some serious ruts. Herbicide spraying will resume when the fields dry sufficiently to carry the sprayer.

Flax

Across the province the flax crop ranges from 3 to 10 inches tall with the more advanced crop close to flowering. Excess moisture remains the greatest challenge to the crop throughout the province. Actual stand loss is limited to low areas in fields but stress symptoms such as yellowing, poor plant vigor and relatively little branching appear throughout most fields. While acceptable herbicide efficacy in regards to weed control has been noted, increased plant stress after herbicide applications has also been found. Besides the yield limiting effects of excess moisture, yield loss due to a lack of effective crop competition is anticipated.

Fruit Crops

Strawberry fields are experiencing 80-90% bloom. Raspberries are 70-80% in flower. Saskatoons have seen more green fruit development with warmer temperatures.

With the continued wet conditions, strawberry and raspberry growers that have experienced fruit rot problems last year have been applying first application of fungicides to control various fruit rots (anthracnose fruit rot, grey mould (Botrytis cinerea)). See 2010 Fruit Crop Protection guide for control options.

With the wet weather slugs may become an issue in strawberry fields. Slugs are difficult to monitor because they are usually in the soil and inactive. To estimate populations, search 1 sq. foot areas of straw mulch, digging down into the soil. Watch for presence of slug eggs or slugs, heavily infested field will have 10 per foot squared. See 2010 Fruit Crop Protection guide for control options. Photos and details at: www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/insects/fad85s00.html

Spray activities have been hindered by wet field conditions.

Some strawberry and saskatoon orchards showing iron chlorosis symptoms have been treated with foliar applications of iron. Iron chlorosis on Fruit Photos found at: www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/cdlr/photolibcdlr.html
Potatoes

There is a wide range of conditions in the 2010 potato crop. Much of the potato crop in Manitoba was planted in April, and the crop that is on well drained soil is in good condition. The potato crop that is on soils with drainage concerns, and those areas of the province that have repeated heavier rains will have losses on portions of fields.

The weather conditions in Manitoba are favorable for late blight, and with the confirmation of late blight in tomato seedlings in Manitoba, the application of protective fungicides is underway and will need to continue for the remainder of the growing season.

Vegetable Crops

No additional cases of late blight have been confirmed in Manitoba since last week’s update where it was reported that tomato seedlings were found to be positive for late blight. In an effort to determine the general areas where late blight is present and the number of infections please send samples from any suspicious tomato or potato plants to the MAFRI Crop Diagnostic Lab on the University of Manitoba Fort Garry Campus (545 University Crescent, Winnipeg, MB) or via your local MAFRI GO office. There is a $10 fee charged to non-commercial gardeners for the diagnosis of a sample submitted to the lab.

As of this week late blight had been confirmed in the following jurisdictions in North America; British Columbia, Florida, Louisiana, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Kentucky.