Southwest Region

In the Southwest Region rainfall was spotty over the past week with reported amounts of 5 to 40 mm. Warm dry conditions have helped to dry up fields and several producers where able to spray unseeded acres.

Early seeded cereal crops are in the flag leaf to early heading stage and several producers are applying fungicides to crops that warrant application. The warm dry weather is not affecting the cereal crops as much as the oilseed crops. Early seeded canola crops are flowering and the hot weather is causing flower abortion. Canola that was broadcast seeded is starting to show effects of moisture stress since roots are shallow and not able to access subsoil moisture. Late seeded cereal crops are in the 3 to 4 leaf stage and are also showing effects of the heat. These crops could benefit from some precipitation.

Several producers have been haying over the past week and conditions have been good for putting up good quality hay. Yields have been average to above average. The main issues are getting at areas that still have standing water and several low lying areas have the forages dying as a result of excess moisture.

Pastures continue to dry. Areas of pasture where water has stood for a long period of time are dying off.

Northwest Region

Hot and dry weather conditions were general through the Northwest Region. Relative humidity and winds were average; very scattered and occasional light showers developed from day-time heating.

Through the Swan River and Roblin areas, crop stands are uniform and developing well. Oilseeds are at advanced flowering with up to 80% of canola into pod stages in the Roblin area. Cereals are advanced to 95% into heading and flowering. Soil moisture is becoming limited and the crops could benefit from some precipitation.

Development of crops is less advanced east of the Escarpment from Grandview to Lake Manitoba, with widely variable staging and stand uniformity. All crops in this area are reflecting the difficult excess moisture conditions early in the season. Canola staging ranges from early cabbaging to 55% bloom and 10 to 15% pod stage. Cereals are tillering with wheat reaching 80% heading and flowering. Late seeded greenfeed acres are at various seedling and early tillering stages. Crop stands with root development or root disease issues are beginning to reflect the effects of the hot dry weather conditions.

Pastures continue to dry. Areas of pasture where water has stood for a long period of time are dying off.

Overall, fungicide applications are 80 to 90% complete. In the eastern areas, producers continue to make fungicide application decisions relative to yield potentials on a field by field basis. Weed and volunteer growth on unseeded acres and drown outs are being managed by tillage and herbicides, or for potential fall seeded crops.

Bertha armyworm trap counts are increasing in the Swan River and San Clara areas. Some early wheat midge activity has been reported around Ste. Rose and Swan River.

Haying operations are 70 to 80% complete under dry conditions. Yields and quality are average or better. Pastures grazed before forage growth was adequate or under early wet conditions are seeing lost production potential under the recent dry, hot conditions. Pastures grazed before forage growth was adequate or under early wet conditions are seeing lost production potential under the recent dry, hot conditions. Production potentials are unchanged for flood-impacted low lying or poorly drained native forage and pasture lands adjacent to Lake’s Manitoba, Winnipegosis and Dauphin.

Central Region

The early part of the week saw average temperatures gradually increasing to hot by the weekend. There was little to no rain in most of the region this past week. Emerson received 10 to 15mm over the weekend; the scattered hail that fell
in eastern areas caused minimal, if any, damage. Crops have advanced dramatically with the increased temperatures. Wet soils are drying up and water levels on the rivers are declining. However, some low areas still remain wet. The change in weather conditions is affecting soil and crop conditions. Clay soils have deep cracks while sandy soils are quite dry. Some crop root systems are struggling to reach the moisture below. Crops are starting to exhibit symptoms of moisture and heat stress and is prevalent in annual crops and varies by area. Almost all crops could use some precipitation, with the exception of the Gladstone area. Early seeded canola is finishing flowering while late seeded canola is just starting to flower. The earliest seeded cereals have finished flowering. Winter wheat fields are seeing colour change; filling continues. Corn and soybeans are benefitting from the hot temperatures. Soybeans and early-maturing edible beans are flowering and are generally growing well. As much as 5 to 10% additional acres were seeded to barley or greenfeed in northwest parts of the region. Non-uniform crop staging continues to create challenges for both herbicide and fungicide timings. Herbicide applications are coming to an end. Some unseeded acres have now received herbicide applications and conditions have improved enough for equipment access. Disease pressure remains high in many fields due to higher humidity. Fungicides continue to be applied to canola and cereals where warranted. Potatoes and vegetable acres are being irrigated. Diamondback moths numbers remain high in trap counts. Bertha armyworm trap counts are low. Most insect pressure appears low at this point. Haying continues with good yields. Quality is lower due to the later season cuts. There are some concerns about losses due to intense heat. Second cut alfalfa has good growth, although it is starting to slow since rain would be welcomed. First cut dairy hay is under way with as much as 70 to 80 percent complete in some areas. Average to above average hay yields are reported; estimated yields are 2.0 to 2.5 tonnes per acre alfalfa; 1.75 to 2.75 tonnes per acre alfalfa/grass. Pastures that were not drowned out are in good condition and growing well with abundant moisture. At this point, growth is keeping ahead of grazing. Grasses growing in areas previously drowned out are now yellowing due to the hot temperatures. Pasture land in the Gladstone area is drying up.

Eastern Region

Weather in the Eastern Region was generally sunny and very warm over the past week. Some intense, isolated and widely dispersed rainfall events did occur with amounts ranging from as little as 2 mm to over 30 mm. The earliest seeded spring wheat is in the milk to very soft dough stage. A significant portion of the crop is flowering with fungicide applications for fusarium head blight ongoing. The late seeded crop is approaching flag leaf. Spraying of insecticide to control true armyworm that had exceeded economic thresholds occurred in wheat, oats and corn in the Whitemouth/Elma areas. Most barley fields have progressed to head emergence stages. Oat fields, with the exception of those seeded late, are at head emergence stages. The late seeded crop is generally just entering into early head emergence. Winter wheat fields vary from soft dough to hard dough stage. On cereals, moisture stress symptoms are evident as incomplete head filling has been observed in some fields. Canola crop staging continues to span a wide range although all fields are now flowering. The most advanced crop is at 80% flower or more and the late seeded crop is just starting to flower. Some flower blasting has been observed. Fungicide applications for sclerotinia control continue. Some true armyworm was discovered in canola fields but no instances of spraying are reported. Flax crops are in a range of flowering stages with some crops even starting to move into grain fill. Moisture stress due to poor root development is being reported. Soybeans fields are flowering. True armyworm was also reported in soybean but no instances of spraying are noted. Soybean demonstrated a number of leaf symptoms this week with the most common being brown spot (Septoria) and bacterial blight. Also some fields appear to be significantly impacted by either root rots or phytophthora root rot.
Corn growth stage ranges from the V8 to V10 growth stage. Corn growth continues to accelerate given the sunny warm weather and many crops are currently 5 to 6 feet tall. The most advanced sunflowers are entering reproductive growth stages with small heads now forming.

Hay field condition ranges from fair to good across the region. First cut haying continues and is half done. Yields in southern areas of the region are reported as 2 tons DM per acre for alfalfa and 1.75 tons for alfalfa/grass hay. In northern areas hay yields have been reported about 80% of normal expected yields. Haying will continue this week if the weather allows.

Pastureland conditions are rated as good but high levels of bullflies pestering livestock are noted.

**Interlake Region**

Daytime temperatures increased throughout the Interlake Region the past week with above average temperatures experienced over the weekend. There was no precipitation over the past week. Some precipitation would be beneficial to annual crops and harvested forage crops as the top soil continues to dry.

Late planted crops and canola crops are showing signs of heat stress. Winter wheat crops are in the milky dough stage with color change and maturity being advanced with the hot weather conditions.

Greenfeed crops are facing challenges as dry seedbeds have resulted in poor to fair germination. Green foxtail competition in oats and tame millets is causing production losses in late-seeded greenfeed.

Diamondback moth larvae have been found in canola crops below economic threshold levels.

The continuing dry weather is beneficial for harvest of the hay crop. Dairy farmers continue with harvest of second cut alfalfa-grass crops. With the exception of Lake Manitoba area farms, North Interlake farms are making excellent progress on haying with tame hay, and native hay starting to progress due to excellent drying weather. Hay yields are good; less alfalfa is seen in most fields due to years of excess moisture.

Alfalfa leaf cutter bee activity is enhanced with warm temperatures resulting in good alfalfa seed set.