Weekly Provincial Summary

- Harvesting of the earliest seeded spring wheat and barley fields has started and preliminary yields are average to above average. Swathing of canola and oat crops continue across Manitoba, as does the winter wheat harvest.
- Aster yellows is evident in many canola and flax fields, with a range of severity. Higher than normal levels of root rot is also evident in spring wheat fields.
- Symptoms of heat and moisture stress continue to be evident in many crop types. In many areas of Manitoba, precipitation would be welcome to aid in grain filling, regrowth on pastures and hay fields, and continued growth in crops such as grain corn, sunflowers, edible beans and soybeans.
- A strong weather system passed through areas of the Interlake and Eastern Regions on July 29 which did cause damage to trees and farm infrastructure. The high winds associated with the system did result in some crop damage, including lodging of cereal crops.

Southwest Region

There was little to no rainfall over the past week in the Southwest Region; some areas did report 5 to 10 mm. Warm, dry conditions are rapidly advancing crop development.

Winter wheat and fall rye harvest began late in the week. Most of the winter wheat acres have been desiccated and producers are swathing fall rye. Average winter wheat yields are reported with good quality and low protein. Fall rye yields are reported as average.

Early seeded cereal crops are turning and producers will start desiccating acres by the end of the week. Dry conditions have caused premature ripening in saline areas of many fields, many of which are a result of the wet conditions in previous years. Some producers have started to swath. Fusarium head blight and root rot is prevalent in many wheat fields and are likely to impact yield and quality.

Most of the canola crop is done flowering and into seed filling. The heat over the past couple of weeks has resulted in some flower abortion. Spraying for bertha armyworm has occurred; however, the cases have been isolated so far. Aster yellows is evident in majority of canola fields. Flax is still flowering; aster yellows is also prevalent.

The warm weather has helped the corn and sunflower crops but a rainfall would be welcome as the crops move into the tasselling and heading stage.

Several producers are taking second cut of alfalfa and yields look to be below average with average quality.

Pastures are still holding on and producers that started grazing in early May are starting to see pastures deteriorate due to drier conditions. Dugout levels are 85% full.

Northwest Region

Throughout the Northwest Region, above seasonal daytime temperatures and occasional high humidity began the week. Later in the week saw widespread thunder showers, occasional high winds and variable precipitation amounts of 15 to 55 mm with some locally higher amounts reported. A number of locations report having hail, including Inglis.

Wet soil moisture conditions through the northern areas of the region are improving; however, reduced crop condition, yellowing and ponding persists. In the rest of the region, conditions are generally better. Cereal crops are developing in to dough stages, with some beginning to ripen. Approximately 10 to 15% of
the canola crop remains at flowering. Silage corn is beginning to tassel, with hemp and soybeans also responding well to the favourable heat and moisture. Winter wheat harvest has begun in the Ste.Rose and Dauphin areas. Perennial grass seed crops are being swathed.

Some economic levels of lygus bugs are reported on canola throughout the region. High alfalfa plant bug and lygus bug populations have affected pod set in some forage seed around Dauphin area. Aster yellows is occurring in almost all canola fields; some fields have 30% of the stand impacted. Aster yellows is also impacting many flax fields.

As weather conditions allowed, haying operations in the southern areas continued with approximately 10% of first cut remaining and 75% is baled and ensilaged. High humidity and rain has delayed dry down and harvest operations. Hay yields are average or below and quality has declined further with weathering. The hay harvest is less advanced and continues to be delayed in northern areas where field conditions remain wet.

**Central Region**

The hot dry weather has seen this year’s crop in the Central Region mature rapidly with swathing occurring in canola, wheat and barley being harvested in July. Most areas have received little or no moisture during the last week. Areas around Emerson and Morris did receive upwards of 12 mm but these rains were very spotty.

Winter wheat harvest is completed in the Red River Valley and is well underway in the Sommerset area. Yields in the Red River are reported to be between 60 to 100 bu/acre and the average yield being close to 80 bu/acre. Yields on barley are reported to be in the 80 to 100 bu/ac range and early spring wheat yields have been in the range of 50 to 70 bu/ac. Oat harvest will be next to get underway. Swathing has occurred on some fields and other fields will be direct harvested.

The hot dry weather resulted in canola being swathed in the region. Pod colour change is deceiving in some fields; pods are yellow, while seeds are still green. Flowering is near completion in edible beans. There were isolated reports of white mould occurring in areas where plant growth is lush and where air movement through the canopy is minimal; it should not be a yield limiting factor given the recent hot dry weather. Bacterial blight was also reported on some dry bean fields, most typically where strong winds and/or hail have damaged the plants.

Soybeans are approaching the R4 growth stage where rainfall is critical for yield. Timely rains at this stage would increase yield potential. Nodulation has been good to date on the soybeans. There have been reports of septoria brown spot on the lower leaves and bacterial blight on the upper canopy in various soybean fields but are not going to be a yield limiting factor at this point. Corn is tasselling. Some fields are showing symptoms of heat and moisture stress; precipitation would be welcomed.

Sunflowers are in bud to early flower. Low levels of sunflower beetles have been reported. Some evidence of sunflower bud moth, banded sunflower moth and grasshoppers can be seen.

Grasshoppers are showing up in fields. Lygus bug numbers are generally low, although isolated fields have numbers high enough to warrant control measures. Insect monitoring continues in crops; many beneficial predators are present.

Hay crop is below average this year due to drier weather conditions. Crop conditions are generally good to fair depending on the area; St. Alphonse area to Glenboro seems the driest and the southeast to west between Manitou to Mather are the more moist areas.

Livestock water supplies are tight and dugouts are below average levels. Producers are dependent on other sources for watering like wells and creeks.

**Eastern Region**

Last week sunny and hot weather prevailed across the Eastern Region. Sporadic rainfall of varying amounts occurred during the week. The city of Steinbach received 61 mm last Wednesday while areas around the city received considerably less. At the same time rainfall amounts in northern areas ranged from 1 to more than 10 mm with isolated hail events. On Sunday, severe thunderstorms in some central and northern areas produced 7 to over 15 mm of rain. High winds caused some crop damage (swathed crop and ripe standing cereals) as well as property damage. At the same time southern areas around Woodridge and Piney received as much as 25 mm of rainfall while other areas received only a trace.
Most winter wheat crops were harvested last week. Reported yields range from 60 to 80 bu/acre. Bushel weights are in the 60 lb range with very low fusarium head blight levels. About 50% of the red spring wheat is mature with the balance in the late dough stages, while 70% of barley and 50% oats are also mature. About 40% of canola is mature with the balance of acres in late pod fill. The start of swathing in spring cereals and canola occurred. Flax is moving from boll filling to being mature.

Sunflowers are in a range of R5 flowering stages. Soybeans are in the podding growth stage. Corn is in the blister growth stage. While the condition of annual crops in central and northern areas is generally rated as good, symptoms of moisture stress are noted in annual crops in the southern areas. Additional rainfall would be welcome.

In northern areas of the region, grain producers remained concerned about insects. Spraying for lygus bug in canola continued where infestation levels deemed it necessary and crop was still in vulnerable growth stages.

In regards to haying operations, beef producers in southern areas are completing first cut. A growing number of hayfields will not be cut this year, or will not have a second cut done, due to the drier than normal conditions. Some pastures are impacted by the drier conditions; some producers have started feeding on pasture.

In central areas of the region, beef and dairy producers have completed second cut and are reporting good quality. Third cut is now ongoing in central regions. For beef hay, overall quality was rated as fair to good with expected average yields rated at 1 to 1.5 ton/acre for alfalfa, 1 to 1.2 ton/acre for grass/alfalfa, 0.75 ton/acre for other tame hay and 0.5 ton/acre for wild hay. Reports of 1.5 ton/acre third cut alfalfa silage yields in central districts.

**Interlake Region**

The Interlake Region saw more hot and humid weather this week. Scattered thundershowers on Wednesday and Thursday morning, as well as on the weekend, left accumulations of up to 100 mm in localized showers. An area north and west of Riverton had unofficial reports of 130 mm. The Warren and Marquette area is reporting dry conditions as very little rain has fallen over the last few weeks. High winds caused property damage in the Winnipeg Beach and Petersfield area with reports of toppled grain bins and uprooted trees, as well as flattened spring wheat crops.

Winter wheat harvest is complete in the south and well underway across the rest of the region. Rain and humidity have delayed harvest, although harvesting was ongoing between rains on the weekend. Yields are reported in the 60 to 85 bu/acre range. Swathing of barley crops is general. Swathing of canola has started on crops across the region. There are reports of elevated lygus bug populations and some bertha armyworm in canola with insecticides applied to a few fields. Spring wheat and oats have started to mature. Some spring wheat fields are affected by root rot with some fields displaying up to 5% infection.

Lygus bugs and black stem are affecting alfalfa seed fields with control measures being taken on many. Timothy seed harvest is underway, mostly with swathing of mature crops.

First cut haying continues for beef producers across the region while dairy producers have mostly completed the second cut. The drier areas west of Warren report that second cut yields are very poor. The Ashern area is reporting that feed supplies are expected to be short. Pasture conditions are good with recent rains allowing for good regrowth.