

CROP REPORT #10 – July 7, 2020

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Weekly Provincial Summary

- Saturated soils and waterlogged fields are common in the Southwest region from Brandon northward.
- [Fusarium risk maps](#) indicate extreme risk for FHB development in cereals across much of the province.
- Hay and forage yields have been below normal to date, rains are expected to improve hay and pasture regrowth for a second cut in most of the province.
- Widespread spraying for grasshoppers is ongoing, some headlands and roadsides, others are across entire fields. Distribution of grasshoppers is inconsistent, though pressure is higher than in 2019.
- [Armyworms](#) are noted in fall rye, spring cereals, and perennial ryegrass. Insecticide applications are ongoing as economic thresholds are reached.

Southwest Region

The region experienced a second excessive rainfall event this week. The majority of the region got 50 to 75mm rain in the storm. This caused more stress to the crop and to area retention dams. Standing water and drowned out areas in fields are a common sight in the region right now. Some crops are handling water better than others depending upon the crop and soil type – wheat, corn, and soybeans are faring best so far. Intense rainfall in a short timeframe caused nutrient and soil loss through rapid surface runoff.

Fall rye is at early dough stage. winter wheat also progressing well. There few reports of FHB in winter wheat. Most of crop is at milky dough stage. Crop is rated as good to average.

Spring wheat is coming along well. Early seeded crop is booting to flowering; most producers are planning on a fungicide spray. Canola crops are looking good to average after these big rain events. Most early-seeded fields are flowering and later-seeded fields starting to bolt. Low areas in the fields are suffering with yellowing

and stunted plant growth. Sclerotinia could be a high risk in especially thick plant stands. No major insect reports at this time. Bertha armyworm traps are in the region and reporting low numbers but producers are advised to scout the fields for bertha armyworm and grasshopper as well.

Soybean are at 3rd to 4th trifoliolate and beginning to flower. The soybean crop is handling excessive water conditions as well as could be expected. Chlorosis due to standing water is very visible but getting better with the heat.

Corn is at V4 to V6 and sunflowers are at V6 to V10 stage. Both of these crops are thriving in this humid and hot weather. Flax is also at stem elongation stage. Some early fields flowering.

Peas are flowering and producers are spraying for disease protection as these recent rains are increasing the risk of Mycosphaerella and other pathogens.

Grasshoppers in their early instar stages are present along roadside

and field edges. Some leaf diseases emerging in cereals, but no rust noted to date. Fusarium root rot found near Reston in peas. Some fields were sprayed too late and now facing weed infestation issues in some fields.

More rain this past week helps pasture development with some areas reporting standing water in pastures. Sloughs are full and reduced hay yields may result. Some haying has started but slow progress. Quality is going to be an issue as some cut hay has had several rains on it. Dugouts are full.

Northwest Region

There was precipitation throughout the entire region last week along with hot temperatures. Rainfall amounts were 40 to 50mm through Swan River, Ste. Rose/McCreary, The Pas and 75mm around Roblin area. There is water pooling in low-lying areas and some fields are saturated. There are reports of overland flooding in the McCreary area causing significant crop damage. Temperatures hit highs over 30°C causing humid

conditions. Pesticide applications have continued in an attempt to catch up; however, continue to be a challenge due to a very narrow window of ideal environmental conditions. Growth stages for all crops is very spread out in the region due to cool spring weather, dry soils delaying emergence, frost and insect pressure resulting in reseeding. The recent precipitation and hot weather have advanced crops very quickly.

Spring cereals in the region are starting to head out with 80% well into the stem-elongation growth stage. Cereals are generally in good condition although weed control has been a challenge. Winter wheat and fall rye are heading/flowering; winter wheat is in fair to good condition while fall rye is in excellent condition. The fusarium head blight (FHB) risk map is indicating an extreme risk as the current warm humid conditions are occurring when the crop is susceptible to infection (during flowering).

Hot weather and rainfall has advanced the canola with 10% of the crop flowering, 75% in the rosette stage and the balance in the seedling stage. Patchy emergence in canola is becoming very evident with part of the fields bolting/flowering and parts of the same field still in the 2- to 4- leaf stage. Canola crop condition ranges from poor to good with 60% in fair condition. The soybean crop is in the vegetative stage and is in good to fair condition; soybean condition is better in the southern part of the region. Field peas are in full flower and are generally in good to excellent condition. Fungicide applications have occurred in peas and are beginning in wheat. Flax is in good condition.

Bertha armyworm monitoring is underway with highest numbers of moths in traps in Swan Valley (94) and Durban (49) areas.

Diamondback larvae have been observed, in low numbers, in canola fields. Cutworms are still causing concern in the Swan River area. The [FHB risk](#) is extreme.

The condition of pastures, hay and annual crops for feed has improved in response to last week's rainfall. However, there are pockets in the region with excess moisture including north of Ste. Rose, as well as The Pas, where pastures have standing water and around McCreary where overland flooding is present. Producers are still waiting for a window of favourable drying weather to resume beef hay harvest but yields will be below normal. Hay fields that were cut but not baled before the rain will have very poor to no feed value. Corn silage crops have benefitted from the rains but are less advanced than normal for this time of year. Livestock water supplies on pastures remain adequate.

Central Region

Sunny warm conditions prevailed during the week with intermittent rain showers that brought welcome moisture to all parts of the region. Precipitation ranged from 25mm in the Bagot area to as much as 70 to 80mm in the Clearwater, Brunkild and Emerson areas. Daytime highs reached the low 30s combined with high humidity levels. Winds were moderate but steady. Given the recent rains and warmer temperatures, soil surface moisture is rated fair to good for most of the region to excessive in areas where precipitation was more abundant. Some standing water in low lying areas of fields that received higher rainfall but limited damage to crops given the small areas affected.

Fall rye is turning color as it is maturing. Winter wheat is finished flowering. Cereal armyworm have been found in many fall rye fields in the region reaching economic

threshold levels. Growers are applying control measures to prevent further damage where conditions warrant it.

Wheat, barley and oats are growing rapidly and many fields are headed out or heading out. Those crops are rated as good to excellent condition. With the recent precipitation and high humidity, fungicidal protectants are being applied to wheat and barley to prevent fusarium head blight. Due to the wetter field conditions, aerial application is common. Lodging is minimal in cereals or have already recovered well. Corn is in the V4 to V7 stage and growing rapidly with the favourable moisture and higher temperatures.

Field peas are growing well, flowering to early pod. A second and last fungicide application to prevent *Mycosphaerella* blight is being done where conditions are favourable for disease development. Canola staging varies according to the seeding date and ranges from rosette for late planted or reseeded fields to bolting and flowering for many fields. Most canola fields below the escarpment are flowering compared to less than half of the fields flowering west of the escarpment. Fungicide protectants are being applied to flowering canola fields for the prevention of sclerotinia. Most soybean and edible bean fields are flowering, with latest planted ones just starting. Both are growing well with the favourable conditions. Some reports of Iron Deficiency Chlorosis (IDC) so far on soybeans. Symptoms are fading as the crops are growing past the susceptible stage. Flax is in the stem elongation stage and early fields are starting to flower. Sunflowers in the V8 to R2 stage and enjoying the warmer temperatures.

Potato heat units are nearing 300 P-Days and close to possible early

blight infection. High temperatures (above 32°C) for a few days has resulted in heat runners in some fields. Late blight risk is medium to low, and no late blight spores were trapped in any of the six monitored sites. Early blight spores were trapped in Carberry area. There were European corn borers trapped in 3 out of 12 monitoring sites.

Most herbicide applications are done except for second passes on some later planted soybeans and corn. Some later planted and reseeded canola fields remain to be sprayed for weeds. Some inter-row cultivating being done in sunflower. Grasshoppers are noticeable in many different fields and crops. Control measures are being applied to the headlands of fields to prevent economic damage.

Water supplies continue to be plentiful for cattle on pasture. Pastures are providing adequate forage for grazing. Alfalfa is full flower and grasses are headed out. Yields on newer, well-managed hayfields are average while older hay fields will yield below average. Beef producers have started to make hay but the recent rains & high humidity will delay haying progress. Dairy hay harvested earlier is of nice quality. Green feed and corn silage yields look promising.

Eastern Region

The Eastern region experienced hot and humid conditions over the last week that continued to accelerate crop development. Rainfall accumulations for the period ranged from 15 to over 50mm occurring as isolated moderate to severe thunderstorms. Some areas in southern and northern parts of the region were the hardest hit in terms of excess rainfall with standing water and plant stress evident. In particular, areas in the southern region that experienced excessive

rainfall and flooding a few weeks ago continue to struggle with saturated conditions. At the same time, there are some northern districts that would benefit from additional rainfall or else crop stress and loss of yield potential are possible in the coming weeks. Soil moisture conditions on cropland, pastures and hayland in northern and central districts of the region were rated as mostly adequate. In southern districts, soil moisture conditions on cropland were rated as 70% adequate and 30% surplus while pastures and hayland were rated as 60% adequate and 40% surplus.

Overall, about 95% of herbicide applications are complete. Producers are shifting attention to fungicides and insecticides. Fungicide applications for FHB in spring cereals were ongoing and expected to be complete by the end of the week. Fungicide applications in canola started last week and were ongoing this week. Most soybeans were at the R1 (flowering) stage. The greening up of yellowed soybean fields really accelerated last week and was attributed to rapid plant development and growth. Corn ranged from the V6 to V10 growth stages with most fields reaching the “knee high by the fourth of July” landmark. Sunflowers were at the R1 or “bud” growth stage. Field peas were at the R1 to early R2 growth stages with fungicide applications for *Mycosphaerella* blight ongoing. Overall crop conditions were rated as good outside of areas challenged by past flooding, and crop conditions were seen as continuing to improve in the recent warm and humid conditions.

Insecticide applications for the control of grasshoppers and armyworms increased over the last week. Field margins and whole fields were being sprayed for control of grasshoppers, particularly in

northern districts. However, the occurrence of grasshoppers at levels that warranted control has been sporadic and not widespread across whole districts. Agronomists have reported that grasshopper populations are varying widely from field to field, even within the same square mile, necessitating comprehensive scouting to make spray decisions. Cereal armyworms have been a particular challenge in grass forage seed fields in northern districts with most fields requiring an insecticide application. Some spraying in spring cereals for armyworm has also occurred but this has been much more variable from field to field again necessitating comprehensive scouting. Bertha armyworms have been found in canola with a very limited amount of spraying occurring so far. Scouting for Bertha armyworms in canola will be ramping up this week.

In northern and central districts of the region hay conditions continued to be rated as fair while pasture conditions improved to mostly good. Overall, first cut hay yields were proving to be about 60% of normal. Grass hay seemed to yielding better than expected compared to alfalfa or alfalfa/grass hay and this was attributed to a higher than normal amount of winterkill in the alfalfa and the continuing effects of an early June frost that was particularly hard on alfalfa. At most, 50% of alfalfa or alfalfa grass hay had been cut. Dairy farmers putting up alfalfa silage made the most progress while no more than 15 to 20% of baling had been done. High humidity and sporadic thunderstorms last week made putting up dry hay difficult. No wild hay or single-cut tame was cut as of yet. The quality of silage and baled hay continued to be rated as good. Pasture conditions showed marked improvement last week and producers were less concerned about near term feed supplies.

Interlake Region

Rapid crop advancement is evident with temperatures into the low 30°C range and high humidity. Rainfall continues to be variable with scattered thundershowers. Areas receiving the highest amounts of 30 to 40mm include Poplarfield, Narcisse, Moosehorn and Fisherton. Scattered showers for much of the region were in the 10 to 20mm range. Crops are looking quite good in most of the region; many comment that 25 mm of rain in the next week or so would be very welcome. Much of the region currently reports good soil moisture levels, with some areas getting a bit dry, and a few isolated areas that need time to dry up after recent heavy rains.

Crops are generally looking good. Cereals are looking terrific, other than some of the last-seeded or reseeded fields. Spring wheat and barley are heading out to fully headed and flowered. Oats are close behind with a number of fields with fully emerged panicles. Fall rye has set seed and will start to turn soon. Peas look great, and are at the tail end of flowering. Fababeans look good. Sunflowers are advancing. Canola is more of a disappointment – some fields look terrific with a nice even stand; others are thin and stagey, due to a number of earlier stresses, including frost injury, flea beetle damage, wind, crusting and poor germination in dry conditions.

Staging canola is difficult due to the number of reseeded fields. The earlier seeded fields are as advanced as 30 to 50 % bloom. Late fields are starting to bolt. The latest seeded soybeans are in the 2nd to 3rd trifoliolate; flowering has started; the more advanced crops are in the R1 to R2 in southern parts of the region. Some pods are starting to form at the bottom of

plants. Iron deficiency chlorosis continues to decline, and is much less noticeable. Flax is in bud and early flower. Heat and moisture has been great for both grain and silage corn; all areas report rapid growth. Most of the crop looks better as compared to the same time last year. Colour is good and most fields have a nice dark green colour. Tasseling should start as early as next week.

All crops are generally shorter than normal. A few late seeded fields in the northwest districts are yellowed due to recent heavy rains. The more advanced crops are handling that moisture well.

Weed spraying has been a challenge with earlier high winds and thundershowers; most applications are complete. Second applications are being wrapped up in soybeans. Almost all corn is out of stage for second application.

There are reports of armyworms in a number of fields including perennial ryegrass, fescue and timothy, requiring insecticide treatment. Increasing numbers of grasshopper hotspots are being reported throughout the region, and fields are being monitored carefully. Grasshoppers are moving off pasture and cut hay into annual crops. Reports to date are that grasshoppers are much worse than last year. Headlands are being sprayed where possible, but more entire fields are being sprayed, especially in the southwest part of the region, as well as Armstrong, Bifrost-Riverton and Fisher. All crops have been affected, including newly established alfalfa and forage grass seed fields. Pasture and hayfields are being hit hard in the north part of the region. The poorest pastures are most affected. Diamondback moth monitoring has wrapped up. Larvae are starting to emerge; crop growth is sufficient that significant damage should not

be a concern with the first generation of larvae. Bertha armyworm moth trap counts are increasing, but total numbers continue to be low.

Fungicide application in peas is complete. Fungicide is going on at flag leaf timing for oats; most treatments will be complete shortly. Applications for FHB timing in wheat and barley continues. Most wheat will be treated; more than half of the acres are complete. Fewer acres of barley and oats will receive fungicide; spraying is ongoing. Much of the FHB fungicide treatments will be complete by the weekend or early next week. Fungicide treatment is currently ongoing but will not be as extensive in canola. Thinner crop stands, stagey stands and moisture levels insufficient for disease development will determine whether fungicide is applied.

Pastures have improved somewhat with the recent rains, while the majority of pastures are rated in fair to poor condition. Damage due to continuous grazing in times of poor growth makes it difficult for those areas to recover. First cut hay yield will be lower due to shorter growth with the extended cold weather, lack of rainfall and set backs due to frost. First cut dairy hay is complete; yields are reported as mediocre. Beef producers continue to cut, and some baling is complete. Although better than last year in many cases, yields will be below average. Recent rains bring hope that there will be a second cut, and that some of the second cut will fair better. Frost injury to alfalfa and other forages has been greater than first expected. This adds to the concern for forage availability. While shortages are still anticipated, the outlook has improved quite dramatically.

Livestock water supplies are currently adequate.