

CROP REPORT #18 – September 1, 2020

Prepared by:
Manitoba Agriculture - Primary Agriculture Branch
(204) 745-5660 Fax: (204) 745-5690

[Reporting Area Map](#)

[Seasonal Report](#)

[Crop Weather Report](#)

To receive the Crop Report weekly, click [here](#)

Weekly Provincial Summary

- Harvesting tough cereal grains is becoming more common. Aeration bins are used in combination with grain drying in some areas.
- Spring wheat yields are generally below average; grain is generally reaching the top two grades. Oat and barley yields are better, and quality is good.
- Dry bean and canola desiccation or swathing is occurring in much of the Eastern, Central and Southwest regions. Cereal harvest is just starting in the Northwest.
- Grasshoppers are noted in many crops; flea beetles are present in large numbers in the Portage la Prairie and south Interlake areas. Insecticide spraying has been very limited on late insects.
- The [Manitoba Hay Listing](#) service is available to assist farmers in searching for or making available sources of livestock feed. Greenfeed cereal silage and straw baling is continuing aggressively.

Table 1: Seeded Acreage and Harvest Progress for 2020 Manitoba Field Crops to Date.

Crop	Seeded Acreage†	2020 Harvest Progress	3-year Harvest Progress**
Winter Wheat*	29,223	95%	99%
Fall Rye*	94,114	97%	99%
Spring Wheat*	2,776,228	50%	71%
Barley*	382,853	62%	78%
Oats*	652,100	44%	73%
Field Pea*	155,865	89%	99%
Canola	3,371,145	7%	47%
Flax*	49,805	0%	2%
Soybean*	1,095,136	0%	2%
Dry Bean	185,109	0%	2%
Sunflower	90,341	0%	0%
Corn (Grain and Silage)	437,262	0%	0%
Potatoes	54,857	<5%	0%

†MASC Seeded Acreage Report (31-Aug-2020)

*Indicates total acreage of commercial, pedigreed seed and organic seeded acres.

** Harvest Progress as of first week of August 2017-2019 Averages from Manitoba Crop Report.

Southwest Region

Warm, dry weather most of the preceding week gave producers an opportunity to advance their harvest. Rain on the weekend interrupted progress, with field operations resuming on Monday. Nighttime temperatures are dropping quickly to single digit lows, though daytime temperatures are

still normal and helping the crops to dry down. Soil moisture conditions are adequate in most of the region.

Overall harvest in the southwest would be about 10 to 15% complete, less north of the TransCanada Highway. Winter wheat and fall rye harvest is complete. Field pea

harvest is 80% done with yields reported to average to above average with good quality. There were drowned out spots in pea fields due to big rainstorm in the southwest at the end of June. Those spots are affecting on overall yield average.

Spring cereals are reaching harvestable stages. Approximately 60% of the wheat, barley and oat crops in southern parts of the region are harvested. Barley almost done with above average yield.

In northern districts, the majority of the barley has been harvested with good malt quality and average to above average yield. Spring wheat is 40% done with good quality and average yield.

Canola swathing continues. Several producers who were planning on straight cutting are now swathing. Nearly 70% of fields planned on swathing are now cut, while the other 30% remain to be swathed. Very few reports of canola harvest in the southern parts of the region and no reports of yield yet. Grasshoppers are the only insect issue in some areas but no reports of any spraying at this time.

Soybeans are start to change colour as most of the crop is at early R7 stage. Majority of the crop looks promising with lot of pods and good height this year as many areas received timely rains, which are helping fill pods. Some late seeded field are at R5 to R6.

Flax fields are continue to dry down stage. There is no major disease issues at this stage.

Corn is at R4 to R5 stage of development. Recent rains are favoring yield development. No major disease or insect issues at this stage. Sunflowers are starting to enter R7 (flowering complete). Blackbirds are becoming a problem in some areas.

Most producers have finished second hay cut. Yields were average. Producers are baling straw. Cereal silage is nearly done with average to above average yields. Dugouts are at 70% capacity.

Northwest Region

Despite a mix of weather conditions this week, some harvest progress was made in the Northwest region. Highest daytime temperature reaching 27°C across the region and dipping down into the single digit temperatures overnight, along with a couple of days with precipitation slowed harvest progress.

Field pea harvest for the region is winding down for much of the region with approximately 15 to 20% left to combine in the Swan Valley area. Yields in the Swan River/Roblin region have been good with 70 to 80 bu/acre; 70 to 90bu/ac in Roblin area; 60 to 65bu/ac in Grandview.

Spring wheat harvest has been progressing with about 10% complete in Swan Valley/Roblin regions and 20% combined in Dauphin region. No reported yields as of yet. Some Barley has been harvested and some oats have been swathed.

Canola is podded and continues to mature. Desiccation and swathing continues as stages are reached and conditions allow. A small start to canola harvest in the southern part of the region. The Canola crop in The Pas is less advanced with only 5 to 10% swathed, and lower quality and yield are expected. Flax continues to ripen. Soybeans are mostly at R6 with a few fields at R5 and some fields heading towards ripening in the southern part of the region. Fababeans also continue to mature.

Majority of cereal silage and greenfeed has been put up with the exception of later seeded fields. Baling of cereal straw is occurring when harvest can resume between rains.

Grasshopper infestations remain a problem in the Ethelbert area and forage shortfalls are anticipated there. Corn silage fields look good and with a few more weeks without frost, they will help secure additional required feed, particularly in the eastern areas where more shortages are anticipated. Pasture conditions are variable across the region dependent on management and moisture received. In the Westlake area, pastures and water supplies are very poor. In other areas, water for livestock is adequate.

Central Region

Sunny, warm and dry conditions prevailed during the week. Sunday a band of rain showers travelled across the region bringing moderate rainfall ranging from two to 27 mm halting harvest operations. Mid twenties for daytime temperatures prevailed while nighttime temperatures cooled to low single digit combined with heavy dews on many mornings. Winds remained moderate for most of the week but picked up Monday disturbing some canola swathes.

Wheat harvest progressed well this week especially in the Red River Valley and north of the TransCanada Highway where crops are most advanced. West of the escarpment wheat harvest is not as advanced as in the Valley from delayed spring seeding. Yields reported vary from 40 bu/ac in the southeastern corner of the region where heavy mid summer rains caused drowning to 60 to 100 bu/ac on fields west of the escarpment on higher with grain quality in the top two grades mainly. Some ergot reported in wheat. Many barley fields are harvested with more looking ripe. Barley harvest continues with early reported yields ranging from 70 to 120 bu/ac and good quality. Most oat fields are ripe and harvest is underway with

reported yields in the 110 to 140 bu/ac range and good bushel weight. Harvest progress is expected to be moderated by the cooler and possibly rainy conditions in the coming days. Many fields are mature and ready to be combined when dryer conditions return. Straw is being harvested on many harvested cereal grain fields. Fusarium head blight symptoms are showing up in barley and wheat but the severity appears low. Most cornfields are in the dough (R4) to dent (R5) stage. Corn crops are looking well with the reasonable soil moisture and recent warm temperatures.

Swathing and harvest of canola is underway. Pod shatter resistant varieties tend to be left standing for direct harvest. Canola yields reported range from 40 to 50 bu/ac yields or in the average range with good quality grain. Heavy populations of flew beetles reported in some areas. The flax crop looks good and standing up well. Sunflowers are finished flowering and progressing into the R7 stage with seed filling.

Most field peas are mature and many harvested already. Some later planted fields still in the mid-maturity stage (R6). Yield reports have been ranging in the 60 to 80 bu/ac range and of good quality.

Soybean fields are in the full seed (R6) seed stage to beginning maturity (R7) as fields are starting to turn. Soybeans in the Carman and Gladstone areas would benefit from more rain while the southeast corner of the region is doing well for soil moisture from recent rainfall. Other parts of the region are rated as fair as soybeans advance in maturity. Some grasshoppers control measures applied in soybeans in the Portage area to prevent economic damage. Edible beans harvest has been slow this past week as more fields are

maturing and near ready for desiccation. Some Kidney types already combined with yields reported in the 1800 lbs per acre.

The potato heat units (P-Days) are higher than normal at this time. Rain did help unirrigated fields that were struggling for lack of moisture. No late blight report in Manitoba, or any of the neighbouring regions. All seed potato fields have now been desiccated. Bacterial stem rot associated with stem borer injury and white mold in moist under-canopy is prevalent in some fields. Early dying plants are starting to show up in many fields.

Second cut alfalfa harvest is nearing completion with yields better than last year. Producers need to be cautious cutting during the [critical fall period](#), which is 3 to 4 weeks prior to a killing frost as winter injury can occur. Wild hay and ditches continue to be cut and baled. Cereal green feed and silage harvest is complete. Cooler conditions and showers is making it harder to put up dry hay. High grasshopper populations are still causing considerable damage to pastures and some hay & grain crops in the Gladstone area.

Water sources on pasture are adequate. Pastures are being grazed down where rainfall was lacking for optimal regrowth. Producers are grazing green feed stubble and second growth hayfields to extend the grazing season.

Eastern Region

This past week, rainfall accumulations across the Eastern region ranged from 10 to over 40 mm occurring mostly as thunderstorms and intermittent showers over the past weekend. Most districts in the region received enough rainfall to interrupt harvest progress. Northern districts experienced the most widespread

area of rainfall accumulations exceeding 25 mm. Temperatures were seasonal to above seasonal prior to the weekend rainfall but quickly moved to below seasonal after the weekend. Producers were frustrated with the harvest interruption but are hopeful they will return to the fields later in the week, weather allowing. Besides harvest, fieldwork and baling were ongoing until the weekend rainfall.

Across the region, overall harvest completion was estimated at 30%. Spring wheat harvest was about 70% complete. Yield reports ranged from 55 to 70 bu/acre. Quality ranged from No 1 to No 2 with recent rainfalls noted as causing some bleaching. Protein levels are variable from field to field, ranging from under 11% to 15%. Oats harvest was about 85% complete with yield reports ranging from 100 to 130 bu/acre with good quality, though variable in bushel weights.

In canola, pre-harvest herbicide applications were ongoing with at least 80% of canola slated for a pre-harvest herbicide sprayed so far. For canola intended for swathing, at least 80% has been swathed so far. The extent of reseeded/late seeded canola that occurred this spring will result in canola pre-harvest herbicide applications, swathing and canola harvest itself dragging on longer this fall. About 15% of canola was harvested with yield reports ranging from 25 to 50 bu/ac with good quality. Some producers were disappointed with their initial canola yields, attributing them to hot dry conditions during flowering and initial pod set.

Most soybeans were in the late R6 to R7 growth stages and leaf yellowing/browning was occurring in most fields. Some fields seeded to very early maturing soybean varieties were noted as being in mid to late R7. Corn growth stage ranged from mid dough to dent.

Most sunflower fields ranged from the mid R6 to mid R7 growth stages. An improvement in the condition of corn and soybean crops resulting from rainfall over the past two weeks continued to be noted by many.

Across the Eastern Region, second cut beef hay was about 80% complete with yields ranging from 50% below average to average with good quality. Progress on second cut was expected to slow with some remaining fields being allowed to grow in anticipation of being cut after the first killing frost. Third cut alfalfa dairy hay harvest was ongoing. Even though the continued rainfall disrupted haying operations, hay producers welcomed it as they hoped for improvements in hayland and pastureland conditions. Pasture conditions ranged from fair to good with improvements in pasture condition becoming more evident. Producers remained concerned about feed supplies for overwintering, making arrangements with grain producers to purchase straw. Baling of straw was ongoing. Livestock water supply was rated as adequate. As with pastures, the status of dugouts had improved with dugouts in lower rainfall areas at least partially refilled because of recent rainfall.

Interlake Region

Harvest is currently at a standstill, following weekend rains. Precipitation continues to be variable. Much of the region reports 10 to 25 mm, with higher amounts falling in the southern part of the region.

Temperatures have declined somewhat with average temperatures ranging from 15°C to 17°C. Most of the region saw highs of 25°C to 28°C early in the week, but have dropped into the teens. Overnight lows are down to 5°C to 7°C. Autumn is now in the air. Most

crops are past benefiting from rain, but fill may improve in later maturing crops. Rains will help replenish hay land and pasture, especially in the northern part of the region. Although improved, much of the region continues to register less than 80% of normal rainfall amounts.

Crop yields are variable; higher yields are the result of an earlier extra rain or two. Crops have continued to look better than rainfall amounts would indicate, but premature ripening is noticeable, especially on lighter textured soils. More leaf colour change is evident in soybeans, and leaf drop continues. Fields that are still green are causing some concern due to potential for [frost injury](#).

Cereals have changed rapidly, and many in the south part of the region report their cereal harvest is complete. Barley harvest is advancing well, with yields to date ranging from 60 to 110 bu/ac. Spring wheat harvest continues; yields reported in the 45 to 95 bu/ac range, with average yield currently estimated at 55 to 65 bu/ac. Quality is good. Proteins range from 12.9 to 14.5%, dependent on yield. Oat yields reported at 90 to 130 bu/ac, with some as high as 150 to 160 bu/ac. Some oats are reported as light, but most are reported as adequate in weight. Cereal harvest estimated at 50 to 75% complete, with an increasing number of producers finished, and working on canola or waiting for soybeans and corn.

Straw is being baled immediately following cereal harvest; yield is better than recent years. Pea residue has been baled, an additional feed source for cattle. Most of the intended canola swathing is complete and standing crop is waiting to be combined. Early yield reports are in the 30 to 45 bu/ac range; harvest will be more general when weather conditions

allow. Many agronomists report aborted pods due to heat and drought stress. Some seed is small and will be lost at harvest. Flax is maturing and changing colour; desiccation continues. Soybeans are R5.5 to late R6. Drought stress symptoms are more evident, especially on lighter textured soils, and premature ripening is becoming more common. In the driest areas, short season varieties are shutting down; rain has helped later maturing varieties. Most sunflowers are finished blooming, ranging from R6 to R7.

Grain and silage corn fill will likely be impacted by lack of precipitation, although cob size is good. In the north part of the region, higher silage yields are expected in the eastern areas.

Grasshoppers continue to be a nuisance, but pressure has dropped off. No reports of soybean aphids; crop is past susceptible stage.

Increased acres of greenfeed oats, millet and cereal mixes were seeded. Cutting and baling continues. Yields are expected to be good, and will help to supplement alfalfa and grass hay supplies. Early rains in some areas of the northeastern and southwestern parts of the region have resulted in very good hay yields. The recent rain has made some more hopeful of a second cut, but many fields do not have enough growth to warrant cutting, particularly older stands.

Rains have improved pastures, allowing some to hang on, but others are done for the season. Cumulative effects of successive dry years are taking a toll. Native hay yields have been poor; sloughs are dry for the most part. First cut hay is done. Better than last year, new stands are reporting some near average yields, while old stands are very poor. Well-fertilized fields have fared better. Second cut beef and third cut dairy hay will be limited. Forage shortages are expected, but



supplies will be somewhat better than expected earlier in the season.