

CROP PRODUCTION UPDATE

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<http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/seasonalreports.html>

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Canola

About 3.6 million acres were seeded in 2012, with most acres seeded earlier than normal due to a warmer and drier than average April. Some early crop damage and re-seeding occurred due to a prolonged cool period in early May which slowed canola development and made it vulnerable to seedling disease complex and flea beetle feeding. Extreme wind events in early to mid-May caused damage by blowing seeds and seedlings out of fields and/or covering seedlings with layers of silt which they were not able to penetrate through. Aster leaf hopper populations blew into the province in early to mid-May and caused aster yellows in many fields but damage was not quantifiable until flowering was almost complete.

Dry conditions and summer heat occurred through late June to early September which impacted the amount of flowering, seed set and seed size in the crop. During and directly after flowering, diseases such as blackleg, sclerotinia and aster yellows were noticed. Sclerotinia infection was more prevalent in the Western and Parkland regions of the province where they did receive increased precipitation during flowering. Aster yellows and blackleg were found in higher levels than other years throughout the province. Localized spraying for bertha armyworms and lygus bug occurred throughout the

season as insect populations grew above threshold levels and had the potential for significant feeding damage. Harvest of the canola crop occurred primarily in August and early September with most of the crop coming off dry, but hot.

Quality issues in canola seed were noted, some very small seed were deemed as dockage. Yields throughout the province ranged from 10 to 50 bu/acre, with the overall provincial average expected to be between 25 to 30 bu/acre. Main yield limitation for the crop was the prolonged hot temperatures combined with the low precipitation.

Edible Beans

The acres of edible beans planted in 2012 surprised a number of people since early projections throughout the winter months of 2012 were for edible bean acres to range somewhere between 70,000 to 100,000 acres. According to Manitob Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC) 2012 Variety share report there were a total of 135,800 acres of all dry beans planted in Manitoba. These acres were up from the previous year's number which came in at just over 51,000 acres. The acre breakdown on the various types in 2012 are as follows:

Bean Type	Number of acres Reported
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	to MASC
White Pea Bean	55,274
Pinto	49,746
Black Beans	14,898
Kidney Beans	9,319
Other Dry edible	5,440
Cranberry Beans	1,523

The 2012 dry bean growing season was relatively uneventful. The cool conditions at the end of May saw some bean fields emerge slow however once the warmer weather arrives those emergence issues quickly disappeared. There were also some reports of poor emergence due to dry and high damaged seed which reduced plant stands on some fields.

Disease pressure with the dry conditions was low with just a few reports of white mould showing up in areas where plant growth was very lush and moisture conditions were conducive to disease development. Lygus bugs were noted in a number of edible bean fields but were controlled through the use of insecticide control measures. No quality issues were reported at harvest due to insect damage.

Dry Beans yields were also better than expected given the dry conditions. Estimated average yields for the various major types



are as follows White Pea beans 1800 lbs/acre, Pinto beans 2000 lbs/acre and Black beans 1900 lbs/acre. Overall bean quality was very good. Seed Moisture at harvest was very dry however cracked seed coats very relatively low considering how dry the seed was. Overall the 2012 dry bean season will go down as a very productive one.

Flax

About 130,000 acres were seeded in 2012, with most acres seeded earlier than normal in the season due to warmer and drier than normal April and May. Extreme wind events in early to mid-May caused damage by blowing seeds and seedlings out of fields and/or covering seedlings with layers of silt which they were not able to penetrate through. Aster leaf hopper populations blew into the province in early to mid-May and caused aster yellows in many emerged fields, but damage was not quantifiable until flowering was almost complete.

Dry conditions and summer heat occurred through late June to early September which impacted the amount of flowering, seed set and seed size of the crop. Hot conditions during herbicide application timing caused crop damage due to interaction between hot/humid conditions and herbicide tolerance of the plants. Harvest of the flax crop occurred mostly in September with much of the crop coming off dry, but hot.

Yields throughout the province ranged from 10 to 30 bu/acre, with the overall provincial average expected to be between 15 to 20 bu/acre. Main yield limitation for the

crop was the prolonged hot temperatures at flowering combined with lower than normal precipitation.

Fruit Crops

Strawberry yields were average to below average overall. With the lack of snow cover during the winter of 2011-12 the strawberries suffered increased winter injury which resulted in lower yields for some producers. In addition the hot weather during harvest shortened the picking season. New plantings of strawberries established very well with good runner set. Saskatoon yields were average overall, with lower yields in the northwest region due to higher disease issues as a result of wet weather during flowering. Raspberry yields were above average again this year, with good berry size and flavour. Overall, producers were irrigating berry fields and orchards throughout the late summer and fall in order to keep plant moisture levels adequate going into the winter.

Greenhouses

The industry saw expansion in 2011 through 2012 with the biggest impact in the vegetable market. Inquiries from clients covered everything from basic structures, heating, cooling, lighting, crop selection, business planning and marketing. Managing heat in the greenhouses was the greatest challenge this summer due to the extremely hot and dry conditions.

There were few issues with disease or insects in the industry and early sales were brisk. Localized reports and samples of Blossom End Rot were submitted for diagnosis and recommendations. Mainly these were the result of increased water demand out stripping supply

resulting in calcium deficiencies in the fruiting crops.

Potatoes

The early spring in 2012 allowed the planting of the potato crop to occur about two weeks earlier than normal. Planting and early season conditions were very favourable and the crop got off to a great start. Above normal temperatures during July and August put stress on the potato crop. The impact was variable depending on amount and timing of rains received, and on the ability of individual producers to meet crop water demands with their irrigation systems. The harvest of the 2012 crop is nearing completion with the crop now being close to 90% complete. Yields are variable with some fields being above expectations while others will be below.

Soybeans

Manitoba achieved another milestone in soybean production this year by planting 844,660 acres of soybeans according to MASC Variety market share report. This number is up from last year's 578,000 acres. This increase was due to the strong prices for the crop and on growers past success with growing the crop. The spring of 2012 was a very smooth planting operation for most soybean producers with some growers starting to plant in early May due to the early completion of cereals and oilseeds in April. The majority of the soybean acres were planted from May 10 to May 20 which was good due to the frost that most of southern Manitoba experienced on May 30. Soybeans that were planted in early May were more susceptible to the frost with some areas of the province reaching



below 0°C for 3 to 4 hours. There was some damage to the plants which caused a reduction of plant stands however the majority of the soybeans escaped any major damage. The dry conditions this spring had some growers waiting to roll their soybeans until after emergence because of potential ground drifting issues. Overall spring planting was very smooth.

Generally weed control in the soybeans was good this year however they are still concerns with Roundup Ready canola volunteering in a number of fields. Looking forward, growers will need to control this weed early in season in order to reduce competition with the crop.

There were reports of Septoria brown spot and bacterial blight in soybeans this year however no significant yield losses were reported. Growers still need to be vigilant with their crop rotation in order for these diseases not to build up. Root rots were reported very late in the season with no significant yield loss.

Soybeans aphids were of minor concern in 2012 with populations remaining very low. There were reports of spider mites in soybeans this year, growers however were able to control these populations with the use of an insecticide. The dry conditions may have contributed to the higher populations of spider mites this year.

There were concerns with yield potential of the crop this year in mid

August due to the hot and very dry conditions. Yields on the first harvested fields in the Red River Valley were in the 25 to 30 bu/acre range however as harvest progressed and more acres were being harvested yields increased. Yield reports were now ranging from 30 to 40 bu/acre. Provincial averages should be in the 30 to 32 bu/acre range. Soybean quality was above average with very few green seed issues being reported. Overall 2012 will go down as a very productive year for soybeans in Manitoba.

Sunflowers

About 90,000 acres were seeded in 2012, with most acres seeded earlier than normal in the season due to a warmer and drier than average May. Sunflowers enjoyed the dry conditions and summer heat that occurred through late June to early September. These conditions reduced the amount of sclerotinia stalk and head rot and helped the crop develop and mature earlier than normal, aiding in harvest in late September and October. Yields are expected to be between 1500 to 3000 lbs/acre, with the overall provincial average of 1800 lbs/acre.

Vegetable Crops

The unseasonably hot weather this past weekend slowed the harvest of some crops that were being put into

storage, such as carrots, which require cool air temperatures for optimum storage conditions. The rapid cooling of carrots after harvest is important for reducing storage rots. Carrot demonstration plots harvested last week had average yields. In one tomato field confirmed with late blight, the disease was observed to have spread within that field over the last week. Late blight fungus does not by itself pose a food safety issue to humans if eaten however the accepted recommendation is to not eat or process (freezing, canning, etc) tomatoes that have visible lesions on them.

The hot and dry weather conditions of this past summer were the main issue in vegetable production. Vegetable crops matured more quickly than planned which compressed the planned timing of many producer's harvesting schedules. Irrigation resources were stretched close to their maximum. Some individual fields suffered environmental stress due to the hot and dry conditions. Aster Yellows was confirmed in a number of crops including carrots, celery and lettuce. Though not wide spread, late blight was confirmed in tomatoes in the later part of the season. Generally vegetable crop yields and quality have been average.