

# Issue 17 (Week 35) – August 30, 2022

## Crop Report



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### Weekly Provincial Summary

- Harvest progress sits at 3% complete across the province, well behind the 5-year average of 39% done by week 35, a combination of delayed seeding and high humidity and frequent rains that have slowed crop drydown.
- Crop condition looks good to very good in most parts of the province, and field pea harvest made good progress this past week, while the bulk of the crop has been desiccated. Yield averages are close to 60 bu/acre.
- Spring wheat harvest is expected to become widespread later this week as crops dry down and weather forecasts remain warm and sunny.
- Lodged crops have disrupted smooth harvest operations in peas and some cereals so far, heavy rains and wind in the previous two weeks have resulted in lodged crops and increased losses at the cutterbar.
- A limited start to [soil testing](#) has begun as crops are harvested.

**Table 1: Percentage Harvest Completion by Crop and Region to August 30, 2022**

| Crop                | Southwest | Northwest | Central  | Eastern  | Interlake | MB AVG   |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|
| Winter Wheat        | 50        | 50        | 90       | 85       | 90        | 69       |
| Fall Rye            | 80        | 50        | 95       | 90       | 80        | 81       |
| Spring Wheat        | 1         | 1         | 5        | 2        | 1         | 2        |
| Barley              | 1         | -         | 1        | 2        | 1         | <1       |
| Oats                | 1         | -         | 1        | 1        | -         | <1       |
| Field Pea           | 8         | 68        | 2        | 50       | 15        | 20       |
| Canola              | 1         | -         | 1        | -        | -         | <1       |
| Potatoes            | 7         | -         | 2        | -        | -         | 4        |
| <b>Regional AVG</b> | <b>2</b>  | <b>3</b>  | <b>4</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>2</b>  | <b>3</b> |

*Crops still unharvested, or negligible acres displayed as – or omitted from this table.*

## Cereals

### Winter Cereal Grains

- Fall rye harvest nearing completion. Reported yields are between 45 to 110 bu/acre, averaging between 75 to 90 bu/acre. Straw volumes are high and swathing is common.
- Higher levels of ergot have been reported in fall rye.
- Many farmers have commented that they are intending to seed more fall rye this autumn if conditions remain favourable, especially on ground that had been summerfallowed due to excessive moisture.

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- Many winter wheat fields are harvested, yield reports are between 30 to 80 bu/acre, averaging in the 60 to 70 bu/acre range.
- Winter wheat grain samples from the Eastern region are running into higher levels of fusarium.

### Spring Cereal Grains

- Spring wheat is ripe in many places in all regions, but waiting for drydown and good harvesting weather.
- The spring wheat crop is rated mostly good to excellent (Table 2), harvest ongoing on the earliest crops.
- Pre-harvest application on wheat is ongoing as crop maturity is less uniform in some locations due to delayed seeding/emergence, or weed escapes are above crop canopy.
- Harvest has progressed in fits as high humidity has not allowed for much natural drying, with only 2% of the crop combined to date. Yield averages are reported between 70 to 75 bu/acre in the Central region.
- Early harvest indications in the Eastern and Central regions are showing CWRS wheat protein ranging between 12.5 to 14.8%, with good test weight between 61 to 66 lbs/bushel.
- Spring wheat is showing moderately higher [FDK](#) (fusarium damaged kernels) than recent years due to wetter conditions, but low DON levels, and nearly all grading No 1 CWRS.
- Many barley crops have reached hard dough stage, with malt crops most advanced, and greenfeed or very late-seeded fields further behind. Pre-harvest application has started in many fields intended for livestock feed, while malt fields are generally straight-cut. Barley delivered to grain buyers has been [tough](#) (>13.5% seed moisture).
- Oat swathing has just started, early harvest yields are above average in the Central region, between 150 and 170 bu/acre with good test weight. Many oat fields remain standing at this time.

### Corn

- [Corn development](#) has reached R4 stage in the most advanced fields. Lower leaves are firing and dropping off in areas with lower moisture.

**Table 2: Spring Wheat Quality Rating by Region**

|                  | Southwest | Northwest | Central | Eastern | Interlake |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|---------|---------|-----------|
| <b>Excellent</b> | 15%       | 20%       | 25%     | 5%      | 15%       |
| <b>Good</b>      | 80%       | 70%       | 55%     | 85%     | 40%       |
| <b>Fair</b>      | -         | 5%        | 20%     | 10%     | 25%       |
| <b>Poor</b>      | 5%        | 5%        | -       | -       | 10%       |
| <b>Very Poor</b> | -         | -         | -       | -       | 10%       |

## Oilseeds

### Canola

- Much of the canola across Manitoba has entered swath timing (40% seed colour change), and some desiccation has started on the most advanced fields, while swathing is common on uneven fields. Later fields are still in mid pod-fill stage.
- Canola swathing has started in the Central, Eastern, and Interlake regions. The earliest fields are being harvested in the Winkler area this week and average yields are slightly less than expected at 50 to 55 bu/acre average, but later, better crops are expected to surpass those numbers. Yields on canola in the Southwest region near Melita were reported at 40 to 45 bu/acre average.
- Canola harvest could be widespread by the middle of next week given favourable weather.
- Insect pressure remains low in most canola, except in the Interlake and Swan Valley, where lygus bug populations have exceeded economic thresholds and require spraying. Late-season adult flea beetles are increasing in number.

## Flax & Sunflowers

- Flax is rapidly turning colour with the combination of heat and moisture, leaves are drying off and seed is turning colour inside the bolls.
- Sunflowers are in the [R6 to R7 stages](#), with head fill almost complete.
- Severe aphid pressure has been reported in sunflower fields near Wawanesa and Winnipeg, but crops appear to be withstanding the stress given adequate soil moisture.

## Pulses

- Soybeans have reached the R5 to R6 stages, and are benefitting from abundant August rainfall. White mould has been reported in dense-canopy soybean crops, but is not a yield concern due to late infection.
- Grasshoppers are finding their way back into green soybeans after nearby cereal crops are cut in the Dauphin area. Aphid populations are rising in soybeans in the Portage la Prairie area, while other areas are seeing less insect pressure as crops mature.
- Field pea harvest is underway in all regions to varying degrees – harvest is most advanced in the Northwest region, at 65 to 70% complete. Reported yields are 50 to 60 bu/acre on lighter land, while better land is seeing yields between 70 to 80 bu/acre. Shelling losses are higher where peas lodged in the past two weeks and direct harvest is a challenge.
- Desiccation of peas is ongoing in much of the Central, Interlake, and Southwest regions.
- Dry bean stage ranges from [R7 to R8](#). Desiccation is occurring on early planted and early maturing varieties.

## Special Crops

- Harvest of direct-delivery fresh potatoes had a limited start this week, growers are reporting average yields.
- Potato yields were somewhat less than expected due to early season excess moisture stress, but quality appears good with no late blight development.
- Hemp crops are advancing to maturity, yields will see a boost from abundant August rainfall in most growing areas.

## Forages & Livestock

### Forages

- Cattle producers are still putting up feed, and yield remain above average.
- Barley silage is ongoing, and recent rains have helped pastures sustain growth, and growers are satisfied there will be sufficient grazing forage late into the season in the Southwest region.
- Meadow accessibility is still limited low-lying areas near Lakes Manitoba and Winnipeg, but where haying has been done, yields are as much as three times higher than in 2021.
- Hay volumes have been good, but quality remains the challenge. Producers, particularly cattle producers trying to put up dry hay, are often frustrated by rain, humidity and damp swaths.
- Alfalfa is in the [critical fall harvest period](#), and cannot be cut until after a killing frost without increased risk of winterkill.

### Livestock

- Pasture growth has slowed in most areas, as expected for late summer, and cattle feed supplies are adequate. Overgrazed pastures in the Northwest region have little to no regrowth.
- Dugouts and sloughs are at 65 to 70% capacity in the Southwest region, while creek flows have slowed.
- Dugouts remain nearly full in the Interlake and Eastern regions.
- Livestock water supplies remain sufficient.

## Regional Comments

### Southwest

There was limited harvest completed over the past week, as producers only started in the field later in the week after rain and spotty showers earlier in the week delayed harvest. Some areas had significant moisture, while most of the region got 5 to 25 mm; the areas surrounding Birtle, Wawanesa, and Mountainside had 50 to 60 mm rain. Some areas reported strong winds and minor hail as well, but damage is not very widespread. Normal to above normal temperatures were helping early-season crops reach maturity. Most crops are looking great, but later than normal. Some dry conditions persist around the Napinka/Bede/Pipestone area. Corn and sunflowers are showing the greatest moisture deficit stress in these areas.

### Northwest

A rainy start to last week in parts of the region brought up to 37 mm rain at Ethelbert, and lower amounts over the rest of the region. Warm, sunny daytime temperatures advanced crop maturity, and a small pre-harvest and desiccation window opened for some farmers.

Fall rye harvest has begun in the Dauphin area, with very good yields reported. A limited start to field pea harvest is underway, no yields reported to date. Desiccation is ongoing in that crop. Insecticide applications for Lygus bug control have continued in the Swan Valley on canola crops, while grasshoppers remain a concern towards the Dauphin and Ste. Rose areas.

### Central

Several thousand acres of spring wheat was harvested in the Red River Valley over the weekend, elevator indications show moderately better protein levels than expected given the wet year and good to excellent yields in both crops. Tough to damp grain has delayed a broader start to harvest, and swathing canola and cereals is becoming more common to advance crop drydown, together with preharvest herbicide spraying in wheat.

### Eastern

More rain arrived in the Eastern region last week, becoming variable across the region with amounts ranging from 5 to 25 mm, averaging 12 to 15 mm. The last half of the week saw better drying conditions and harvest preparations continued. Pre-harvest herbicide application resumed on crops as they reached the correct stage and fields were dry enough to support machinery. For all producers, rain at this stage is unwelcome and will further delay harvest and potentially diminish crop quality.

### Interlake

Winter cereal harvest wrapping up, with good yields, up to 100 bu/acre in fall rye, and 80 bu/acre in winter wheat. Drowned out areas are lowering field averages, but remaining parts of the crop are doing quite well considering the challenging moisture conditions this year. Pre-harvest spraying is ongoing in spring wheat and pea fields. Approximately 15% of pea crops are harvested, with 65 bu/acre average yields. Lygus bug spraying continues in later canola.