

## CROP REPORT #9 – June 30, 2020

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[Reporting Area Map](#)

[Seasonal Report](#)

[Crop Weather Report](#)

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### Weekly Provincial Summary

- [Downpours](#) accompanied by strong winds affected a large swath of the Southwest and Northwest region. Overland flooding of crops, pastures is occurring in some districts, the full impact is yet to be determined.
- [Fusarium risk maps](#) indicate higher levels of disease risk in near Riding Mountain National Park and north, as well as northern Interlake. Fungicide spraying has begun for foliar diseases on some early fields.
- 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.
- Roadside and headland spraying for grasshoppers is ongoing, on a case-by-case basis.

### Southwest Region

The week began with hot and dry conditions. A major thunderstorm system entered the region Sunday afternoon, which caused considerable damage to rural roads, properties and crops.

This system brought heavy rainfall ranging from 120 to 160 mm in short period of time from Souris north toward Newdale, and east toward Alonsa. Fields are saturated in this area, with water running through fields and over roads. Standing water will remain on fields for several days. Most of this damage and affected areas are contained within the rainfall band on the [map](#). Damage is not widespread over the entire region. Some municipalities in the area announced the state of local emergency. Hamiota, Oakburn and Souris areas also got considerable amounts of rain from 60 to 80 mm. The southwest corner of the region, and Russell area had close to 25 mm of rain, which was needed. It will take some time for water-affected crops to recover in the core storm area, since the quantity of rainfall was too much to handle in a single event. Crops in

unaffected areas of the region looking very promising and are benefitting from hot and humid days.

Winter wheat is heading and fall rye is done flowering. Some producers have been spraying winter wheat for disease. Overall crops are looking average to above average. Recent rain will damage yield potential in some crops.

Most producers have completed herbicide application except in some later-seeded crops.

Spring cereals are looking great and completing their vegetative growth stages. Recent heat gave a big boost to the crop. Early seeded spring wheat fields are at booting stage. Fungicide application windows are approaching quickly, but wet field conditions are going to make application challenging for producers. Early seeded canola is bolting, and much of the later seeded crop is at the rosette stage. Canola is suffering due to excess water in storm-affected areas, and

yellowing/drowned plants are expected in low-lying areas.

Peas are starting to flower (R2) and producers have been applying fungicide. Wet conditions are causing problems and producers using custom aerial application. [Aphanomyces](#) in field pea is being found in the Melita area.

Corn and sunflowers still require more heat to catch up to normal growing season.

The soybean crop is looking good and responding well to higher temperatures and moisture. Majority of the crop is [3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> trifoliolate](#). There are no reports of any flowering yet. Leaf disease pressure is also low. There are some reports of IDC in wet areas of the field. Flax is about 10 to 15cm tall. Excess moisture in hard hit areas will affect this crop.

Insect and disease pressure is low in the southwest region. [Fusarium head blight risk](#) was also low before the storm. Bertha armyworm numbers are also low. Most canola

crops are past the stage of economic injury from flea beetle and cutworm damage.

Pastures are rated as good and heavy rainfall over the weekend will definitely help for the rest of the season. Some producers started to cut hay and a small percentage was baled. Heavy rains will effect quality on anything cut and not baled before the rain. Also with heavy rains, it is going to be more difficult to put up hay as ground is saturated.

## Northwest Region

There was rain throughout the entire region in the last few days. Amounts varied but ranged from a minimum of 2.5 mm around Roblin on the western side of the region to amounts in excess of 124 mm at Alonsa and 117 mm at Laurier on the southeastern part of the region. There is water pooling in low-lying areas of fields where the highest rainfall occurred. Ratings for soil moisture are 5% surplus, 85% adequate and 10% short. Wetter soils are in the northern and southeastern parts of the region. Temperatures hit highs over 30°C but overnight temperatures did dip to single digits throughout the region. This warmer weather and, for some areas, welcome rain, spurred crop growth over the last week. Pesticide applications have continued in 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 reseeded.

Spring cereals in the region are 80% into the stem elongation stage and 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.

Canola growth stages are variable due to reseeding with 40% in the seedling stage, 50% in the rosette stage and 10% bolting. 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 the vegetative stage, the earlier seeded fields are flowering. Some fungicide applications on peas have taken place. Growth of silage corn is delayed. Flax is in good condition.

Bertha armyworm monitoring is underway with 24 traps throughout the region; numbers remain low. Producers are encouraged to scout for diamondback larvae when monitoring canola fields.

Pastures and annual crops will benefit from the recent precipitation but more is needed for sustained production specifically in the Swan River, Ethelbert and Roblin areas. Yield potential for first cut hay stands has been already set so recent rainfall will aid second cut regrowth. With first cut hay yields estimated at one-third to two-thirds of normal, producers who rely on alfalfa-grass for their winter feed supplies will require additional acres this year or alternative feedstuffs. No beef hay harvest has started yet. Livestock water supply is adequate, although some dugouts in the Ethelbert area are dry. There have been reports of producers supplementing cows on pasture, as forage growth is not sufficient to support the herd. Grasshoppers have had significant damage on pastures in the Sifton, Ethelbert, Gilbert Plains and Grandview areas.

## Central Region

Normal to warmer than normal temperatures as the week progressed with daytime highs in the low 30s. Winds were moderate but steady. Scattered rain shower events brought small amounts of precipitation, 5 to 10 mm, in localized areas during the week while many missed it all together. A major storm system coming from the southwestern part of the province on the weekend affected the northwestern corner of the region from Gladstone north. Plumas received the most precipitation from the weekend storm with 63 mm reported. 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 this week. Some standing water fields that received higher rainfall. Most areas report drying topsoil conditions and would benefit from a decent rain.

Fall rye is finished flowering and progressing well from the late milk to early dough stage. Winter wheat is finishing flowering. Winter cereal growth is rated as good to average.

Wheat, barley and oats are elongating (jointing) while the earliest seeded fields are headed out in the Portage area and Red River Valley. Development of wheat, oats and barley crops is rated as average to good. Some foliar protectants have been applied to cereals at the flag leaf stage. Corn is in the V3 to V6 stage. Corn growth is rated as average to good overall and benefitting from the recent higher temperatures.

Field peas are in the 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> node stage and growing well. Earliest fields are at R1. Canola staging varies according to the seeding date and ranges from early emerged for late planted or reseeded fields to

bolting for many fields and flowering for some fields in the Portage and Red River areas. Most soybeans and edible beans are in the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> trifoliolate stage and growing well with the warmer conditions. Some soybean and edible bean fields are looking stressed from the strong winds experienced the week before. The recent high wind conditions have led to reports of bacterial blight on soybeans but are recovering. Few 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. Sunflowers in the V6 to V10 stage and enjoying the warmer temperatures.

The [P-Days](#) are near or just above normal while rainfall in potato growing areas has been below normal. Crop emergence and stand are very good; some late planted fields are just emerging. Winds have been strong, causing sandblasting injury on foliage and stems. Blackleg disease incidence is showing up in some early-planted fields. Late blight risk is currently very low. Aphids (but not Potato Aphid or Green Peach Aphid) were trapped in 2 of 8 seed potato fields monitored. There were no European corn borers trapped at any of 10 potato fields used as monitoring sites for this pest.

Herbicide applications progressed well with the more moderate wind conditions. Most of the herbicide applications are done except for second passes on some soybeans and corn. Some later planted and reseeded canola fields remain to be sprayed for weeds. Some inter-row cultivating being done in beans and sunflowers.

Pheromone baited traps for bertha armyworm are in place to monitor the emergence of this canola pest over the next few weeks. Grasshoppers are noticeable in

many different fields and crops. Population levels are being watched during this period of dryer and warmer weather. Control measures have been applied to the headland of some fields to prevent economic damage.

Water supplies continue to be adequate for cattle on pasture. Pastures are providing lots of forage for grazing. Alfalfa is flowering and grasses are headed out. Yields on newer, well-managed hayfields are expected to be average. Older hay fields will yield below average. Forages need rain to maintain growth. Dairy and higher quality hay is being cut and baled or made into silage. Beef producers will soon be cutting hay. Haying will be delayed in the Alonsa area due to excessive rainfall.

## Eastern Region

The Eastern region experienced hot and humid conditions over the last week that pushed along crop development. Rainfall for the period were under 5 mm in most districts. However, accumulations of 35 mm or more did occur in some central and northern districts resulting in standing water in fields that persisted into the weekend. In southern districts, the majority of overland flooding has receded but cropland and pastures remained saturated in the worst affected areas.

Overall, about 90% of herbicide applications were complete in the region and producers were shifting their attention to fungicides. The warm, humid weather pushed along crop development and, in some areas, producers were under pressure to make progress given shrinking spray windows and were forced to rut up fields with their sprayers. In winter cereals, fungicide applications for FHB occurred last week. In spring cereals, herbicide applications were

wrapping up given that most of the crop was at flag leaf with some heads starting to emerge. Flag leaf fungicide applications on spring cereals began last week and are ongoing this week. On average, canola was cabbaged out and bolting with some early seeded crop starting to flower. Herbicide applications in canola were almost complete with some final applications on reseeded crop occurring this week. Most soybeans ranged from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> trifoliolate leaf stage and flowering had begun. First pass herbicide application on soybeans were completed last and significant progress on second pass herbicides was made. Second pass herbicide application in soybeans will be ongoing this week where needed. Some late seeded crop will likely only receive one pass of herbicide this year. While yellowing in soybean fields continued to be noted, greening up of yellowed crop was also observed and attributed to rapid plant development and growth. Corn ranged from the V4 to V8 growth stages with fields getting to the end of their spray window. Second pass herbicide applications in corn were ongoing and expected to wrap up this week. Herbicide applications to sunflowers were completed last week. Last week, field pea growers began fungicide applications for [Mycosphaerella \(ascochyta\) blight](#) and further spraying is expected this week as growers continue to monitor the weather and crop development.

Grasshoppers and armyworms are now attracting producer attention. Reports of insecticide applications to field margins or whole fields for control of grasshoppers were received from the Lac du Bonnet and Stead areas northeast of Beausejour. Reports of a few fields being sprayed for grasshoppers in the Steinbach area were also noted. Spraying of a few fields of perennial ryegrass and spring wheat for control of armyworms occurred in

both northern and central districts. Monitoring of grasshoppers and armyworms continues.

In northern and central districts of the region, hay and pasture conditions continued to be characterized as fair. First cut hay yields were expected to be about 60% or normal for the area. At most, 20% of alfalfa or alfalfa grass hay had been cut. Dairy farmers putting up alfalfa silage made the most progress but cattle producers did do some baling of dry hay. So far, the quality of silage and baled hay has been good. Pasture conditions have shown improvement this but this has been partially limited by overgrazing. While the turnout of cattle this spring occurred at about the same time as in past years, carried over hay supplies were limited and pasture growth was significantly delayed due to the dry, cool spring conditions. However, overall near term feed supplies are still viewed as adequate with no surplus supply available. Producers remain concerned about feed supplies for overwintering and are hopeful second cut yields will benefit from recent rainfall. Livestock water supply was adequate in the area and dugouts were full. In southern districts, first cut had started and yields looked to be normal to just below normal. Pastures had sufficient moisture and dugouts were full.

## Interlake Region

The past week saw some of the drier areas of the region receiving much needed precipitation. Amounts continue to be extremely variable with thundershowers. Rain started on Thursday, with some areas seeing more on the weekend. Many areas report between 25 to 50 mm, with localized areas of as much as 75 mm in the Moosehorn and Fisher Branch areas. Areas receiving less rain included Teulon over to Gimli at around 10 mm, and

down to trace amounts in Selkirk to Stonewall and Woodlands. There were some fields with standing water in low areas and drains. Much of the region currently reports good soil moisture levels; many comment some rain by the weekend would be welcome. Western areas including St. Laurent north to Lundar remain dry. Although improvement is evident, all parts of the region continue to register lower than normal amounts of precipitation.

Crops are generally looking good. High temperatures and good moisture have allowed crops to jump, with rapid advancement seen in most. Many spring cereals are in full flag to boot stage, with a number of spring wheat and barley fields showing awns. Septoria and tan spot are reported in spring wheat fields. Fungicide applications for fusarium head blight may start as early as this weekend. There is more of a range of growth stages in oats. In the most advanced fields panicles are pushing through on the headlands; most fungicide applications are complete. Fall rye has set seed; some think fields will start to turn next week. Peas look great and are flowering; fungicide applications are ongoing. Fababeans look good and are flowering. Reseeded canola is advancing rapidly. Many of the earlier seeded fields are bolting or in early flower and are advancing rapidly; timing for fungicide will be narrowed with these high temperatures. Rain has helped to fill in some of the gaps, but many stands are thin. Soybeans are in the 1<sup>st</sup> trifoliolate to as advanced as 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> trifoliolate in southern parts of the region. Flowering has started. Iron deficiency chlorosis (IDC) is evident in some fields, but conditions have improved.

Sunflowers look good, and are growing rapidly. No reports yet of reproductive stage starting. Flax is

up to 15cm tall and more; stands look great and will start to bud soon. The heat and moisture has been great for both grain and silage corn; some are as advanced as 8 to 10 leaves. Colour has improved and most fields have a nice dark green colour. Most have received the second herbicide application. All crops are generally shorter than normal.

Poor winter survival has been reported for forage grass seed crops. Establishment for most newly seeded forage crops including alfalfa has been very good. Established alfalfa seed fields have been sprayed for plant bugs, leafcutter bee shelters are out, and bees are being moved on to fields.

Weed spraying has been a challenge with earlier high winds and thundershowers, but although herbicide is still being picked up at retails, most applications are complete. Some second applications to go in soybeans and canola. There are still some canola fields being sprayed for flea beetle control, although most fields have advanced out of the susceptible stage. Some fields have seen three insecticide applications. There are reports of armyworms in perennial ryegrass fields. Increasing numbers of grasshopper hotspots are being reported throughout the region, and fields are being monitored carefully. Reports to date are that grasshoppers are worse than last year. Headlands are being sprayed where possible, but some entire fields are being sprayed, especially in the southwest corner of the region. All crops have been affected, including newly established alfalfa and forage grass seed fields. Pasture and hayfields are being sprayed for grasshoppers in the Armstrong, Bifrost-Riverton and Fisher areas. Diamondback moth trap numbers are now decreasing, and traps are being removed this week. Warren area



remains the highest with an accumulated count of 241. Larvae are starting to emerge. Bertha armyworm moth trap counts are increasing, but total numbers continue to be low.

Pastures continue to suffer. Majority of pastures rated in fair to very poor condition. Recent rains have allowed for some improvement. Hay is rated from good to poor. First cut 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 ongoing; yields are reported as mediocre. Beef producers have started cutting, and some baling is complete. Although better than last year in many cases, yields will be below average. Recent rains bring hope 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; shortages are expected. Livestock water supplies are currently adequate.