

Issue 9 (Week 27) – July 5, 2022

Crop Report



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Weekly Provincial Summary

- Spraying for weeds is wrapping up, despite challenging conditions, leaving rutted fields behind in many areas.
- Insecticide application for flea beetles is slowed significantly as the canola crop has generally grown past susceptible stages, but crops appear highly variable in condition.
- Herbicide shortages for *glufosinate* have growers and retailers scrambling to find adequate supply to spray canola crops, many of which have not yet had the first herbicide application and weed pressure is rising.
- Crops are advancing reasonably well, but water stress is evident on more sensitive species, and in areas toward the northern Interlake, and surrounding Lake Manitoba, and west towards Riding Mountain.

Overview

Spraying progress has rapidly advanced and is nearing completion, despite challenging winds and very wet fields. Aerial application is widespread for insect control, with the focus shifting from flea beetles to grasshoppers. While ground sprayers attempt to manage weeds. Rutted fields and stuck sprayers are common this year, and most spraying has had to be done in the evenings or early mornings when winds are calmer.

Humid and warm conditions are ideal for [fusarium](#) and [sclerotinia \(white mould\)](#) disease development this year, and many farmers and retailers are preparing to spray fungicides on wheat, canola, and peas (for [mycosphaerella](#)) when conditions permit and crop development advances.

Light to moderate rains on sandier potato fields was welcome, while potatoes in heavier ground are seeing stand issues and potential rot problems. Herbicide application is ongoing in the crop, while hilling is mostly complete. [Colorado Potato Beetles](#) (CPB) are showing up sporadically, but numbers remain low to date.

Cereals

- Earlier-seeded spring wheat crops are beginning to flower, most are at flag leaf. A number of farms are choosing to spray a fungicide to protect the flag leaf, and will spray again at head emergence for fusarium protection. Crops in the Northwest are a little further behind, from tillering to jointing.
- [Fusarium Head Blight risk maps](#) showed variable to low risk over the past week, but expect an increase in the coming days.
- Spring wheat crops are rated as 65% in excellent condition, 25% in good condition, and the remaining 10% in poor condition.
- Fall rye is in the grain-fill stage, while winter wheat crops have flowered and have received a FHB fungicide application. Some bacterial leaf blight was observed on flag leaf winter cereals.

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- The majority of barley and oat crops have reached stem elongation (jointing) stage, some earlier crops are at flag in the Red River Valley, and later crops still tillering.
- Oat crops looked noticeably stressed after herbicide application due to wet conditions, and hot spray days, but are generally recovering well with new growth.
- Herbicide application on small grain cereals is approximately 80% finished across the province.
- [Grain corn development](#) ranges from V5 to V7 (collar method), producers are considering top-dressing in some instances, and most farmers are partway through a second herbicide pass.

Oilseeds

- Canola crops range from 2-leaf to early (10%) bloom stage, with the bulk of the crop expected to reach 20% bloom by early next week.
- Canola crops are extremely variable in many districts – due to seeding date, flea beetle pressure, reseeding, and/or hail. Water stress is causing leaf-cupping in some crops on slower-draining land with recent heavy rains, while others are lush and cabbaged over a few miles away.
- Flea beetle insecticide application has wrapped up, most fields are now past the susceptible seedling stage. Low levels of diamondback moth and bertha armyworm reported in the area.
- Herbicide application in canola is ongoing in later-seeded canola. *Glufosinate*-herbicide shortages have forced farmers to wait for product, or time a single application very carefully to achieve the greatest weed control impact. General herbicide application is 80% complete, but many fields have significant tracks and ruts.
- Flax crops are fewer than expected, but generally look in good condition. Earliest crops are growing rapidly and approaching bud development through early bloom. Flax stage varies widely depending on seeding date and region.
- Sunflowers are now at V6 to R1, farmers are finished inter-row tillage for [weed control in conventional sunflowers](#). Sunflower crops appear in great condition, despite some weed issues.

Pulses

- Soybean crops are filling in, and solid-seeded fields should reach canopy closure shortly. Many fields are at V4 (4th trifoliate), no flowers are visible yet.
- Soybean crops have been noted as the best looking fields in areas with more rain and/or saturated soils, tolerating moisture better than other crops.
- Iron-deficiency chlorosis (IDC) has been showing up in soybean crops this past week, most noticeable on more susceptible varieties, and even those with tolerance to IDC on the newest leaves.
- A few reports of soybean aphids being found south of Fannystelle in the Central region, but no spraying has occurred.
- Field peas are in late vegetative to early reproductive stage, and flowering is about to begin in many crops.
- Producers and agronomists are urged to scout using the foliar [fungicide decision tool](#) to control mycosphaerella blight.
- Dry edible beans have seen the first pass of weed control completed, and growers are looking at a second pass this coming week, including interrow tillage. Crops are in the 3rd to 4th trifoliate stage.
- Some reports of pythium, root rots/damping off are showing up in fields with a tighter dry bean rotation history.

Forages & Livestock

Forages

- Hay cutting by dairy and beef producers continues to be hampered by wet, humid weather. Field surfaces are drying up, but subsurface moisture is making ground travel a challenge in soft fields.
- Pasture production has soared with recent weather in most regions, except the northern Interlake and eastern Northwest regions near Lake Manitoba due to warmer weather and ample moisture.
- Some concerns persist about not being able to take a second hay cut in areas where wet weather has prevented a first cut, or baling the existing cut to date.
- Alfalfa stands are beginning to bloom, and grasses have headed out. More heat is needed to advance silage corn.
- Hay yields are at or above normal, well-managed pastures are seeing grass height over 4 feet (120 cm) and heading out.

Livestock

- Producers are generally happy with pastures at this point, and are hoping for an extended grazing season, especially if they are unable to put up enough hay due to excessive moisture.
- High fuel prices (for haying) in relation to low market animal values, combined with spring losses, will have a negative weight on profit margins in the beef sector, despite the short-term abundance of hay in all regions except the northern Interlake and west of Lake Manitoba to Riding Mountain National Park.
- All creeks, streams, dugouts, and sloughs are full.

Regional Comments

Southwest

Good weather last week allowed widespread herbicide application across the region. A large storm system entered the region Sunday night, resulting in significant rainfall into Monday, topping out at Shilo with 54 mm. Fields in the region are seeing drowned out and saturated areas on the foot slope and low areas of fields, leading to crop stress and chlorosis, but lush crop growth on the mid to upper field slopes for the most part.

Herbicide spraying is 90% done in the region, with generally good weed control. However, glyphosate-resistant kochia patches are becoming more noticeable and widespread.

Northwest

Mixed weather continued over the course of last week, with some precipitation and a storm Wednesday evening. Hail fell in the Bowsman and Bellsite areas. Crops in areas with previous heavy rains are showing signs of stress. Unseeded acres will mostly remain unseeded, a few farms are considering planting a feed crop.

Central

Crops have advanced well in much of the region, but wetter fields have resulted in stressed crops, most noticeably chlorotic canola. Fungicide application will begin this coming week on the most advanced canola crops and for FHB in spring wheat, mycosphaerella in peas. Crops nearest the Red River are now emerged, if they were able to be seeded.

Eastern

Rainfall accumulations last week across the region varied from 4 to 19 mm, with most locations reporting close to 10 mm. Standing water still persists in low lying areas of fields and pastures.

Interlake

Insecticide application for flea beetles continues in the region, since the majority of the canola in the Interlake is at the 3- to 4-leaf stage. Grasshoppers continue to be a concern with spraying occurring on some fields this past week. Standing water is evident north of Gimli with recent rains, and water remains on-field and in pasture in the entire northern part of the region. Excessive moisture has resulted in large drowned-out spots in fields, and sprayers have been leaving sizeable ruts. Leafcutter bee shelters are being placed in seed alfalfa fields this week. Southern Interlake crops are in better condition than crops north of Teulon, into the Icelandic River Valley area and west.