

Issue 24 (Week 43) – October 25, 2023

# Seasonal Summary Crop Report



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## 2023 Provincial Summary

- Harvest progress as of October 24 sits at 96% complete across the province (**Table 1**), which is ahead of the 5-year average (90%) **Table 2**.
- 2023 seeding progress on May 16 the first crop report of the season was at 25% compared to the five year average of 63% for week 20. With good seeding conditions producers were able to wrap up seeding (97%) by the second week of June in most regions. Which is on par with the five year average. (96%) **Table 3**.
- Rainfall was variable throughout the growing season and regions that received timely rains saw improved yields. Central region around the Carman, Elm Creek regions saw drier conditions throughout the season and earlier harvested wheat crops saw lower yields in the 30 bu/acre range. This improved in areas with later harvested crops.
- Producers are becoming more aware of the need to scout their fields and identify weeds which escaped their control or looked unusual. This is a normal part of integrated weed management, but is becoming more important due to the introduction of waterhemp and palmer amaranth to the province. Waterhemp is now present in twenty rural municipalities (RMs). 2023 saw numerous infestations particularly in the RMs of de Salaberry and Emerson-Franklin.
- Fall fertilizer and pre-seed herbicide application has been widespread this fall and has allowed most producers to complete the majority of the fall field work before any significant wet weather.
- Climate normals for total accumulated precipitation from May 1 to October 22 range from 296.7 mm to 427.7 mm and are based on 30-year historical data. Total accumulated rainfall remains variable across agro-Manitoba. Much of the Central region's accumulated precipitation is under 60% compared to the 30-year average.
- Soil Moisture 0 - 30 cm shows a regional representation of soil moisture conditions for the top 30 cm on October 22, 2023 relative to field capacity. Soil moisture levels are variable throughout agro-Manitoba with the majority showing optimal to wet conditions. Localized areas are showing dry or very dry conditions relative to field capacity at the 30 cm depth.
- Soil Moisture 0 - 120 cm shows a regional representation of soil moisture conditions for the top 120 cm on October 22, 2023 relative to field capacity. The majority of the province is showing optimal to wet conditions to the 120 cm depth. Some areas of the Northwest and a few localized regions are showing dry or very dry conditions.
- Percent Normal Accumulated Growing Degree Days represents the variation of accumulated Growing Degree Days (GDD) from the historical record over a 30-year period from May 1 – October 22, 2023. All locations, have accumulated more than 100% of the 30 –year average since May 1. The majority of agro-Manitoba has accumulated more than 115% of normal GDD.

**Table 1: Percentage Harvest Completion by Crop and Region to October 24, 2023**

Crop	Southwest	Northwest	Central	Eastern	Interlake	MB AVG
Winter Wheat	100	100	100	100	100	100
Fall Rye	100	100	100	100	100	100
Spring Wheat	100	100	100	100	100	100
Barley	100	100	100	100	100	100
Oats	100	100	100	100	100	100
Field Pea	100	100	100	100	100	100
Canola	100	95	100	95	95	98
Soybeans	100	90	99	95	90	96
Corn	50	-	70	60	50	49
Sunflowers	35	-	80	60	60	58
Dry Beans	100	-	100	-	100	100
<b>Regional AVG</b>	96	98	99	95	98	96

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

**Table 2: 2023 Percentage Harvest Progress Completion Compared to Preceding Years**

Harvest Week Number (Week:Month)	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	5-Year Average
<August 1 <sup>st</sup>	0	0	1	0	0	0
31 (1:08)	0	0	1	1	0	1
32 (2:08)	0	0	5	2	4	3
33 (3:08)	13	1	21	5	16	14
34 (4:08)	18	1	30	13	25	23
35 (1:09)	37	3	35	26	38	31
36 (2:09)	51	15	50	39	40	42
37 (3:09)	63	32	65	56	46	54
38 (4:09)	76	40	78	70	58	64
39 (1:10)	85	47	91	84	65	73
40 (2:10)	86	63	95	95	71	81
41 (3:10)	90	79	96	98	74	86
42 (4:10)	96	90	96	98	77	90
at October 31 <sup>st</sup>	-	95	96	98	85	94

**Table 3: 2023 Percentage Seeding Progress Completion Compared to Preceding Years**

Seeding Week Number (Week:Month)	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	5-Year Average
< May 1 <sup>st</sup>	0	0	2	<1	5	2
18 (1:05)	0	0	18	9	20	15
19 (2:05)	3	4	44	42	50	39
20 (3:05)	25	10	76	65	84	63
21 (4:05)	62	40	91	88	94	81
22 (1:06)	87	65	96	96	98	91
23 (2:06)	97	87	99	97	99	96
24 (3:06)	100	100	100	100	100	100
at June 30 <sup>th</sup>	100	100	100	100	100	100

**Table 4: Estimated MASC Seeded Acres by Commodity at 97% Entered**

Commodity	2023 Acres *	2022 acres
Spring Wheat	2,706,102	2,580,474
Winter Wheat	52,807	53,677
Oats	282,004	662,562
Barley	333,646	375,139
Fall Rye	71,120	115,752
Grain Corn	464,891	321,759
Flax	26,320	50,372
Argentine Canola	2,966,902	3,204,215
Sunflowers	79,154	74,521
Dry Beans	138,749	115,076
Field Peas	145,410	187,280
Soybeans	1,494,633	891,248

## Cereals

### Winter Cereal Grains

- Winter wheat yields ranged from 60 to 70 bu/acre with fall rye yields ranging from 80-90 bu/acre. Good quality for both crops...
- Planted acres of winter cereals appear comparable to other years with some regions reporting slight increases due to the open fall with good planting conditions.

### Spring Cereal Grains

- Spring wheat yields were variable due to the sporadic rainfall throughout the summer. Regions that received timely rains saw 60-80 bu/acre while regions that missed rains most notable in the central region saw reports of yields in the 30-35 bushel range. Quality of spring wheat in all regions reporting to be good with protein levels in the 13.5 to 15% range. Average spring wheat yields across the province are in the 55-60 bushel range.
- Barley yields averaged between 70 to 80 bu/acre, with some exceptions. Quality was good.

- Oat yields were overall good this year in areas that received timely rainfall throughout the summer reporting 120-160 bu/acre. Regions in the central region that missed those rains were reporting 80-100 bushel range.
- Test weights in oats ranged between 42 to 44 lbs/bushel.

## Corn

- Corn acreage increased from previous years according to MASC (**Table 4**). This is due to a return to a slightly more normal seeding period compared to the delayed seeding in 2022.
- Corn yields ranged from lows of 80 bu/acre to as high as 200 bu/acre. The lower yield was due to the crop running out of moisture. Most regions outside the central regions were reporting good yields averaging 135 bu/acre. Harvest is currently at 49% complete as of this report with Central region reporting 70% complete.

## Oilseeds

### Canola

- Flea beetle pressure was not greatly reduced from previous years with some control measures being implemented on headlines and the odd field in various regions.
- Canola acres decreased from the previous year (**Table 4**) due to growers reevaluating rotations in response to the increased acres the previous year due to the late seeding.
- Generally canola yields were reporting good yields across the province with 40-50 bu/acre with a few reports of 60 bu/acre being reported in most regions. The provincial average yield is expected to be around 42 bu/acre.
- There were a number of reports of harvest challenges with the plant stalks remaining green making harvest a much slower process than in previous years.

### Flax & Sunflowers

- Average flax yields varied by region, but provincially averaged between 25 to 30 bu/acre.
- Sunflowers saw a small increase in acres in 2023. (**Table 4**)
- Yields are in the range of 1700 to 3500 lbs/acre for oil sunflowers with most in the 2000 to 2500 lbs/acre range. Confectionary sunflowers were in the 2000 to 2500 lbs/acre range. All with good test weights. There were some reports of blackbird damage, but overall producers are reporting better yields than they were initially expecting when they considered the rainfall they received this year.

## Pulses & Soybeans

### Field Peas

- Pea acres dropped slightly from the previous year.
- Most regions reporting average pea yields in 2023 ranging from 40-60 bu/acre. Provincially yield expected to be around 50 bu/acre which is below the 5 year average of 54 bu/acre. Good quality was reported.
- Lower disease pressure this year. Fungicide application occurred on fields were dense crop canopy and rainfall increased disease pressure for Mycosphaerella blight (Ascochyta).

## Soybeans

- Soybean acreage increased to 1.5 million acres this spring. This was tied to good prices and strong yields in 2022.
- Yields have been variable and dependent upon summer rainfall. Yields ranged from 20 to 30 bu/acre on the earliest harvested fields to 30 to 40 plus bu/acre. Provincial average expected to be around 34 bu/acre.

## Dry Edible Beans

- Dry beans performed well in 2023, despite drier conditions this summer. Yields ranged from 1400 to over 3000 lbs/acre. This variability was due to limitations of rainfall but provincial yield for all dry bean types expected to be average to slightly below average for the 2023 growing season. This is approximately 1700 lbs/acre across all bean types.

## Forages & Livestock

- Pasture growth was initially decent relying on the spring moisture following snowmelt, but moisture reserves were quickly depleted due to high temperatures and in many cases pastures were not adequately replenished to maintain growth rates. Hay, pasture and forage yields were therefore highly variable due to the patchy nature of rainfall this spring.
- Alfalfa hay, first cut produced an average of 1.5 tonnes/acre while second cut yielded .75 tonnes/acre and third cut was pegged at 0.5 tonnes/acre. For brome/alfalfa hay, first cut yielded an average of .75 to 2.0 tonnes/acre while second cut yielded 0.4 to 0.9 tonnes/acre with third cut, where it was taken, coming in at .35 tonnes/acre. Wild hay on first cut yielded around 0.5 to 0.75 tonnes/acre with second cut, where it was taken, and giving about 0.25 tonnes/acre. Greenfeed yields came in at around 2.25 tonnes/acre.
- The 2023 haying/pasture season presented producers with a variety of challenges. A hot June, coupled with sporadic rain showers led to early maturing forage crops. Both dairy and beef producers found themselves in alfalfa fields earlier than expected, with yield results highly dependent on soil moisture conditions. Reports of alfalfa weevil in fields north of Steinbach, presented producers with an additional obstacle that influenced yield and quality of hay.
- Overall, winter feed supplies are considered adequate. On average, 40% of producers have some surplus hay production. 50% considered their hay supply adequate for the winter while 10% are short hay supply. Levels of straw, greenfeed and feed grain supplies are seen as adequate. Producers who are short on inventory due to the highly variable moisture conditions experienced throughout the growing season, should have no problem sourcing feed to purchase.
- September grazing was able to overcome pasture production in most areas as soils dried and weather cooled, and cattle were being supplemented or brought back to winter feeding areas slightly earlier than usual.
- Producers are beginning the process of sending feed samples for analysis. Preliminary information indicates that protein levels (particularly in corn silage samples) may be lower than last year.
- Silage corn yields are reported at 9 to 20 tonnes/acre, with average yields higher than expected. Forage supplies for most are better than last year. Straw was baled immediately following cereal harvest; yield is better than in recent years. Many report adequate supplies for winter and do not need to purchase.
- Adequate snowfall is necessary this winter to replenish water sources.
- Water supplies for livestock have remained adequate throughout the entire year.
- Dugouts were variable during the summer months due to rainfall and are going into fall freeze up between 50 to 60% of capacity, depending on the area.

## Regional Summaries

### Southwest Region

Rainfall was inadequate but temperatures were above normal during most of the season. Some crops were shorter than normal and many fields were variable in crop stage. A few areas in the region received timely rains but most of the crops missed the moisture at their critical stages of growth. No reports of any severe weather-related damage this year except for some hailstorms early in the season near Oak River, Rivers & Waskada area which caused major losses to the crops but was very localized. Most of the region remained very dry and hot throughout the growing season, with scattered rains making the difference for crops. All of the regions received below-average rainfall, with a few small areas seeing heavy rains in July, and August. Some good rains at the end of August gave a good boost to longer-season crops like soybean, corn, and sunflower. Harvest was also started early in some areas but rain during September delayed progress.

Due to rain, snow and cooler conditions during early May 2023, spring seeding started slowly for the most part. Snowfall over winter was lower than normal, and spring runoff was minimal to none in most of the region. Soils were at adequate moisture at seeding time due to some early moisture. Southern areas were able to start before the rest of the region. Minimal pre-seed burn-off occurred, as there was little weed growth at the appropriate staging.

Peas and cereals were seeded into moisture, germinated, and emerged well. Stands were adequate in most of the crops like spring wheat, barley, oats, and canola. Producers had a good start to the growing season in 2023. By the end of May, most crops started to germinate with 80% seeding completed. Harvest activities were also smooth this fall as 75% harvest was complete by the end of September. Regrowth was a challenge in cereals and canola due to late-season rains in these fields. Some farmers sprayed post-harvest products in some fields to control winter annuals and to conserve the moisture for the upcoming year.

As expected, crop yields were somewhat lower than average due to lack of precipitation, but were extremely variable. Yields were surprisingly good in many areas, considering the challenges of the season. The best yields were due to a combination of timely rains and heavier soils, although consistent heavy dew seems to have helped some later maturing crops.

Winter wheat yielded in the 65 bu/acre range, fall rye came off in the 60 to 80 bu/acre range.

Most of the spring wheat graded #1 Canada, with good quality. Proteins were averaging 13.5-14.0%. Yields ranged from 40 to 70 bu/acre, with the majority in 45 to 55 bu/acre range.

Barley ranged from 70 to 100 bu/acre, averaging in the 75 bu/ac range, with good weight.

Oats ranged from 65 to 120 bu/acre. Test weights varied through harvest, reflecting in-season rainfall amounts. Fewer thins than expected. Downgrading was due to mildew, and rain/high humidity.

Canola yields ranged from 25 to 60 bu/acre, averaging 35 to 40 bu/acre with essentially all graded #1 Canada. The move to straight-cut harvest and pod shatter-resistant varieties allowed stagey crops to stand and ripen, for fewer harvest losses. Some producers experienced canola staying green longer and making conditions for straight cutting more difficult.

Pea yields ranged from 30 to 50 bu/acre, averaging 35 to 45 bu/acre, with excellent quality. Flax yields reported better than last year, ranging from 20 to 30 bu/acre, with very good quality.

Grain corn harvest continues, now over 50% complete, with several producers finished. Moisture is 12-25% range and yields reported to date range from 80 to 120 bu/acre. The average yield for the region is forecasted to be 90 to 130 bu/acre. Harvest progress has been good.

Sunflower harvest also continues and is as much as 35% complete. Yields range from 1800 to close to 3500 lbs/acre for oilseed varieties, average is expected to be in the 2500 to 3000 lb range. The quality is good. Confection varieties are also yielding well, with an average expected to be in the 2000 to 2500 lb/acre range.

The impact of disease on crops was lower than normal, a consequence of drier conditions. Fungicide applications were made to most of the wheat, and some oats and barley. Fewer canola fields were sprayed than normal, due to dry conditions.

Flea beetles numbers were not as high as previous years but some spraying did occur during emergence. Some areas reported grasshoppers as a problem and sprayed to control the issue. Overall diamondback moth and bertha armyworm infestation was minimal to none in the southwest region. Some reports of isolated fields were treated for cutworms as well, close to the Brandon area. Cereal armyworm was also another pest, which was a problem in some areas of the southwest and producers needed to spray for that.

## **Northwest Region**

A cool start to the spring, with a mid-April snow storm slowed the start of seeding in some districts. Warm, drying conditions allowed seeding to progress quickly. Seeding started with cereals and field peas, then continued to canola, soybeans and the remainder of the crops. Seeding conditions seemed close to ideal for the most part with the exception of localized storms. Numerous storms brought some extreme precipitation events in short time periods, as well as hail in several areas.

Temperatures warmed very quickly for May/June and at end of June most areas received well over the normal percent of GDD. This provided for a nice start for most crops with uniform germination and emergence. July however turned around with cooler than normal temperatures which brought the percent of GDD near normal again. Overnight temperatures dipped below 10 degrees several nights in July.

Precipitation across the region was extremely variable. Some areas received above normal rainfall (some in extreme amounts over short time periods). In contrast, some areas struggled for moisture for the entire season. Yield and quality were reflected in these crops that struggled.

Adequate snowfall over winter provided for good insulation for winter cereals. Water sources were replenished in early spring, especially in areas that received heavy rainfall amounts with storms. Throughout the season, they became depleted as the percent of normal precipitation decreased. All areas of the Northwest region remain below 100 percent normal precipitation and is reflected in the water source levels.

Spring wheat mostly did well across the region. Approximately 70% graded 1CW; 25% 2CW and 5% as Feed. Average estimated yield was 60-70 bu/acre. There were reports of lower protein in the Dauphin area in crops that were drought stressed through the season.

Field pea harvest went fairly well. Average yields were 35-40 bu/acre with some higher yielding fields going 65-70 bu/acre. 100% of field peas graded as 2 Canada.

Canola crops varied across the region. While most crops were seeded in a timely manner, some were seeded later as well as reseeded crops which provided a range in plant stages. Flea beetle pressure was persistent for the spring and also contributed to some reseeded canola. The later seeding dates led to a range of maturity and a stretched out harvest with approximately 5% of the canola crop yet to be harvested. A wide range in yields across the region with lower yielding fields at 35 to 40 bu/acre and upwards to 65 to 70 bu/acre in higher yielding fields. 95% of the canola graded at 1 Canada with the remainder at 2 Canada. Some of the lower yielding fields saw a large number of aborted pods due to numerous causes.

Winter wheat did fairly well and averaged about 65-75 bu/acre. Fall rye averaged approximately 65 bu/acre

Average yield for barley ranged and was dependant on seasonal precipitation. Higher yielding fields did 70-80 bu/acre while the lower yielding fields reported approximately 35-40 bu/acre. Oats did fairly well for the region and averaged 80-90 bu/acre with some fields yielding down into 60 bu/acre range.

Soybean harvest is nearly complete with some crops remaining to be harvested. Late season rains seemed to provide enough moisture to bump up yields in some areas. Those areas received an average yield of 45 to 50 bu/acre while areas that did not receive timely moisture averaged 35 bu/acre. So far soybeans have all graded as 2 Canada.

There was some flax grown in the region. The average yield was 15-20 bu/acre. Approximately 15% remains to be harvested.

With some harvest being completed early, fields were able to be prepped for seeding of winter cereals. The number of acres seeded into winter cereals this fall is expected to be higher.

## Central Region

The 2023 growing season was characterized by its warm and dry weather. The crop year began with many fields partially underwater due to a quick snowmelt. There were a few cases of damage to municipal infrastructure including roads and culverts. The resulting poor conditions of gravel and dirt roads reduced field access in many regions. Growers needed to find alternative routes to fields or travel at much slower speeds. In the worst cases, producers could not access fields at all early in the season. This initial water surplus undoubtedly helped ensure that producers entered the 2023 growing season with available soil moisture, and full dugouts.

Seeding was delayed until fields dried down enough to be accessed. Seeding progress varied greatly across the region, with some areas being nearly complete, while others sometimes only a few miles away were just beginning. This was primarily down to local variations in soil type, topography and weather. However, for the most part, areas around Carman, Roland, MacGregor and Westbourne were seeded earliest. The escarpment, Portage, Altona and along the Red River Valley are much further behind in comparison.

Fall rye and winter wheat were generally in good condition in the spring, with very little winter kill and only a few drowned out spots in areas with ponding water.

As the season progressed warmer temperatures and high winds quickly dried the soil. Later seeded crops experienced difficulty germinating. In many cases canola and soybeans were effectively stranded in the soil until they received rain. The dry weather also resulted in uneven germination with thin stands of variable crop staging. By early June the warm and dry conditions were having visible impacts on crop and forage production. Most crops were shorter than they would typically be, and some crops had noticeable moisture stress. Corn in particular was observed to be purpling due to phosphorus deficiencies at many of the driest locations, especially along field margins. There were even some isolated cases of 'floppy root syndrome' also known as 'rootless corn syndrome'. This is caused by excessive drying of the soil during root development. These symptoms were most prevalent in the RMs of Morris, Rhineland and Roland due to the particularly low volumes of rainfall experienced in these municipalities.

Rainfall during the growing season was mostly patchy. When it did arrive it brought a marked improvement in growth and crop appearance. Some of this rainfall came as part of heavy storms, with some bringing hail and high winds.

Grasshoppers were problematic for some producers, with damage observed mostly at field margins and around ditches. Flea beetles and cutworms were visible for many producers, but only exceeded the threshold for pesticide application in a few cases. Aphids were present in soybean and cereals, at times above threshold levels. Diamondback moth and bertha armyworm numbers were low for the most part.

Pea leaf weevils which feed on the developing root nodules of peas and faba beans have been moving south and east in the province for a number of years. This year weevils were identified the furthest east they have ever been identified in Manitoba, at Elm Creek, but weevils were also present at a number of locations within the central region, including St Leon, and Holland. Producers should remain vigilant for this pest in 2024.

Disease incidence was lower than in recent years, likely due to the dry environment. Fewer applications of fungicide were made than typical for fusarium head blight and in canola for sclerotinia.

Harvest began in late July with winter cereals. Fall rye yields varied greatly depending on how much rainfall the crop received and at what growth stage. Most yields in the region range from 60 to 90 bu/acre. However, some fall rye yields are as low as 30 bu/acre. Winter wheat yields are around 60 to 65 bu/acre. Test weights were good, as

were falling numbers for rye. Ergot levels in rye were low, and grain quality for both crops were good, with very low fusarium.

Barley yields ranged from 70 to 100 bu/acre, with the majority falling around 85 bu/acre, with good quality. Yields were mostly around 80 to 100 bu/acre, with some in the driest areas as low as 60 bu/ac. Most oats were graded at the highest designation.

Spring wheat yields were also highly variable, but most spring wheat ranged from 35 to 65 bu/acre. Protein ranged between 13.5 to 14.0%, with good falling numbers. There were low levels of fusarium damaged kernels and most spring wheat was graded № 1 Canada.

Flax harvest is complete, with yields observed in the range of 20 to 30 bu/acre and good quality.

Soybean harvest is mostly complete, but a few fields remain, especially in the north and west of the central region. The proportion harvested is higher in the Pembina valley where approximately 99% of soybeans are harvested, and lower around Gladstone and Holland at 85%. Yields are between 20 to 40 bu/acre and a quality of 2 Canada or better. A number of producers sprayed for soybean aphids and there were limited instances of white mould late in the season. Iron deficiency chlorosis (IDC) was reported on some fields.

Dry edible bean harvest is complete. Most edible beans were harvested early in the season, but some fields persisted into last week in the Elie and Portage areas. Yields ranged from 1800 to 2500 lbs/acre, with the lowest at around 750 lbs/acre and the highest at around 3250 lbs and good quality of 1 Canada.

Peas had decent yields ranging between 45 and 60 bu/acre, with most around 50 bu/acre, and good quality of 2 Canada. There were isolated cases of pea aphids reaching economic threshold levels but only a small proportion of crops were sprayed.

The sunflower harvest is continuing, with harvest 80% complete. Almost all fields are now harvested in the Pembina Valley, but harvest progression is lower towards the north of the Central region. Harvest progressed efficiently due to the dry October conditions and warmer than typical fall temperatures. Sunflowers had a good test weight, and good quality. Yields are in the range of 1700 to 3500 lbs/acre for oil sunflowers with most in the 2000 to 2500 lbs/acre range. Confectionary sunflowers were in the 2000 to 2500 lbs/acre range.

Corn harvest is continuing, with harvest 70% complete. Harvest progressed efficiently due to the dry October conditions and warmer than typical temperatures, often the only factor limiting corn harvest was waiting for the kernel to dry, and the availability of drying capacity. Yields have varied greatly, mostly depending on how much moisture the crop received during the growing season. Yields are as low as 80 bu/ac to as high as 200 bu/ac.

Establishment of fall rye and winter wheat this year has been good due to adequate moisture for germination and establishment.

## Eastern Region

The 2023 growing season could best be described as unusual from the perspective of the weather that was experienced. In the first week of May no appreciable progress had been made with field preparation and seeding. Sporadic rainfall was occurring, temperatures were below seasonal and snow was still melting on some fields. The following week demonstrated some warming but slow progress on seeding was still a concern, particularly for corn. However, by mid-month, the weather had shifted appreciably, with day and night time temperatures rising above normal and maintaining those levels for the rest of the month. Rainfall accumulations also tapered off as the month progressed. As a consequence, soil temperatures rose rapidly leading to rapid germination and emergence of seeded crops. As the month progressed, dry topsoil became a concern, particularly for the canola crop with uneven emergence being noted. By the end of May, seeding was almost complete and herbicide applications had begun. Spring cereals, canola, soybeans, corn, flax and sunflowers ranged from emergence to early seedling stages. Field peas were as large as the fourth node stage and advancing rapidly. Producers hoped for timely rainfall to aid in more even crop emergence, particularly for canola.

In June, weather conditions were unseasonably hot and humid most days. As a result, frequent thunderstorms and the potential for sudden and severe weather were a concern. These conditions along with several days of strong winds hindered progress with spraying and producers had to make the most of any opportunity they had. Weekly rainfall accumulations varied from trace amounts to several inches but occurred as very localized and isolated events which left some areas flooded while others consistently too dry. Uneven crop development remained a concern for some growers, particularly with canola. Crop development was noted as very rapid and well advanced compared to a typical June.

Monitoring for flea beetle in canola occurred as there were expectations of problems given the dry conditions and warm temperatures. Only limited spraying occurred with a lot of that on field perimeters. Armyworm damage was noted in fall cereals by the end of June and insecticide applications occurred.

In July, rainfall accumulations remained sporadic and isolated with fast moving mild to intense thunderstorms and showers being a weekly feature. Day and night time temperatures started out above seasonal but moderated to seasonal to below seasonal as the month wore on. July was notably a cooler month. Rainfall became more widespread by the end of the month although relatively isolated dry areas continued to persist with crops in those areas demonstrating symptoms of moisture stress, particularly in the case of corn. The last half of July also featured some of the most violent weather of the growing season with damaging storms occurring in the Kleefeld, Friedensfeld areas in the third week of July and a “downburst” storm with windspeeds of up to 155 km/h occurring in Beausejour and area in the last days of the month.

Rapid crop development continued with corn noted as being easily waist and even chest high by the fourth of July. Scouting for armyworms in fall cereals continued in the first half of July but concerns dropped off as the crop advanced past susceptible stages. By the last week of July fall cereals were drying down and preharvest herbicides or swathing was occurring. Fusarium head blight fungicide applications in spring cereals were completed by the second week of July while armyworm and grasshopper scouting continued through the month. Most insecticide applications in cereals, particularly for armyworms, occurred in the first half of July with concerns lessening as the month went on. By the end of the month, spring cereals ranged from the soft to hard dough stages.

Scouting for insects in sunflowers continued all month long with sunflower bud moth being noted. At month end sunflowers were moving quickly to the R5 (flowering) growth stage while corn fields were somewhere in R1 (silk). Fungicide application on canola was completed by the third week of July for those choosing to apply this year. The

overall drier conditions, reduced sclerotinia infection potential and unevenness of some crops complicated spraying decisions. By the end of the month, most canola crops ranged from 70%+ pod fill to pod filling and flowering ended. The cooler weather in July did appear to extend the flowering period in some canola crops. Soybean aphids were first noted in the region at well below threshold levels in the second week of July. By month end, increasing soybean aphid numbers were found but most fields still had below threshold levels and careful scouting was needed as “hotspots” of high aphid pressure were showing up in many fields.

August weather in the Eastern region saw a continuation of the highly variable and highly localized patterns seen in July. Rainfall accumulations ranging from trace amounts to tens of mm seemed to occur each week in various districts of the region with isolated heavy downpours and strong winds being a feature at the end of the month.

Harvesting of winter wheat was completed by the third week, with fall rye harvest wrapping up the following week. Winter wheat yield averaged 70 bu/acre. Quality was good with 25% grading #1 Canada and 75% grading #2 Canada. Fall rye yield averaged 75 bu/acre with the crop grading #2 Canada

In the first week of August some insecticide applications for diamondback moth larvae and lygus bugs were occurring in canola. By mid month some very early seeded fields were being swathed or were receiving pre-harvest herbicide applications. At the end of the month a limited amount of canola harvesting had been done and swathing or pre-harvest herbicide applications were at least 20% complete.

The presence of white mould was noted in soybean crops, particularly in long seasoned varieties demonstrating lush growth, and became more and more obvious and concerning as the month went on. Field pea fields were desiccated by mid-month and harvesting was complete by the end of August. Average yield in field peas was 70 bu/acre with the crop grading #2 Canada.

September weather in the Eastern region started out with seasonal to above seasonal temperatures and relatively dry conditions that facilitated harvest progress. As the month progressed however, the weather became mixed with rainfall ranging from isolated to widespread showers or rainstorms occurring. Temperatures also moderated becoming cooler as the weeks went on with high humidity and heavy dews being a feature from time to time. Overall, this changing weather pattern interfered with the harvest and field work progress across the region and producers had to make the most of any opportunities they had to get work done. By the end of the month, spring cereal harvest was almost complete.

Spring wheat yield averaged 75 bu/acre. Quality was generally good with the crop grading 1 CW (50%) and 2 CW (50%). Oats yield averaged 125 bu/acre. Quality was good with crop grading #2 CW. Most corn fields were at “black layer” or physiological maturity and drying down. The majority of sunflower fields had been desiccated. About 60% of canola had been harvested by the end of September and most flax crops had been desiccated or swathed by this time. Soybean harvest was about 45% complete

October weather in the Eastern region has not been the best suited for harvest progress although producers have pushed on regardless. Rainfall accumulation ranging from about 25 mm to 60 mm in the first week of the month delayed progress and current weather as of the writing of this report has again put a stop to field operations. A hard killing frost across the region occurred at the start of the second week of August after a fall with no frost concerns until that time.

As of the writing of this report, Canola harvest was about 95% complete in the region with yields averaging in the 55 bu/acre range. Crop quality was all #1 Canada. Soybean harvest was also about 95% complete with yields averaging around 45 bu/acre, Crop quality was all #2 Canada. Harvest was complete on the limited acres of flax

grown in the Eastern region and yields were good averaging 35 bu/acre. Quality was 1 CW (100%). Corn harvest was still ongoing with about 60% of acres combined. Average yields were around 135 bu/acre with good bushel weights and #2 CW quality. Sunflower harvest was estimated at 60% complete across the region with average yields of 3000 lb/acre and #2 Canada quality.

## Interlake Region

Producers were able to get into the fields and start seeding in early May. Seeding progress was excellent in the Interlake region, with most of the region reported 90 to 99% completed by June 06, 2023 except for later annual forages. Many growers reported good and excellent stands. Fields with minimal rainfall saw uneven emergence of canola, soybean, and corn. Cereals such as wheat, oat and barley had good stands. Some crops were reseeded as crop stands were evaluated following extreme heat stress, and uneven emergence. Plant establishment in general was quite good given the amount of spring rainfall.

The impact of disease on crops was much lower than normal, a consequence of drier conditions. Most fungicide applications for fusarium head blight completed in wheat. Fungicides were applied to reduce the impact of sclerotinia in canola.

Alfalfa weevil infestations were severe across the Interlake region in both forage and seed production. Insecticide application to control alfalfa weevil in hay and seed were completed. Armyworms caused damage in a number of fields including perennial ryegrass, fescue and timothy, spring cereals and hayfields. Bertha armyworm and diamondback moth damage were minimal. Grasshoppers also caused significant problems for many producers. Headlands were sprayed more than once and entire crops were sprayed, multiple times. High temperatures over 25°C affected insect control. There were reports of heavy numbers of grasshoppers along the edges of some fields north of Petersfield and Winnipeg. Many crops were affected, including hay and pasture. Grasshopper injury continued through much of the season. Producers are concerned they could be a problem again next year.

Rainfall was inadequate with scattered thundershowers in most parts of the region. Overwinter moisture accumulation was less than 40% across the region, leading to limited spring runoff. Some parts of the south Interlake received only 1 inch of rain and nothing in June.

Harvest of winter cereals started in early August. Winter wheat yields ranged from 50 to 65 bu/acre with fall rye at 60 to 100 bu/acre. Spring wheat crops were harvested, with CWRS protein content ranging between 13.5-15.5% in the region, averaging about 14.5%. Yields were between 60 to 90 bu/acre with good test weight. Field pea yields reported to be in the 50-60 bu/acre range with good quality. Harvest was wrapped up by end of August for field peas. Oats yielded 100 to 160 bu/acre with good quality. Barley yields reported to be 80 to 90 bu/acre.

Soybean harvest started mid-September and was wrapped up by mid-October. Yields ranged from 40 to 60 bu/acre and were dependent on rainfall amounts. Some producers reported green plant stems which slowed harvest progress. Crop quality was all #2 Canada.

Canola yield averages ranged from 45 to 65 bu/acre with slow progress in September due to heavy crop swaths and green plant material. At time of writing this report canola harvest was about 90% complete in the region. Sunflower harvest began in mid October and is currently sitting at 69% complete with yields in the 2000-2500 lbs/acre range.

Corn harvest is still ongoing with about 50% of acres combined. Average yields were around 110-130 bu/acre with good bushel weight.