

## CROP REPORT #15 – August 6, 2019

Prepared by:

Manitoba Agriculture - Primary Agriculture Branch  
(204) 745-5660 Fax: (204) 745-5690

[Reporting Area Map](#)

[Seasonal Report](#)

[Crop Weather Report](#)

To receive the Crop Report weekly, click [here](#)

### Weekly Provincial Summary

- Cereal harvest has begun. Pre-harvest weed control continuing in spring wheat and desiccation in field peas – for pre-harvest interval information, please see the [Keep it Clean](#) website.
- [Grasshoppers](#) remain the main insect of concern, with monitoring ongoing in all regions.
- Hay and forage yields are significantly below average. Producers looking for hay should see the [Manitoba Hay Listing Service](#). For fall and winter planning see resources on [Managing Low Forage Supplies](#) and [FeedPlan Feed Ingredient Cost Calculator](#)

### Southwest

Higher than normal temperatures prevailed last week with very little to no rain across the region. Only scattered showers in Russell and Birtle areas amounted to less than 5 mm. Crops are showing symptoms of dry weather conditions and in some cases, soils are close to the permanent wilting point. Most winter cereals are close to the pre-harvest herbicide stage. Low fusarium level in winter wheat and low levels of ergot in fall rye being reported. Winter wheat harvest has begun in the Brandon and eastern parts of the region. No yield reports at this time.

The majority of the canola crop is at the pod-filling stage. Reseeded fields are finishing up flowering. Dry weather and excessive heat is causing some pod fill and flower blasting. Very low levels of sclerotinia this year in canola. No reports of any insect damages at this stage. Bertha armyworm [trap counts](#) are in the low to uncertain range as the counts wrap up.

Spring cereals are ripening quickly. Most of the crop maturing

well without any major issues. Fusarium head blight is showing up especially in unsprayed fields of spring wheat but incidence is very low at this stage. Majority of the crop is at hard dough stage. There will be some swathing activity at the end of this week in these crops.

[Soybean staging](#) is at R3 to R4. Majority of the crop looks green and tall with no major signs of water shortage, but moisture is very critical for pod and seed development. Any precipitation will be appreciated at this stage. No reports of any soybean aphids yet. Field Peas are looking promising without any major concerns. Most of the crop is at ripening to dry down stage with some pre-harvest products being applied. Some pea aphids have been noted but [crop stage](#) is past damage point. Some initial pea harvest has begun in lighter soil zones with no yield reports yet.

Flax fields are finishing flowering. No major disease presence this year. Some lodging is visible in low-lying areas. [Sunflowers](#) are starting to flower, at R5.1. There

are some reports of insect damage but no spraying so far.

Corn is advancing well and benefitting from hot weather conditions but is in need of some good moisture. Majority of the crop is in R1 stage.

[Grasshoppers](#) are present in all crops and along roadside ditches. Loss in the crops is minor to non-significant to date. No reports of any grasshopper spray in the area.

Pastures are declining rapidly with the excessively hot, dry weather. Pasture management is making some difference but poor soil moisture reserves are affecting the entire region. Reports of dugouts drying out are coming in from the northern and southern portions of the Southwest region. Dugout levels are generally low, about 50% of normal capacity. Cooler weather and precipitation are needed immediately to boost annual feeds and pastures.

## Northwest

There were good growing conditions in the Northwest region this past week and the crop is progressing well. Daytime temperatures hovered around 25°C and there were widespread rain showers along with heavy morning dews. Roblin area received the most rainfall last week at 50 mm. These showers as well as favourable weather conditions have helped crops to recover and somewhat compensate for the challenging spring conditions. Soil moisture conditions around Dauphin/Ste. Rose area continue to be short; soils in Swan River, The Pas and Roblin are 100% adequate.

There was good progress in crop growth in the region; most fields look clean with good weed control. The canola crop continues to advance and, with the exception of very late seeded or stressed fields, 100% of the crop is flowering. Spring cereals are heading out and starting to turn and are in the milk to soft dough stage. The [field peas](#) in the region are podding up and starting to mature. [Soybeans](#) are flowering around Roblin and Swan River and are in the R1 stage. Sixty percent of the [flax](#) crop is flowering with the earlier seeded fields in the boll stage. Silage corn around Roblin is in good to poor condition.

Diamondback moth larvae are present in some fields. Of the almost 30 monitoring traps for Bertha Armyworm in the Northwest region, the highest [cumulative counts](#) are around Ste. Rose at 322 and Minitonas at 323. These numbers are in the “uncertain risk” range and reflect areas to prioritize when scouting for larvae. Fungicide applications are occurring as conditions and staging allows.

Showers have been more widespread throughout the Northwest; however haying has become delayed due to the moisture and will resume as forecasts look more stable with clearer weather. Hay yields are reporting to be very low at 30 to 50% of normal although newer fields are reporting somewhat higher yields at 50 to 60% of normal. Pastures are improving with the additional moisture, however water sources dugouts and creeks, continue to be low or very low on pastures.

Grasshoppers continue to be a major problem throughout the region on both pastures and hay fields. Small improvements are visible on annual crops that are intended for silage and greenfeed. Hayfield conditions are rated as 20% good, 40% fair, and 40% poor to very poor. Pasture conditions rated as 10% good, 40% fair, 20% poor and 30% very poor.

## Central

Seasonal to above seasonal temperatures prevailed this week, with high relative humidity. A thunderstorm occurred across the south-central part of the region on Wednesday evening bringing welcome moisture to crops in that area. Surface runoff from intense rainfall did occur in some places. Crop available water is rapidly being taken up to complete grain fill. More rain is needed to carry late season crops in the central and northeast areas particularly.

Wheat, oats and barley are maturing rapidly. Corn is tasselling and beginning to silk. Fusarium head blight is showing up in some wheat fields that received more consistent precipitation but infection levels are rated as low. The majority of spring cereals are in the late dough to ripe stage.

Some barley is ripe with some swathed and ready to be harvested. With the warm to hot and dry conditions forecasted this week, those crops will advance rapidly. Pre-harvest weed control spraying continues in mature wheat fields. Winter wheat and fall rye harvest is underway along with perennial ryegrass in the Red River Valley. Reported winter wheat yields range between 60 to 70 bu/ac in the Altona area. No other reports of cereal yields harvested at this time but quality should be good given the dry environment. West of the escarpment, fall rye, wheat, oats and barley crops are ripening quickly with harvest operations anticipated later this week.

Corn near Morden/Winkler and west of the escarpment looks good as it received some earlier rain events that helped stimulate growth. [Corn staging](#) varies from pollinating to blister for the most advanced and well-developed crops.

[Soybeans](#) in the Altona area are in the R4 to R5 stage or beginning seed whereas above the escarpment R4 would be more typical. Soybeans could use rain to help with seed fill especially in the drier parts of the region like the Red River Valley. [Soybean aphids](#) have not been an issue to date. [Field peas](#) have progressed well and are now in the R7 stage or ripe and drying down.

Most canola fields are completely done flowering. Swathing of canola fields is reported in the Red River Valley, and more is expected this week. [Bertha armyworm](#) traps report low to uncertain risk in the region and no issues reported to date from this pest. Flax is finishing flowering. Sunflowers are beginning to bloom. [Grasshoppers](#) have been causing damage to fields in various parts of the region.

They continue to be watched and have required field edge to entire field treatment depending on the population and feeding damage found.

Potato fields are looking good with tubers bulking well. No late blight has been detected but preventative fungicide applications continue. Some low level early blight has been found. Overall low insect pressure from aphids and Colorado potato beetle, however some fields were sprayed for potato beetle. Irrigation of potato and vegetable fields is occurring where needed to maintain soil moisture and support growth.

First cut hay crop is mostly complete with yields running 25% to 50% of normal. The most severely affected tame hay fields in the north are half a round bale/acre. Hay production is below average due to dry conditions but better than expected in southwestern areas. Second cut haying has begun where regrowth was sufficient.

Regrowth is minimal or non-existent in drier areas. [Grasshoppers](#) are damaging forage hay and pasture stands and spraying is occurring. Supplementing feed on pasture is expected to begin, if not already started in areas with poorest pasture conditions. Straw, greenfeed, silage and other forages will be baled as a source of feed. Livestock water supplies are decreasing, affecting water quality and dugouts are running dry.

## Eastern

Dry conditions prevailed last week in the Eastern Region with many areas receiving no rainfall. Soil moisture status was decreasing quickly throughout the Eastern region, given the above average daytime and nighttime

temperatures. More districts in the region were becoming short or very short of soil moisture and producers were concerned about losing yield potential, particularly in warm season crops. Significant rain across the whole region needs to occur soon. Soil moisture conditions on cropland across the region were rated as 70% adequate, 20% short and 10% very short. Soil moisture conditions in hay and pasture lands were rated as 30% adequate, 40% short and 30% very short.

Scouting for grasshoppers continued throughout the region, primarily in soybeans and canola given that cereal crops were maturing quickly. Below threshold, levels of defoliation from [green cloverworm](#) in soybeans continued to be found. The presence of diamondback larvae in canola at below threshold levels continued to be noted. Overall, the pace of insecticide applications slowed in the region but applications did occur to control [lygus bugs](#) in confectionary sunflowers.

Pre-harvest applications in winter cereals are now complete. Winter wheat harvest is ongoing. Early yield reports were averaging 70 bu/ac with a few reports as high as 90 bu/ac. Pre-harvest applications on spring cereals will continue this week. Some harvesting of early seeded spring wheat is expected to begin this weekend. Barley harvest began last week with early yield reports averaging 75 bu/ac. Harvesting of forage grass seed was also ongoing.

Spring cereals were in mid dough to hard dough stages. [Corn](#) was tasseling with cobs forming. [Soybean](#) crops ranged from the late R3 to the early R5 growth stages. [Sunflowers](#) ranged within the R5 growth stage and canola

was pod filling with some fields showing signs of ripening.

Hayfield and pasture conditions were rated as 30% good to fair, 40% poor and 30% very poor. Beef producers were mostly finished first cut with most reported yields between 50% to 60% of normal, but with some reporting only 25% of normal. Alfalfa hay fields were recording 60% to 70% of normal yields. Some grain crops were harvested as greenfeed, particularly those stands lacking soil moisture. For first cut hay, 5% was still standing with 5% cut and 90% baled or silaged. Quality was rated as good. Average hay yields were one tonne/acre for alfalfa, 0.75 tonne/ac for grass/alfalfa hay, 0.5 tonne/acre for other tame hay and 0.25 tonne/ac for wild hay. For second cut hay, 20% was standing, 10% was cut and 70% was baled or silaged. Second cut alfalfa hay yields were 1.25 tonnes/ac. Overall, second cut was mostly done with some producers reporting yields of 80 to 90% of normal but others reporting only 50 to 60% of normal. Dairy farmers are hoping for a good third cut. Dugouts were starting to get low and drying up completely in some areas. Availability of livestock water was rated as 80% adequate and 20% inadequate.

## Interlake

A warmer week, with daytime temperatures up to 30 to 33°C; daily averages around 20°C. Minimum overnight temperatures were down to 3 to 5°C. Trace rainfall for most of the region, although higher amounts with thundershowers. Humidity levels remain high. Rain is needed as all areas, particularly the north and east part of the region, remain short for moisture. Some crops still hang on from shower to shower. Topsoil moisture is currently

adequate for around 50% of the crops and short to very short for the remaining acres.

Forage seed grasses are being harvested. Early yield reports of around 200 lbs meadow fescue, 500 lbs tall fescue, 500 to 900 lbs perennial ryegrass, lower due to lack of rainfall.

Early yield reports 70 to 90 bu/ac winter wheat, and 65 to 85 bu/ac fall rye.

The last seeded flax is in late flower. Most fields are showing some colour change. Peas are turning; harvest is starting. Canola is fully podded. Some swathing has started. Flowering in late seeded and re-seeded canola tailing off. Reseeded canola is looking good in fields that have received adequate rainfall.

Most soybeans have advanced to R4. Majority of fields are looking good, but will need ongoing rains; extremely dry soils are a concern for all later maturing crops. Corn has tasseled and is silking; dry conditions are a concern for adequate pollination. All cereals have rapidly advanced, with the heat and drier conditions; premature ripening is evident in the driest areas. A few cereal fields have been harvested, with early yields at 65 to 85 bu/ac barley and 50 to 55 bu/ac spring wheat. Some oats have been swathed. Harvesting will become more general by next week. Pre-harvest glyphosate is being applied to crops.

Crops have dried out on sandy ridges, evident in cereals and canola. All crops are stagey, and shorter than normal. Short cereal fields have the problem of not enough straw for an adequate swath; some may have to switch to straight cut. Early greenfeed has been harvested; yields will be

better than later seeded crops. Stands in the northwest are often poor; if there was enough moisture for germination, it was inadequate for further growth.

Grasshoppers continue to be monitored, some headlands and fields have received insecticide application. Concern has been mostly in pastures, cereal, forage grass fields, canola and corn, and pressure is higher in the north. Most grasshoppers have reached maturity. Monitoring will continue for diamondback moth and bertha armyworm larvae. The odd field with more than one insect issue has been sprayed, where diamondback moth larvae are close to threshold. Some thistle caterpillar reported in soybeans. Predator insects are being reported in good numbers.

Green wild oats are evident in a number of fields. Lambsquarters are poking through in canola now that the crop is maturing. Kochia is becoming more evident, especially at field edges and saline areas – testing for glyphosate resistance should be a priority, especially when found in glyphosate tolerant crops.

Haying continues where possible. Forage availability continues to be a big concern for the region. Yields are extremely variable depending on moisture levels; yields are coming in at 20 to 60% of average production. Productivity is best on new stands, and fertilized stands. As crops are short, availability of cereal straw will be limited. Almost all pastures have been grazed down, and are rated in poor condition. Topsoil moisture for hay and pasture is rated as 50% short and 50% very short.

Dugout levels are declining, some are dry. Water quality is a concern in low dugouts. Water supply is rated as 40 to 50% adequate, but

significant rain is needed for replenishment. Water hauling to pasture troughs is becoming more common in north Interlake. Some wells are being drilled deeper. Concern over adequate supply is increasing with continued dry conditions.