Issue 26 – October 23, 2024

Seasonal Summary Crop Report

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2024 Provincial Summary

- Harvest progress as of Oct.22 sits at 95% complete across the province (Table 1).
- Corn and sunflower harvest will continue for the next few weeks. Currently, corn is at 55% complete and sunflowers are at 39% complete provincially.
- Fall fertilizer application has been widespread, and the majority of fall field work has been completed.
- 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 was identified for the first time in the rural municipalities of Macdonald, North Norfolk, Roland, Stanley, and Westlake-Gladstone. Increased incidence was reported in Dufferin, Grey, Montcalm, Morris, Norfolk Treherne, and Rhineland.
- Climate normals for total accumulated precipitation from May 1 to Oct. 20 range from 296.0 mm to 426.9 mm and are based on 30-year historical data. Precipitation accumulation in most areas, especially, in the Central and Eastern regions, has exceeded 100% of normal precipitation since May 1.
- Soil Moisture 0 - 30 cm shows a regional representation of soil moisture conditions for the top 30 cm on Oct. 20, 2024, relative to field capacity. Soil moisture is variable across agro-Manitoba with the majority showing optimal to very dry soil moisture conditions at the surface depths.
- Soil Moisture 0 - 120 cm shows a regional representation of soil moisture conditions for the top 120 cm on Oct. 20, 2024, relative to field capacity. The majority of the province is showing optimal condition at the 0 to 120 cm depth.
- 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 – Oct. 20, 2024. GDD Accumulation is between 105% and 115% of normal for the majority of agro-Manitoba.
- To find interactive soil temperature/moisture and air temperature information, see Agri-Maps Current Weather viewer.

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Manitoba

Table 1: Percentage Harvest Completion by Crop and Region to October 22, 2024

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%	98%	100%	100%	100%	99%
Soybeans	98%	99%	100%	100%	98%	98%
Corn	60%	-	70%	55%	55%	55%
Sunflowers	40%	-	50%	20%	50%	39%
Dry Beans	100%	-	100%	-	100%	100%
Regional AVG	92%	95%	99%	93%	91%	95%

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

Cereals

Winter Cereal Grains

- Winter wheat yields ranged from 60 to 90 bu/acre with fall rye yields ranging from 80 to110 bu/acre. Good quality for both crops. Manitoba 5-year average yield for winter wheat is 55 bu/acre and 60 bu/acre for fall rye.
- 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 ranged from 60 to 95 bu/acre. Quality of spring wheat in all regions is good with protein levels in the 13.5 to 15% range. Average spring wheat yields across the province are in the 55 to 60 bushel range. Manitoba 5-year average yield for spring wheat is 60 bu/acre.
- Barley yields averaged between 80 to 120 bu/acre, with some exceptions. Quality was good. 5-year average yield for barley is 74 bu/acre
- Oat yields were overall good this year reporting 110-180 bu/acre. Test weights in oats ranged between 37 to 44 lbs/bushel. 5- year average yield for oats is 102 bu/acre.

Corn

- Corn yields ranged from 120 to 180 bu/acre with averages around 150 to 180 bu/acre. Harvest is currently at 55% complete with corn moisture ranging between 15 to 24%.

Oilseeds

Canola

- Canola yields were variable across the province ranging from 25 to 65 bu/acre. 5-year average yield for canola is 39 bu/acre.
- High moisture and humidity created conditions conducive to crop diseases in canola, where verticillium stripe was most prevalent, followed by sclerotinia and blackleg.
- A significant presence of verticillium stripe was evident this season in the Northwest. Majority of canola has graded at 1CAN with reports of dockage due to small/light seed.

Flax & Sunflowers

- Average flax yields varied by region, but provincially averaged between 25 to 30 bu/acre. 5-year average yield for flax is 28 bu/acre.
- Oil Sunflower yields are in the range of 1200 to 2000 lbs/acre. Current harvest progress at 39% complete.

Pulses & Soybeans

Field Peas

- Most regions reported average pea yields in 2024 ranging from 40 to 60 bu/acre. Provincially, yield is expected to be around 45 bu/acre which is below the 5-year average of 50 bu/acre. Good quality was reported.
- Fungicide application occurred on fields with dense crop canopy and rainfall increased disease pressure for Mycosphaerella blight (Ascochyta).

Soybeans

- Yields have been very good this year ranging from 34 to65 bu/acre. Provincial average is expected to be around 40 bu/acre. The 5-year average for soybeans is 35 bu/acre.

Dry Edible Beans

- Dry bean yields ranged from 500 to 3000 lbs/acre. The provincial average for 2024 is expected to be slightly higher than the 5-year provincial average of 1700 lbs per acre over all bean classes.
- Lower quality dry beans were reported in the Winkler region due to a September heavy rainfall event. The affected beans are still marketable.

Forages & Livestock

- Pasture growth was strong this year due to the moist soil conditions. In spring when fields were saturated, there were some damage and poaching issues, and livestock had to be moved to higher areas. There were issues with foot rot and pink eye from increased levels of flies. By mid-August, dry soils and warm weather caused pasture growth to slow. Rotationally grazed fields performed best during this period.
- Rainfall in mid-August allowed pasture growth to recover. Pasture growth continued longer into the fall than is typical due to the availability of moisture and favorable temperatures. Calves came off pasture in good condition. Tame hay yields were good, yielding approximately 3 tonnes/acre. However, rain showers and heavy morning dews made drying difficult. Many farms therefore chose to convert hay to round bale silage. Corn silage yielded 6 to 10 tonnes. High plant moisture and kernel integrity was a concern for some farms.

- Pasture condition was good to excellent this year with sufficient moisture and adequate heat. However, continually grazed pastures showed more stress and less production. Hay yields ranged from average to above average with quality varying from average to below average. Poor weather conditions early in the season made it a challenge to get good quality hay up in time. Reported yields averaged 2.25-2.75 tonnes/acre on first cut and 0.75 tonnes/acre on second cut.
- Availability of livestock water is adequate, but adequate snowfall is required to recharge sources.
- Average hay yields in the Eastern region were as follows. Alfalfa hay first cut produced an average of 2.0 tonnes/acre while second cut yielded 0.9 tonnes/acre. For brome/alfalfa hay, first cut yielded an average of 2.5 tonnes/acre while second cut yielded 1.0 tons/acre. Wild hay on first cut yielded around 2.0 tonnes/acre. Greenfeed yields came in at around 2.0 tonnes/acre.
- Producers in Southeastern Manitoba were able to harvest a sufficient amount of feed for the upcoming winter with many farms reporting a surplus of hay and silage. It is likely that feed made at the beginning of the season will be lower in quality given the incredibly wet weather experienced at that time. Harvest was delayed due to poor field conditions and hay was made between rain showers. The weather became more stable towards the end of July and second-cut feed should be of better quality. Crops grown for greenfeed had variable yields throughout the region and corn silage produced well. Likewise, an ample supply of straw was available for baling this fall.
- While there is a surplus of hay and silage in the region, producers are strongly encouraged to test the quality of their feed. Protein and energy levels may be lower than expected. This information will be helpful when formulating winter rations to ensure cattle's nutritional requirements are being met.

Regional Summaries

Southwest Region

April began with relatively dry soils following snowmelt, and there was little deep soil moisture in reserve. Runoff levels were below normal. However, April showers increased surface and subsoil moisture, as soils were not frozen deeper than 2 feet. The last spring frost occurred early, on April 30th. May continued with intermittent rain showers, accompanied by cool conditions. Burn-off was necessary in many cases due to the presence of winter annuals, late flushes of wild oats, and Canadian thistle. Peas and cereal crops were seeded on time; however, many producers delayed planting oilseeds like canola and soybeans until the May long weekend or later. They waited for flea beetle pressure to decrease, as well as for warmer soils to ensure proper seed-insecticide action and quick emergence. There was low pressure from cutworms and moderate to low pressure from flea beetles.

June brought cool and rainy conditions, delaying weed control and impacting crop emergence and growth stages. Despite above-normal rainfall in May and June, effective breaks between events created ideal growing conditions for canola and cereals. By the end of June, corn development lagged by 10% due to reduced Growing Degree Day accumulations. Temperatures in July were above normal, while precipitation levels were average, with well-spaced effective rainfall events. High moisture and humidity created conditions conducive to crop diseases, particularly in canola, where Verticillium stripe was most prevalent, followed by sclerotinia and blackleg.

In August, before harvest began, several areas throughout the region experienced heavy rains and wind, which caused crops to lodge and, in most cases, failed to recover. This made harvest more challenging, as preharvest applications were less effective and combining was difficult. Overall, it was a good year for most producers growing peas. Although there were some seeding issues and germination problems in wetter areas, most yields were average to above average, ranging from 40 to 70 bu/acre, with an average of 60 bu/acre.

Wheat yields were, in most cases, above average this year, ranging from 50 to 80 bu/acre, with most around 70 bu/acre. Quality was good, and protein levels were higher than usual. However, harvest was difficult due to lodging. Barley had a good year, with producers reporting yields of 80 to 100 bu/acre, averaging around 80 bu/acre, and good quality. Most barley was harvested before the rain and wind events, contributing to a successful harvest. Oat yields were average to above average, with good quality, ranging from 80 to 140 bu/acre and an overall average around 100.

Canola yields were average to below average. The crop had a rough start in spring, which affected growth throughout the season. Some producers chose to swath canola to ease the harvest process, but winds in some areas further complicated matters. Overall, canola yields averaged between 30 and 60 bu/acre, with an average closer to 45 bu/acre.

Soybean yields ranged from average to above average, with reports of 35 to 55 bu/acre and an average around 45 bu/acre. Grain corn yields ranged from 130 to 150 bu/acre, with low grain moisture levels of 15-23%. However, ear drop values were significant, ranging from 20 to 30 bu/acre, depending on the variety, due to an early October windstorm that caused ear drop and lodging in some fields.

Northwest Region

A good start to the season with field peas and spring wheat getting in the ground early to mid-May. The exception was in the Dauphin region where soil conditions were saturated. May was characterized by higher than average amounts of precipitation, resulting in standing water in some fields and delays in seeding. Cooler temperatures persisted with the precipitation and crops seeded during this time were slow to germinate and grow. When seeding was able to resume, crops were prioritized with a switch to soybeans to meet insurance deadline.

By early June, cooler conditions resulted in below normal Growing Degree Days accumulation, while the precipitation amounts were 200% of normal. Many parts of the region continued to receive excessive rainfall, stalling seeding progress mostly in The Pas and the Dauphin/Fork River areas. Dauphin/Ste. Rose area received a late snowstorm on May 24 which also set things back. In the Dauphin region, the excess moisture resulted in many late seeded and unseeded acres. By early July, the RM of Mossey River declared a state of agricultural disaster due to excess moisture. By mid-July, temperatures warmed and the GDD caught up with seasonal normal. Many crops recovered, although the high temperatures did cause some soil crusting as well as additional stress to crops. Also in mid-July, the region received an extreme windstorm that caused severe lodging in many cereals and canola fields. Field peas mostly withstood the wind, and soybeans were at a younger stage and were less impacted. While some affected fields recovered, they all remained susceptible to strong winds and heavy rains. The lodging caused delays in maturity that remained apparent up to the harvest period.

With adequate heat and moisture, crops were able to grow sufficiently for most of the season. However, crop maturity was behind in areas that received excess moisture. High temperatures in August helped to move crops along, bringing field peas to maturity by mid- August. Spring wheat and canola were quick to follow, depending on seeding date.

Harvest was a challenge in lodged crops, with slow progress for both spring wheat and canola. Yields for canola were lower than in previous years, likely due to challenges with establishment, plus a relatively low amount of precipitation during pod fill. Crop quality for both spring wheat and canola did not appear to be drastically reduced.

A long, open fall has allowed later-maturing fields and many post-harvest activities to be completed, including baling of straw, harrowing, and herbicide and anhydrous application. Warmer weather in September and October have provided good conditions for germination of winter cereals, although soil moisture is generally low. Seeded winter cereal acres have increased this year and are off to a good start.

Field pea harvest was completed with average yields ranging from 45 to 60 bu/acre. Some later seeded crops were a challenge and slow to harvest. Majority of field peas have graded at 2CAN.

Spring wheat is complete with widely variable yields. Average yields were 65 to 70 bu/acre, with some poorer fields yielding 20 to 40 bu/acre. Oats averaged 110-120 bu/acre and barley 80-95 bu/acre. Majority of cereals have graded as 1CW with some lighter oats reported.

Canola is 98% complete with varied yields based on crop conditions throughout the season as well as disease pressure. Average yields ranged from 30 to 40 bu/acre, while poorer fields yielded 8 to 20 bu/acre. A significant presence of verticillium stripe was evident this season. Majority of canola has graded at 1CAN with reports of dockage due to small/light seed.

Soybean harvest is 99% complete and looked good across most of the region this year. Yields ranged from 35 to 50 bu/acre. Majority of soybeans have graded at 2CAN.

Central Region

Soils were relatively dry following snowmelt in spring, with little in deep soil reserves. However, soil moisture levels were replenished with April and May rainfall. This delayed field operations on many farms. The storm on May 24 brought substantial rainfall. Winkler received 86.7 mm in just 25 hours. Some fields had standing water for days, which resulted in moisture stress. In extreme cases, reseeding was required. Cool spring temperatures slowed crop growth, particularly soybeans, edible beans, and corn. High winds which were at times more than 100 km/hr, aided soil drying but resulted in some lodging and pesticide drift issues. Winds combined with wet soil conditions made spraying at the desired time difficult.

In spring wheat, there was increased levels of root rot, tan spot, and ergot bodies around field edges. Fusarium head blight levels varied greatly. Most had low levels, but some had substantial levels which resulted in a reduction in grain quality. In peas, there were increased levels of *Mycosphaerella*, bacterial blight, powdery mildew, and root rot. In canola, cool temperatures kept plants in the vulnerable stages for flea beetles longer than usual. Canola had high levels of verticillium stripe and heat blast. Levels of sclerotinia and blackleg were more modest, and more producers identified clubroot symptoms. In soybean, iron deficiency chlorosis was noticeable due to the moist conditions.

Waterhemp was identified for the first time in Macdonald, North Norfolk, Roland, Stanley, and Westlake-Gladstone. Increased incidence was reported in Dufferin, Grey, Montcalm, Morris, Norfolk Treherne, and Rhineland.

Harvest commenced in early August, with fall rye yielding between 80 to 110 bu/acre and winter wheat around 90 bu/acre. Spring wheat yields were mostly between 60 to 95 bu/acre, averaging 70 to 80 bu/acre. Some fields reached up to 105 bu/acre. Barley yields varied from 80 to 120 bu/acre, with an average of 90 bu/acre. Oat yields were between 110 to 180 bu/acre, averaging around 150 bu/acre.

Pea fields that had been waterlogged yielded 30 to 55 bu/acre, with some as low as 20 bu/acre. Fields on lighter soil yielded closer to 60 to 70 bu/acre. Dry beans averaged about 2,000 lbs/acre, ranging from 500 to 3,500 lbs/acre. Soybean yields averaged 45 bu/acre, yielding between 35 to 60 bu/acre. Canola yields averaged 45 bu/acre, ranging from 25 to 65 bu/acre. Flax yields averaged 35 to 40 bu/acre, but some fields as low as 25 bu/acre. Preliminary oilseed sunflower yields are around 2,200 lbs/acre. Corn yielded from 140 to 240 bu/acre, with averages around 150 to 180 bu/acre. Corn moisture was between 15 to 24%, and much was able to forgo drying.

Eastern Region

The majority of the region's growing season could be summed up in one word, "wet". Both May and June experienced higher precipitation amounts compared to normal. Excess rain and cool growing conditions proved to be challenging as growers struggled to get their crop in the ground. Growers made good use of the seeding windows they experienced and managed to get the crop planted, however, the effects would be seen throughout the growing season.

With the planting season stretched out over six weeks, crops of all types had noticeable differences in growth stages. This staginess made subsequent field operations like herbicide, insecticide and fungicide timings more difficult for growers. Some reports of insecticide spraying for flea beetles were received but due to the cool/wet weather the flea beetles did not pose the same threat as other years. The stress from cool wet growing conditions resulted in crops yellowing, root rots and plant death.is some instances.

All crop types continued to struggle under wet conditions in July. August brought drier weather and more normal temperatures allowing crops to grow rapidly as they moved into reproductive stages of their life cycles. Winter cereals, spring cereals and canola harvest began in August.

September and October were drier months as well with the exception of a major rainfall event on September 17 which brought between 30 and 130 mm across much of the region. All harvesting activities were halted as many fields needed a week or more of drying time before harvest could resume. Good harvest conditions continued after that. Overall producers are happy with crop yields despite seeding delays and moisture stress early in the growing season.

Fall rye and winter wheat yield averaged 75 bu/acre, the quality grading at 75% #2 CWRW and the remaining 25% CW Feed.

Spring wheat yield averaged 75 bu/acre. Quality was y good with the crop grading 1 CAN (50%) and 2 CAN (40%). and the remaining 10% as Feed. Oat yield averaged 135 bu/acre. Quality was good with 65% of the crop grading #2 CAN and 35% #3 CAN. The majority of bushel weights were 42 lbs/bu.

Canola harvest is complete in the region with yields averaging in the 40 bu/acre range. Crop quality was at 99% #1 CAN and 1% Sample. Soybean harvest is complete with yields averaging around 43 bu/acre, Crop quality was all #2 CAN.

Corn harvest is still ongoing with about 50% of acres combined. Average yields are around 140 bu/acre with good bushel weights and #2 CW quality.

Sunflower harvest is on-going in the region with average yields of 2000 lbs/acre and #2 CAN quality.

Fall work is ongoing. Most producers have been able to keep up with their fall work and land preparations for next year. Many producers have caught up in terms of fall tillage.

Interlake Region

The Interlake region experienced wet weather condition at the start of the 2024 growing season. High moisture levels across the region delayed the start of seeding and field activities. Precipitation accumulation in most areas exceeded 100% of normal precipitation.

Seeding progress in April was slow due to wet conditions but improved by mid-May. Southern parts of the Interlake were able to maintain normal seeding progress but crops in the northern regions went in later due to the wet conditions.

Canola, soybean and corn fields that got stranded in moist soils saw uneven emergence. Cereals such as wheat, oat and barley had good stands. Excessive rains in early spring resulted in some canola crops being reseeded.

The impact of disease on crops was much higher than last year, a consequence of rainy and cooler conditions. Yellowing in saturated areas was evident with wilting plants and noticeable root rot was found in these fields. Leaf and stem diseases were noticed especially in oats and wheat. Moderate incidents of blackleg, verticillium stripe and sclerotinia in canola were reported. Some head rot diseases were found in sunflower fields due to excess moisture stress.

Harvest of winter cereals started in late August. Winter wheat and fall rye yields ranged from 40 to 100 bu/acre. Protein content in spring wheat ranged between 13.5-14.5% in the region. Yields were between 50 to 85 bu/acre.

Field pea yields reported to be in the 50 to 55 bu/acre range with good quality. Harvest was wrapped up by the end of September for field peas. Oats yielded 120 to 145 bu/acre with good quality. Barley yields reported to be 80 to 100 bu/acre. Grain corn harvest is still ongoing with about 60% of acres combined and 18% moisture levels. Average yields were around 140 to160 bu/acre with good bushel weight.

Soybean harvest started in early October and is at 98% complete to date, Yields ranged from 40 to 50 bu/acre and were dependent on soil and weather conditions.

Canola harvest was completed in mid-October. Canola yield averages ranged from 30 to 45 bu/acre with good quality. Sunflower harvest began in mid-October and is currently sitting at 50% complete with yields in the 2100 lbs/acre range.