Issue 11 (Week 29) – July 19, 2022

Crop Report

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Weekly Provincial Summary

- Hot, humid conditions prevailed much of last week into the weekend, leading to unstable weather systems that brought significant amounts of rain across much of southern Manitoba, with 50 to 120 mm rain falling along a track from Holland to Teulon, and close to St-Pierre-Jolys this morning. Most locations in Manitoba had between 15 to 35 mm rain in the preceding seven days.
- Strong winds with recent thunderstorms were the primary driver of lodging events in spring wheat, oats, winter cereals, as well as some canola and corn crops. Farmers expect most crops to recover, but dense, lodged crop canopy can encourage rapid disease infection and associated yield losses.
- Warm temperatures, high humidity, and frequent rain and unstable weather has elevated risk for many fungal diseases. Nearly all wheat, oat, barley, canola and pea crops have been, or will be sprayed with a fungicide, as application is widespread.
- Fungicide spraying is ongoing in all regions as later crops reach the correct stage. Heavy rains beginning this week will force farmers to rely on aerial application over ground sprayers.
- Overland flooding from this morning's storm has washed out roads and caused significant crop damage near Teulon, with over 120 mm reported in local gauges there. Full damage extent will be known in the coming days.

Overview

In general, crop conditions this year are much better than those experienced in 2021 and producers are anticipating near-normal to above normal yields in many areas. Crops that were significantly delayed may see reduced yields depending on local conditions. Crop conditions vary widely within a region or local district.

Fungicide use is much more common in 2022 than in the past few years, due to the density of crop canopy, abundance of rain and dew, and risk of disease development. Fungicide economics are still pencilling out as a positive return for most farmers, even on poorer or late-seeded crops, given the potential market price.

Late-seeded crops and rapid mid-summer crop development may shorten the time to harvest, and farmers and agronomists are encouraged to use the Keep it Clean spray-to-swath calculator to know the pre-harvest interval for products applied to their crop.

Weed control has been much better in-crop this year, despite herbicide product and application challenges. However, weed escapes are not uncommon, and wild oats are popping above crop canopy in some cases, while herbicide resistant kochia and green foxtail populations persist. Round-leaf mallow was a challenge to control, and many weeds were not fully killed by herbicide spraying in many crops.

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Manitoba

Cereals

- Spring wheat has been flowering much of the previous week, with later crops now beginning to flower. Generally, south of the TransCanada, and in local areas in other regions, the wheat crop is rated mostly good to excellent (Table 1), with exceptions due to extreme moisture.
- Fusarium Head Blight risk maps showed moderate to high risk across the province this past week, peaking with extreme risk in the Red River Valley and moving east towards Steinbach on July 17th.
- Widespread fungicide application is ongoing on nearly all farms as a preventative measure against fusarium head blight infection, and is nearly 75% complete.
- Barley crops range from penultimate leaf to headed out, depending on seeding date – late barley was a last-resort option on wetter or poorer ground, while better barley crops were targeting malt quality.
- Oat crops range from flag leaf to panicle emergence, and will put on rapid stem growth this week. Some growers applied a plant growth regulator (PGR) earlier in the year and hope to limit the risk of lodging.
- Corn crops have grown rapidly, and range from V12 to early tasseling stage.
- Fall rye is in the hard dough stage, winter wheat is still at soft dough. Rye crops are beginning to drop leaves and turn colour in advance of harvest.
- Grasshopper spraying is occurring on an as-needed basis together with fungicide application in many cases, typically in crops where populations were extremely high last year. Feeding damage is limited so far.

Table 1: Spring Wheat Quality Rating by Region

	Southwest	Northwest	Central	Eastern	Interlake
Excellent	20%	20%	15%	5%	20%
Good	75%	70%	75%	85%	40%
Fair	-	5%	5%	10%	20%
Poor	5%	5%	5%	-	10%
Very Poor	-	-	-	-	10%

Oilseeds

- Canola crops are widely variable across Manitoba, with many looking in excellent condition, while a large number have thin stands, and remain in poor condition. Staging ranges from cabbaging over (6- to 8-leaf) to 50 to 60% bloom.
- Canola crop quality is estimated at 15% excellent, 45% good, and 40% fair condition.
- Fungicide application on canola for sclerotinia protection is widespread, and nearing 50% completion in the Central and Eastern regions, and less advanced in other regions.
- Late-seeded canola generally looks good, but there are many "hit or miss" fields across all regions. Crops have improved in condition from two weeks ago, but remain uneven.
- Flax crops in areas with excessive rain and slow draining fields are struggling. The heatwave over the weekend may have stressed some blooming crops.
- Most flax fields have been or will be sprayed for pasmo protection, using Group 11 *strobilurin* fungicides.
- Sunflowers are now at V9 to R3 stages, some oilseed sunflower growers are considering a fungicide for sclerotinia protection.

Pulses

- Soybeans are growing rapidly with recent hot weather. Canopies have closed on solid-seeded fields, as plants reach flowering stage (R1 to R3). Crops are generally 2 to 3 feet tall (60 to 90 cm) in better fields.

- Iron-deficiency chlorosis has decreased in severity, but some yellow plants are lingering in affected patches.
- Root nodulation has been effective on soybeans, and crops generally look quite good.
- Some soybean aphids have been reported, but remain below economic threshold levels.
- Field peas are flowering and in early pod formation stages. First pass fungicide is mostly complete, some producers are considering a second pass, weather dependent. Farmers and agronomists are encouraged to use the mycosphaerella blight decision tool and watch the pre-harvest interval.
- Pea aphids are noted in many fields in all regions, with some spraying reported.
- Dry bean crops continue to see fungicide application for white mould prevention in high-density, high-risk fields, where thick canopy and reduced air movement favour disease spread.
- Row closure is imminent on bean crops planted on 22 inch spacing, while 30 inch wide rows are still open.

Forages & Livestock

Forages

- Hay cutting by dairy and beef producers continues to be hampered by wet, humid weather. Field surfaces are soft, and subsurface moisture is making ground travel a challenge. First cut is generally between 65 to 85% complete.
- Dry hay yields are above to well above average, between 2 to 3 bales/ac, while silage bales are 3 to 4.5 bales/ac; regrowth has been very good.
- Hay quality has been downgraded in recent days due to repeated rains on cut swathes, some producers are choosing to ensile hay instead.
- Some millet and cereals are still being planted, intended for greenfeed or silage.
- Some second-cut haying by dairy farmers is underway at Beausejour. Native hay cutting has just started.
- Grasshoppers and lygus bugs are present in forage fields, migrating to annual crops once cut.

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.
- Cattle producers in the Eastern region have had to carefully manage grazing herds to clean up paddocks well, in order to avoid having plants become too mature and less palatable.
- All creeks, streams, dugouts, and sloughs are full and livestock water supplies are sufficient.

Regional Comments

Southwest

Hot, humid conditions and rain pushed rapid crop development, but conditions were also ideal for disease infection. Most parts of the Southwest region received moisture during the week, and a low pressure system yesterday brought additional rainfall, further stressing already waterlogged crops in some areas further. Strong winds caused moderate crop lodging. Wet field conditions are causing field access problems for ground-based fungicide application.

Northwest

A week of warmer weather and high temperatures over the weekend advanced crop development. Spikes in daytime temperature cause some pod/flower abortion in canola. Regional rainfall has been lower than in other parts of the province, and farms at The Pas are dry.

Weed escapes following herbicide application are now visible, wild oats has popped above crop canopy in many cases. Most crops are developing well, but root rot is an issue in wet pea fields, and lodging has occurred in some cereal crops near Dauphin.

Central

Seasonal to above-normal temperatures over the weekend contributed to sporadic and widespread thunderstorm development, bringing variable rainfall amounts across the region. Heavy rains and strong winds this morning resulted in flooded fields in the northern part of the region, and lodged crops across region. Lodging severity was variable, depending on crop stage, mostly restricted to earlier wheat crops, but some winter cereals, oats, canola and corn was leaning towards the western side of the region at Pilot Mound and Holland, where winds topped 100 km/hour.

Fungicide spraying is widespread in the region, on wheat, oats, canola, and peas. Some farms are considering applications on sunflowers, soybeans, and dry edible beans. General crop growth appears good, with some exceptions on unseeded fields north of Austin towards MacGregor.

Eastern

Rains have caused problems with haying progress, resulting in quality downgrades to cut hay. Rainfall amounts since last Tuesday ranged from 16 to over 50 mm with some large accumulations of >50 mm in localized areas near St. Pierre and Stead occurring early this morning.

Crops have progressed well with warm weather, and fungicide application is ongoing. Growers in the southern part of the region have been scouting wheat fields, and were concerned by orange insects thought to be wheat midge, but in all cases were found to be the non-harmful luxanid flies. Large jumps in crop growth were noted across the region, particularly in corn and soybeans.

Interlake

Overland flooding from this morning's storm has washed out roads in the Teulon area, and wiped out some crops. Damage assessment is ongoing. The northern Interlake remained drier this week, but standing water still evident in many areas.

A high number of unseeded fields remain in the region, some of which have been chemfallowed, while others are covered in weeds. Foxtail barley is abundant on those fields, and spraying remained difficult due to wet conditions. One remaining unharvested 2021 crop has been combined in the northern Interlake or destroyed.