
Québec Crop Report

Published by La Financière agricole du Québec

June 19, 2007

Bulletin No. 3

Highlights

- Stormy conditions and major thermal contrasts were noted in some places from June 4 to 10, and fine weather prevailed from June 11 to 17;
- Seeding of cereal, high-protein, grain corn and silage corn crops is complete as is potato planting;
- Seeding of vegetables for processing is from 35 to 100% complete (there is a delay for sweet corn) and seeding of market garden crops is well underway;
- Crop emergence is good almost everywhere and fields are beautiful;
- The period from June 8 to 16 was excellent for the first cut of hay: the harvest is well advanced, with variable yields but very good quality overall;
- The strawberry harvest is now underway in certain regions: yields are expected to vary;
- The heavy rain and hail of June 5 affected market garden crops in the Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu sector;
- Drought and excessive heat have affected crop development in Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean;
- Provincial loss for the winter period in beehives now stands at 37.3%;
- A total of 787 notices of damage were reported, compared with 2875 last year at the same time.

Chronicle of Meteorological Conditions for the Period from June 4 to 17

Week of June 4 to 10

The week was marked by major thermal contrasts and poor weather conditions, accompanied by thunderstorms in some places. From June 4 to 7, nighttime temperatures were cool, and thunderstorms, sometimes accompanied by heavy rain, very high winds and hail, were recorded in places. A generalized late frost and snow were reported in Abitibi-Témiscamingue, with the mercury reaching from -0.5 to -2.5 °C in the night of June 5 to 6, not affecting crops too badly nevertheless. Localized frosts were also recorded between June 6 and 7 in the valleys, lowlands, mountainous areas and north of Lac-Saint-Jean, affecting some crops. From June 8 to 10, temperatures were more seasonal and conditions alternated between sunshine and clouds, sometimes punctuated by showers and thunderstorms. On June 8, the mercury reached maximums of from 28 to 34 °C, depending on the region.

Overall, mean temperatures (13 to 17 °C depending on the region) were near seasonal norms (by from -0.5 to 1 °C), except in Abitibi-Témiscamingue, where they were below normal (by -2.5 °C). Weekly precipitation ranged from 20 to 40 mm, spread over a period of from 2 to 5 days, and reached an average of from 45 to 55 mm, over a 2- to 3-day period in the Chaudière-Appalaches and Capitale-Nationale regions and in Victoriaville. As much as from 50 to 85 mm were recorded in certain localities. Thunderstorms were reported in different places on June 4 and 6 and on June 8 and 9, certain accompanied by severe weather events. On June 5, heavy rain, hail and high winds caused localized damage in the Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu sector and the Chaudière river flooded certain municipalities in the Beauce. Normal precipitation for this period is from 18 to 25 mm.

Week of June 11 to 17

The week was marked by fine weather overall: very warm temperatures in the daytime, cool at night (from June 14 to 16) and no rain, with the exception of a few showers and thunderstorms on June 11, 12, 16 and 17, certain accompanied by very severe conditions.

Weekly mean temperatures (16 to 21 °C depending on the region) exceeded seasonal norms (by from –0.5 to 3 °C). However, in Abitibi-Témiscamingue and Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean, temperatures were as much as from 4 to 5 °C above normal. Precipitation ranged from 2 to 7 mm, spread over a period of from 1 to 2 days, and reached from 15 to 20 mm (over 1 to 2 days) in Abitibi-Témiscamingue and Gaspésie-Les-Îles. Several thunderstorms were reported, certain accompanied by high winds (June 12, 16 and 17) and hail (June 12). Normal precipitation for this period is from 15 to 25 mm.

Annual Seeding and Planting

The return of fine weather (around June 8) made it possible to complete seeding and planting of the main annual crops. Seeding of **cereal, high-protein, grain corn and silage corn crops** and planting of **potatoes** were completed ahead of schedule or at the usual time. However, in Abitibi-Témiscamingue, rain from May 28 to June 8 made it necessary to extend planting deadlines for potatoes (varieties of 115 days or less), from June 10 to 15.

Vegetables for processing (beans and peas) were from 35 to 100% seeded. The progress in the seeding of peas was most advanced. The dry weather in the week of June 10 hindered pea growth somewhat, notably in the areas around Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu and La Prairie. A delay in seeding of sweet corn was also noted. Rain in early June prevented access to fields and delayed seeding, and made it necessary to extend the seeding deadline from June 24 to 29.

Seeding of **market garden crops** is well underway, especially for miscellaneous and root vegetables, and is complete in certain regions. Lettuce has even started to be harvested in Laurentides-Laval, Mauricie and Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu. The frequent rain between May 28 and June 5 made it necessary to extend seeding deadlines from June 10 to 18 for winter squash and pumpkins in Gatineau (pumpkins only), Granby, La Prairie, Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu and Sherbrooke (winter squash only).

Crop Conditions

As of June 19, soils were considered dry in most regions, and even very dry in Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean, Mauricie and some parts of the Capitale-Nationale and Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine regions. Soil moisture was normal in Outaouais, Estrie and certain places in Bas-

Saint-Laurent and around Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu.

The weather conditions in June were good or very good for the development of most crops in the southwestern¹ and central² regions. If the same conditions continue, good yields can be expected for several crops in those regions. The situation is different, however, in the more northern and more eastern regions³. Plant emergence and growth were from good to variable in the Côte-Nord and Bas-Saint-Laurent-Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine regions, variable in Abitibi-Témiscamingue and unfavourable (difficult) in Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean. For that region, the very warm temperatures combined with the prolonged lack of rain caused drought conditions and made the emergence and growth of several crops quite difficult.

In certain sectors and for certain crops, there were reports of drought, excessive rain, hail, flooding, late frosts and the presence of insects or diseases that caused variable to difficult growth conditions and localized damage. For example, on June 5, heavy rain, high winds and hail affected fields of market garden crops (mainly lettuce) and potatoes in the municipalities of Hemmingford, Saint-Patrice-de-Sherrington, Saint-Bernard-de-Lacolle and Napierville. In addition, heavy rain caused the Chaudière river to flood, affecting hay and cereal fields in the municipalities of Vallée-Jonction and Saint-Joseph-de-Beauce. Elsewhere, late frost occurring in the night of June 6 to 7 affected potato fields in Mauricie and in the north of the Portneuf region and strawberries in the Bas-Saint-Laurent region. Depending on the region, some places saw varying degrees of moisture stress (drought) in crops in light soils.

¹ "Southwestern" regions refer to those of Montérégie (Granby, Saint-Hyacinthe, Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu and La Prairie-Salaberry-de-Valleyfield sectors) and Estrie (Sherbrooke).

² "Central" regions refer to those of the Capitale-Nationale, (Québec) Centre-du-Québec (Drummondville and Nicolet-Victoriaville sectors), Chaudière-Appalaches (Lévis and Sainte-Marie-Saint-Georges sectors), Laurentides-Laval (Saint-Eustache), Lanaudière (L'Assomption), Mauricie (Trois-Rivières) and Outaouais (Gatineau).

³ More northern and more eastern regions refer to those of Côte-Nord, Bas-Saint-Laurent (Rimouski-Rivière-du-Loup), Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine (Caplan), Abitibi-Témiscamingue (Amos-Rouyn-Noranda) and Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean (Alma).

Crop emergence is good almost everywhere and fields are beautiful. Conditions were ideal for the application of pesticides and different phytosanitary treatments. Conditions were also excellent for the development and growth of most crops. With the exception of Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean, where the crop development stage is late by from several days to a week, crop growth corresponds to what is normally seen at this time or is ahead by from a few days to over a week, depending on the region.

Cereal, high-protein and grain corn crops have experienced very good growth. The Réseau d'avertissements phytosanitaires (RAP-MAPAQ) has reported the presence of armyworms and the possibility that several regions are affected. RAP has also detected the presence of soybean aphids in the Montérégie and Mauricie regions. Growth conditions for **vegetables** are relatively good overall.

The harvest of the **first cut of hay** began between June 5 and 15. The warm period with no rain from June 8 to 16 created ideal conditions for haying, particularly dry hay, which is of very good quality. As of June 19, harvesting was being carried out at the usual time or was ahead by from a few days to over a week in the more southern regions. The first cut of hay was from 50 to 90% complete in the southwestern regions, from 53 to 85% complete in the central regions and from 10 to 30% complete in the more northern and more eastern regions. In certain sectors, harvesting is complete. Yields are variable, but crop quality is generally good.

The **strawberry** harvest started at the usual time in the Estrie, Lanaudière, Laurentides–Laval, Mauricie and Outaouais regions, and in the Saint-Hyacinthe and Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu sectors. Growth conditions range from good to variable, depending on the sector. The

strawberry harvest is expected to be good overall. Late frost on blossoms was noted in some fields and could affect yields. In addition, winter frost is expected to impact yields in certain sectors, notably in the Bas-Saint-Laurent region. **Blueberry** growth is late due to the drought and extreme heat in Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean.

As of June 12, 37.5% of **beehives** were lost during the winter period. All sectors have been affected with more or less the same intensity, except the Sainte-Marie–Saint-Georges sector, where no loss has been reported to date. In the Granby sector and the Bas-Saint-Laurent–Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine region, losses were more substantial, at 83% and 72% respectively.

Notices of Damage and Crop Insurance Payments

Since June 5 (481 notices of damage), 306 new notices were reported. As of June 19, 2007, 787 notices of damage were reported, compared to 2875 for the same period in 2006. Of these notices of damage, 221 were related to cereals, grain corn and high-protein crops and crops under the collective system (hay, oats, barley, wheat, silage corn and grain corn), 92 to vegetables (market garden crops: 81; vegetables for processing: 11), 67 to berries (blueberries: 32, strawberries: 30, raspberries: 5), 61 to honey (winter period), 18 to apples and 11 to potatoes. Also, 315 notices of damage were reported for waterfowl, compared with 363 at the same time last year.

Payments made to date come to \$1,090,400, of which \$1,035,525 was for the winter period in honey coverage alone.

Editorial team: Lise Bélanger, Research Officer, Program Integration Branch
Tel.: (418) 838-5601, ext. 6013
Sylvie Allard, Research Officer, Program Integration Branch
Tel.: (418) 838-5601, ext. 6012
Daniel Morin, Agronomist, Program Integration Branch
Tel.: (418) 838-5610, ext. 6011
Editorial support: Julie Morin, Program Integration Branch

References: Application of the report “Gérer le suivi de l'état des cultures (SUEC)”: État des cultures et pourcentage moyen des semis et des plantations réalisés au 19 juin 2007, La Financière agricole du Québec;
Statistics from the Système d'information de gestion organisationnelle, La Financière agricole du Québec (SIGO);

Bulletins and press releases from the Réseau d'avertissements phytosanitaires (RAP-MAPAQ);

Weekly summaries and reports on climatic conditions, Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs;

Real-time meteorological conditions, Centre Météo UQUAM-Montréal.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: This is a report of the weather conditions brought to our attention and the actual impact that results. Under no circumstances should it be interpreted as an analysis or a final position of La Financière agricole, notably concerning indemnity.

**La Financière
agricole**
Québec 