
Québec Crop Report

Published by La Financière agricole du Québec

November 6, 2007

Bulletin No. 12

Highlights

- Temperatures were mild and weather conditions variable;
 - On November 3 and 4, post-tropical storm Noel dropped snow and heavy rain on eastern Québec;
 - The harvesting of cereals, canola and potatoes is almost complete;
 - The soybean harvest is almost complete (98%): certain conditions did however make it necessary for harvesting deadlines to be extended;
 - Grain corn threshing progressed normally: 62% of areas are now harvested;
 - A total of 7022 notices of damage were reported as of November 6, 2007, compared with 9269 last year at the same date.
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Chronique of Meteorological Conditions for the Period from October 22 to November 4

Week of October 22 to 28

The week saw above normal temperatures and variable weather conditions. On October 22, the mercury reached between 21 and 25 °C, setting new highs and breaking previous records. Nights were marked by intense and more generalized frosts, including the frost of October 26, with the mercury dropping to between 0 and -5 °C (except in localities close to the St. Lawrence where they stayed above 0 °C). Overall, weekly mean temperatures (from 5 to 10 °C according to the region) were above seasonal norms (by from 2 to 4.5 °C).

The weather was a mix of sun, clouds and scattered precipitation. Thunderstorms (October 23, 26 and 27), severe winds (several episodes) and scattered wet snow flurries were recorded. Precipitation, spread over a period of from 3 to 5 days, totalled from 30 to 50 mm, reaching up to 60 to 80 mm in the Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Granby, Sherbrooke, Victoriaville and Saint-Georges sectors. In those areas, low pressure systems left as much as from 80 to 90 mm or rain in places. Normal weekly precipitation for this period is from 20 to 25 mm on average.

Week of October 29 to November 4

The week was marked by slightly above average temperatures and quite dry weather. However, on November 3 and 4, the passage of post-tropical storm Noel in eastern Québec brought major precipitation in the form of rain or snow. Severe winds were also reported with gusts of up to 70 to 85 km/h.

Overall, weekly mean temperatures (from 2.5 to 5.5 °C according to the region) were slightly above seasonal norms (by 0.5 to 1.5 °C). However, Abitibi-Témiscamingue saw temperatures 3 °C above seasonal norms. Generally speaking, precipitation was not very abundant in most regions: there was from 1 to 5 mm of rainfall, spread over a period of from 1 to 3 days, with 10 mm in Abitibi-Témiscamingue (over 2 to 3 days). With the passage of Noel, precipitation totalled from 30 to 40 mm in Bas-Saint-Laurent (over 3 days), reaching 80 mm in Gaspésie and between 90 and 140 mm in the Baie-des-Chaleurs and eastern point (Percé). Finally, the remnants of the storm dropped from 10 to 25 cm of snow in the Rimouski and Rivière-du-Loup sectors. Normal weekly precipitation for this period is from 18 to 23 mm on average.

Crop Conditions as of November 6

Generally speaking, harvesting progressed between episodes of rain. As of November 6, the harvesting of cereals, canola, dry beans and potatoes is almost complete and barley thrashing is almost complete. However, due to some unfavourable conditions this season (delays in seeding, cool temperatures, excessive rain and insects causing delays in maturity, lodging, weeds and rainy fall conditions), the harvesting of cereals, canola and soybeans was delayed in certain sectors. The situation made it necessary for harvesting deadlines to be extended for certain crops in certain service centres. For more details, see the table *Harvesting Deadline Extensions - Year 2007*, at the end of this bulletin.

As of November 6, between 1 and 5% of **cereal** and **canola** areas remained to be harvested in the Bas-Saint-Laurent region and 10% of areas in Gaspésie (oats). Due to the 10 to 25 cm of snow that fell on November 3 and 4, fields have not yet been harvested in the Bas-Saint-Laurent region. The **potato** harvest is almost complete, although several fields in the Bas-Saint-Laurent region (2% of areas) have not yet been harvested, due to precipitation occurring in the form of snow.

The **soybean** harvest has continued and work is almost complete. As of November 6, from 1 to 5% of areas still need to be harvested in most regions, and from 7 to 10% in the Gatineau, Québec, Sainte-Marie–Saint-Georges, Rivière-du-Loup and Rimouski areas.

Conditions for the **grain corn** harvest were good overall, and work progressed normally: from 30 to 70% of areas were harvested as of November 6, which represents 62% of total areas. Cold nighttime temperatures brought down the moisture rate of grain in the field, which was around 30%. Some sectors (Laurentides-Laval) were however still reporting high moisture rates, which are delaying the harvest. In certain sectors, killing frosts occurred on October 26.

Generally speaking, the exceptional weather conditions this fall generally fostered maturity in grain corn crops. The accumulated corn heat units (CHUs), as of mid-October (October 17: date of the killing frost of - 2 °C in most sectors), compared with the normal accumulation at this date, showed they were above average (ahead by 100 to 250 CHUs). Montréal, for example, cumulated 3340 CHUs (above by 190), La

Providence, 3325 CHUs (above by 165), Coaticook, 2845 CHUs (above by 100), and Québec, 2725 CHUs (above by 225). Yields are above average in Montérégie and near average in other regions. Quality is average overall.

Notices of Damage and Crop Insurance Payments

Since October 23 (6790 notices), 232 new notices of damage have been reported. As of November 6, 2007, 7022 notices of damage were reported, compared with 9269 for the same period in 2006. Of these notices of damage, 5158 were related to cereals, grain corn and high protein crops and crops under the collective system (hay, oats, barley, wheat, grain corn and silage corn), 972 to vegetables (market garden crops: 578; vegetables for processing: 394), 141 to berries (blueberries: 72, strawberries: 59, raspberries: 10), 132 to apples, 110 to honey (winter period: 64, honey production period: 46). Also, 389 notices of damage were reported for waterfowl.

To date, \$16,987,200 payments have been made, of which \$6,028,700 was for market garden crops, \$4,053,400 for cereals, grain corn and high protein crops (including \$3,305,900 for soybeans), \$1,945,650 for apples, \$1,814,200 for vegetables for processing, \$1,528,100 for honey (winter period: \$1,046,055), \$631,200 for berries and \$564,800 for potatoes.

Harvesting Deadline Extensions
2007 Year

Crop		Service centre	Program deadline	Extended date
Oats		Caplan, Québec, Rimouski and Rivière-du-Loup	October 10	November 4
Oats and wheat		Lévis	October 1	October 10
Oats, wheat and barley		Alma, Caplan, Rimouski and Rivière-du-Loup	October 10	October 25
Canola		Caplan, Rimouski and Rivière-du-Loup	October 15	November 9
		Alma	October 15	October 25
Soybeans	Less than 2600 CHUs	Caplan, Drummondville, Gatineau, Lévis, Nicolet, Québec, Rimouski, Rivière-du-Loup, Sainte-Marie, Saint-Georges, Sherbrooke, Trois-Rivières and Victoriaville	October 25	November 9
	2600 CHUs or more	Drummondville and Nicolet	November 1	November 9
Market garden crops	Zucchini s	Drummondville	September 25	October 1
	Green Onions	Drummondville	September 25	October 12
Vegetables for processing	Beans	La Prairie, Saint-Hyacinthe and Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu	September 22	October 6
		La Prairie	September 22	October 10
	Sweet corn	Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu	October 6	October 15
		La Prairie and Saint-Hyacinthe	October 6	October 20
Potatoes		Caplan, Rimouski and Rivière-du-Loup	October 15	October 25
		Lévis and Québec	October 15	October 22

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References: Statistics from the Système d'information de gestion organisationnelle, La Financière agricole du Québec;

Application of the document “Gérer le suivi de l'état des cultures” (Percentage of average crops harvested as of November 6, 2007), La Financière agricole du Québec;

Preliminary 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;

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

Meteorological data validated at airport weather stations, Environment Canada;
Risk Analyses of Heat Units Available for Corn and Soybean Production in Québec, Bootsma, Tremblay and Fillion, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, 1999 (reference for CHU normals).

This bulletin reports 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.

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