
Québec Crop Report

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Highlights:

- Weather conditions were variable, although seasonal: fluctuating temperatures (frost and thaw), sunny periods, episodes of rain and snow, sometimes heavy, in the more eastern regions;
 - The season is now drawing to an end, harvesting is complete, except for grain corn, for which 95% of areas have been harvested;
 - The 2007 season is being qualified as good overall;
 - Yields range from very good to excellent both in terms of quantity and quality for grain corn, silage corn, sweet corn, potatoes, apples and canola;
 - Yields were nevertheless below average for honey, soybeans, dry beans, beans for processing, blueberries and certain vegetables;
 - A total of 7159 notices of damage were reported as of November 20, 2007, compared with 9475 last year at the same period.
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Chronique of Meteorological Conditions for the Period from November 5 to 18

Seasonal weather conditions characterized the week of November 5 to 11. Temperatures were near fall normals, i.e. from 2 to 7 °C in the daytime and from -1 to -5 °C at night. Overall, weekly mean temperatures (from -2 to 3 °C according to the region) were near seasonal norms (by from -1 to 1.5 °C). On November 5 and 6, a depression originating from the Great Lakes left variable precipitation, depending on the area, and snow in the mountains and more northern sectors (from 10 to 20 cm and up to 35 cm in certain localities in Charlevoix). Weekly precipitation totalled from 10 to 25 mm, over a period of from 1 to 4 days.

The start of the week of November 12 to 18 saw very mild temperatures for the season (from 10 to 14 °C on November 14). Overall, weekly mean temperatures (from 0 to 3 °C according to the region) were above seasonal norms (by from 0.5 to 1.5 °C, and up to 2.5 °C in Abitibi-Témiscamingue and Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean. On November 15, a major depression crossed Québec (from Maine to the Côte-Nord), leaving heavy precipitation in places, in the form of rain or snow. Weekly

precipitation totalled from 50 to 80 mm in the Estrie, Chaudière-Appalaches, Côte-Nord and Bas-Saint-Laurent regions, and up to 100 mm in certain localities of the valley of La Matapédia and the Matane sector. Snowfalls of from 20 to 40 mm were recorded. In other regions, weekly precipitation totalled from 10 to 35 mm (over a period of from 2 to 4 days). Normal weekly precipitation for this period is from 18 to 27 mm on average.

Crop Conditions as of November 20

As of November 20, moisture rates in the soil were qualified as normal or near normal (a little dry) in most regions, except those of Bas-Saint-Laurent and Gaspésie, where there was excessive water in soils. The Bas-Saint-Laurent region experienced conditions of heavy rain, causing rivers to overflow, mainly in the Neigette, Matane and La Matapédia areas, creating a waterlogging of soils and difficulties in carrying out the final harvests. In the Beauce, frequent rain and some snowfall also delayed harvesting.

Overall, nevertheless, weather conditions at the end of October and in November were favourable to crops and to fall labour (tilling and mulching for strawberries). The growing season is now drawing to an end: the

harvesting of cereals, silage corn, potatoes, soybeans and market garden crops (leafy vegetables and root vegetables) is complete.

The soybean harvest ended around November 10. Yields are below average (80 to 95% of the average yield), but quality corresponds to average. The threshing of **grain corn** is very advanced: as of November 20, 95% of areas were harvested. From 2 to 10% of areas still need to be harvested, and as much as 20% in Mauricie. Harvesting work was delayed somewhat mainly due the lack of killing frosts in October, which prevented moisture from dropping in the kernel (moisture remained high much longer than usual). The situation made it necessary for harvesting deadlines to be extended from November 10 to 23 for grain corn in most service centres. For more details, see the table *Harvesting Deadline Extensions - Year 2007*, at the end of this bulletin. Grain corn yields range from very good to excellent (between 105 and 120% of the average yield), and quality corresponds to average overall. There is a demand for additional storage areas, due to the high yields.

The 2007 season is being qualified as good overall. Yields range from very good to excellent both in terms of quantity and quality for sweet corn, silage corn, grain corn, potatoes and apples in most regions, and canola, especially in the Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean region. Yields were nevertheless below average, ranging from substantially below to

below average for honey, soybeans, dry beans, beans for processing, blueberries (Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean region) and certain vegetables in most regions.

Notices of Damage and Crop Insurance Payments

Since November 6 (7022 notices), 137 new notices of damage have been reported. As of November 20, 2007, 7159 notices of damage were reported, compared with 9475 for the same period in 2006. Of these notices of damage, 5252 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), 990 to vegetables (market garden crops: 593; vegetables for processing: 397), 146 to berries (blueberries: 73, strawberries: 62, raspberries: 11), 134 to apples, 114 to potatoes and 113 to honey (winter period: 64, honey production period: 49). Also, 3949 notices of damage were reported for waterfowl.

To date, \$19,136,700 payments have been made, of which \$6,840,000 was for market garden crops, \$4,484,300 for cereals, grain corn and high protein crops (including \$3,521,150 for soybeans), \$2,052,800 for vegetables for processing, \$1,948,600 for apples, \$1,787,100 for honey (winter period: \$1,046,055), \$846,800 for potatoes and \$709,650 for berries.

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
Grain corn		Drummondville, Gatineau, Granby, L'Assomption, La Prairie, Lévis, Nicolet, Québec, Saint-Hyacinthe, Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Saint-Eustache, Sherbrooke, Trois-Rivières and Victoriaville	November 10	November 23
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	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: Suivis sur l'état des cultures au Québec et pourcentage moyen des récoltes au 20 novembre 2007, Service centres of La Financière agricole du Québec;
Statistics from the Système d'information de gestion organisationnelle, 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).

IMPORTANT NOTICE: 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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