Environment Canada Environnement Canada

Climatic Perspectives A WEEKLY REVIEW OF CANADIAN CLIMATE

idian Climate Centre

JUNE 10,1983

(Aussi disponible en français)

VOL.5 NO.23

FOR THE PERIOD MAY 31 TO JUNE JUNE 6,1983

 Continued cool and wet weather delays spring planting 2-3 weeks east of Manitoba

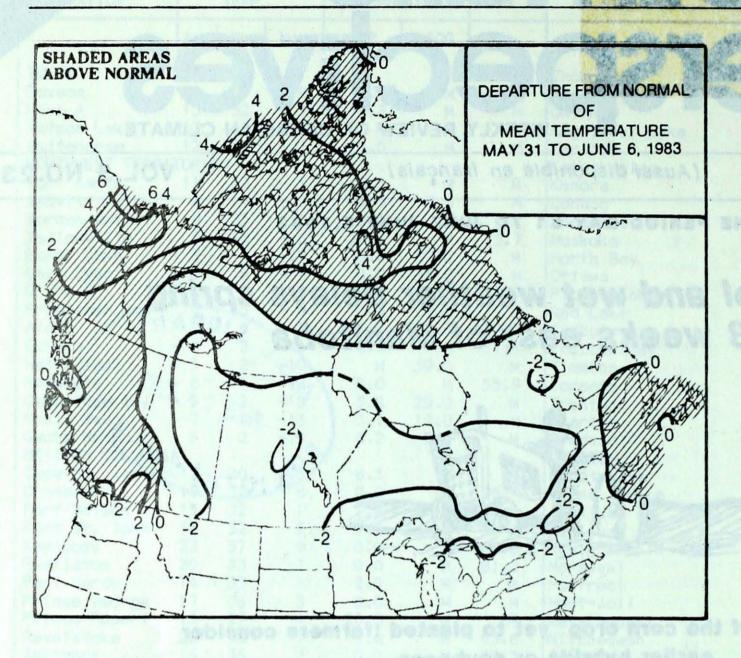


ONTARIO: Half of the corn crop yet to planted :farmers consider earlier hybrids or soybeans

QUEBEC: Only 25 per cent of seeding completed

MARITIMES: Cereal crops not fully planted, dry weather needed for forage crops

• Water supply on the Prairies..... page to



WEEKLY TEMPERATURES EXTREMES (°C)

		MAXIMUM		MINIMUM
YUKON TERRITORY	34.7	Dawson	-0.5	Whitehorse
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES	24.7	Fort Simpson	-10.0	Cape Hooper
BRITISH COLUMBIA	33.1	Kamloops	-1.8	
ALBERTA	28.4	Lethbridge	-0.5	Edson
SASKATCHEWAN	25.6	Meadow Lake North Battleford	-2.7	Collins Bay
MANITOBA	23.8	Portage la Prairie	-4.2	Gilliam
ONTARIO	24.0	Windsor	-2.4	Armstrong Big Trout Lake
QUEBEC	23.4	Maniwaki	-4.0	
NEW BRUNSWICK	24.5	Chatham	1.8	Miscou Island
NOVA SCOTIA	24.5	Greenwood	3.7	Shelburne
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND	21.6	Summerside	5.8	East Point
NEWFOUNDLAND	23.3	Badger	-2.4	Churchill Falls

ACROSS THE NATION

Warmest mean temperature	19.3	Penticton, BC
Coolest mean temperature	-4.9	Broughton Island, NWT

ACROSS THE COUNTRY ...

Yukon and the Northwest Territories

For the second week in a row, monthly record high temperatures were set across the Yukon as the mercury climbed into the mid-thirties. On May 31, Dawson and Mayo established monthly records with 35 and 34 degrees respectively. The old records were set just a day earlier. Brisk northerly flow of cooler air moderated the temperatures to more seasonable values towards the weekend. In the high Arctic, temperatures averaged 3 to 6 degrees above normal.

Thunderstorms produced 15 to 20 mm of precipitation in the southern Yukon; Carmacks received the most, 39 mm. Elsewhere, precipitation was light.

British Columbia

Unseasonably warm weather gave way to a cooler more seasonal regime early in the week. Numerous fires were still reported in the Interior but due to increased shower activity all were under control. The hay harvest has commenced on Vancouver Island.

Prairies

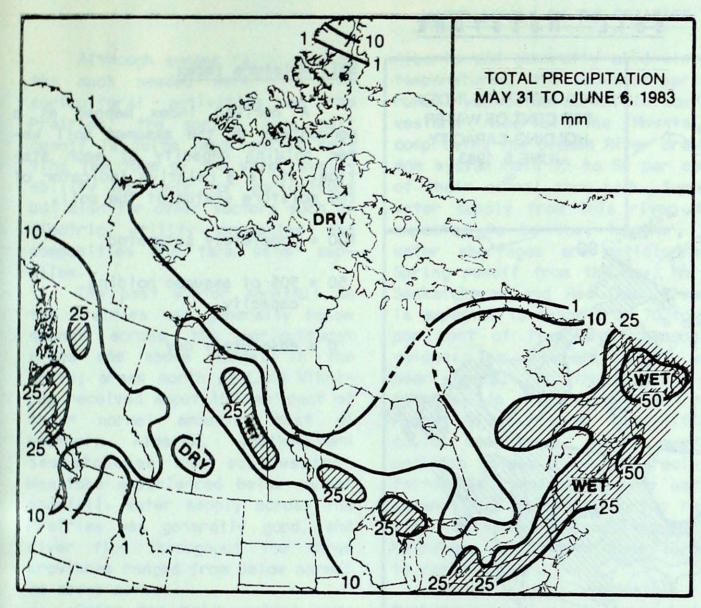
It was generally sunny and cool in the west. Widely scattered showers have not alleviated soil moisture shortages in central Alberta. Established crops were maturing well but rain is urgently needed for the newly seeded crops and pastures. All forest fires were under control.

In eastern sections, increased cloud and precipitation was evident. Temperatures were more than 3° below normal contributing to delayed germination of newly seeded crops.

Ontario

After several rainy week-ends, sunny and warm weather which finally arrived during the last week-end allowed residents to venture into outdoor activities.

Rain and cold, however, dominated the rest of the week setting record low daytime temperatures at a few central Ontario stations. North-



WEEKLY TOTAL PRECIPITATION EXTREMES (mm)

YUKON	39.0	Carmacks
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES	15.6	Alert
BRITISH COLUMBIA	109.9	Cape Scott
ALBERTA	16.6	Calgary
SASKATCHEWAN	43.2	La Ronge
MANITOBA	24.7	Bissett
OUTAGLO		Dauphin
ONJARIO	45.2	Sioux Lookout
QUEBEC	46.6	Blanc Sablon
NEW BRUNSWICK	43.4	Saint John
NOVA SCOTIA	66.4	Eddy Point
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND	32.2	Summerside
NEWFOUNDLAND	124.7	Stephenville

ONTARIO AGRICULTURE

Continued cool and wet pring weather has delayed the growth of vegetable and fruit crops across southern Ontario. Accumulated growing degree-days were 8 to 14 days behind normal. A late freeze during May caused considerable damage to the early strawberry bloom. In the Niagara Peninsula, apples and grapes suffered some frost damage. The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture reported a lot of twig canker on peaches especially in early developing areas east of the Welland Canal. The very cold weather during late March caused considersable damage to the two and three year old peach trees in the Niagara Peninsula.

The cool and wet weather has greatly reduced the yield potential of asparagus in south central Ontario. Much of the lettuce planted in early May had no growth. Early planted sweet corn and pea stands were very poor and early potatoes were slowly emerging.

western Ontario received most of the rain; at Thunder Bay, 33 mm was nearly 50 per cent of the normal June amount there.

The persistent wet and cool weather continued to keep the forest fire danger low throughout the province. In the farming areas, field tillage, planting and spraying continued to be delayed about 2 weeks. While the cold weather has considerably delayed mosquitoes activity, it has, at the same time, provided ideal breeding grounds for the black flies.

Québec

Wet and cold weather prevailed. Rainfalls of 20 to 40 mm kept farmlands saturated. Along the St. Lawrence Valley, only 20 to 30 per cent of the spring seeding was completed. If the dry weather doesn't arrive soon, it may be too late for some crops to be seeded.

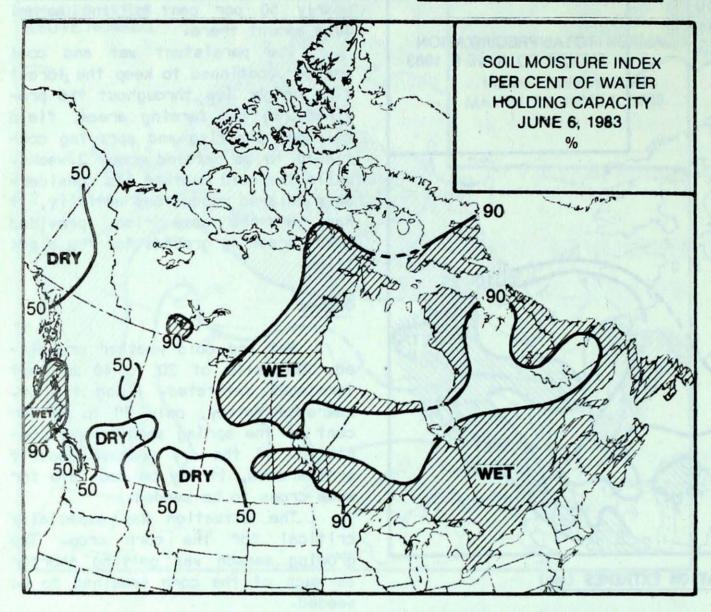
The situation was especially critical for the corn crop. The growing season was getting shorter as much of the corn remained to be seeded.

Atlantic Provinces

Weather systems crossing the East Coast kept a pall of dark clouds over the Provinces. Deluges of 50-125 mm of rains continued to keep farmlands saturated. Heavy rainfalls of 80-125 mm at several Newfoundland stations even exceeded the normal amounts for June; for example, 125 mm fell at Stephenville whereas the monthly normal is only 88 mm.

The continued wet weather has set back field ploughing and planting up to 3 weeks in many areas. In Newfoundland, wet fields contributed to bolting in the hay crop. Despite the wet weather nearly 60 per cent of the potato crop was planted in Prince Edward Island. In Nova Scotia, farmers were concerned about the delay in the cereal crop planting. If the crops are not planted soon, they will not have long enough growing season to mature. Although forage crops were maturing well, dry weather was needed for harvesting. In New Brunswick, wet weather has slowed the maturation of the strawberry crop.

SOIL MOISTURE



Soil Moisture Index

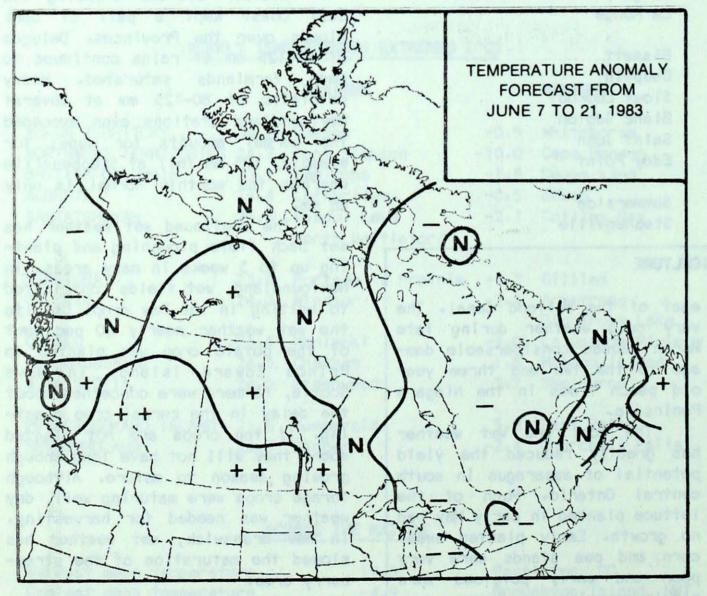
A derived index mapped as a percentage of the assumed soil water holding capacity at each station. It is a relative indicator of the moisture status of the soil.

100 = completely saturated

50 = 50% of assumed holding capacity

0 = absolutely dry

TEMPERATURE ANOMALY FORECAST



Temperature Anomaly Forecast

The temperature anomaly forecast, for each of the 70 canadian stations, is prepared by doing a search of historical weather maps to find cases similar to the present. The principle used is that a prediction for the next 15 days may be based on what is known to have actually happened during the 15-day anomaly periods. After the five best sets are selected, the surface temperature anomalies are calculated. This results in five separate forecasts. These are then averaged to provide the consensus forecast depicted.

- ++ much above normal
- + above normal
- N normal
- below normal
- -- much below normal

WATER SUPPLY ON THE PRAIRIES

Although summer rains provide the much needed water for the agricultural activities on the Prairies, the spring snow melt runoff is quite important in setting the tone of the water availability not only for agriculture but also for other sectors such as electric utility companies and communities and farm water supplies.

The past winter snowfall on the Prairies was generally below normal across the agricultural areas and above normal in the north; areas north of Lake Winnipeg received about 150 per cent of their normal amounts. Most of southwestern Alberta, southern Saskatchewan and southwestern Manitoba experienced below normal snowfall. Water supply across the Prairies was generally good, and river flow throughout the three provinces ranged from below normal to above normal.

Owing the below normal snow pack in the mountainous areas of

Alberta and generally mild winter temperatures, the snowmelt spring runoff was below normal in southwestern Alberta. The Mountains comprising the Oldman River drainage system held 75 to 80 per cent of their normal snow pack. Summer water supply from this river was expected to be low; however, no water shortages are anticipated. Spring runoff from the Bow, North Saskatchewan and Red Deer Rivers is expected to range from 70 to 80 per cent of its normal seasonal volume. The snowmelt runoff was normal in the Plains of Alberta. In the Peace River and Hanna areas, some communities experience water could problems unless sustained precipitation is received in the early summer. Due to a low spring runoff, residences and businesses in Fairview, Alta. have been forced to ration water.

Water supply conditions in Saskatchewan varied from below normal in the Churchill River to Slightly above normal in the Lower Qu'Appelle, Wascana, Moose Jaw and Souris River basins. Most reservoirs were at normal levels.

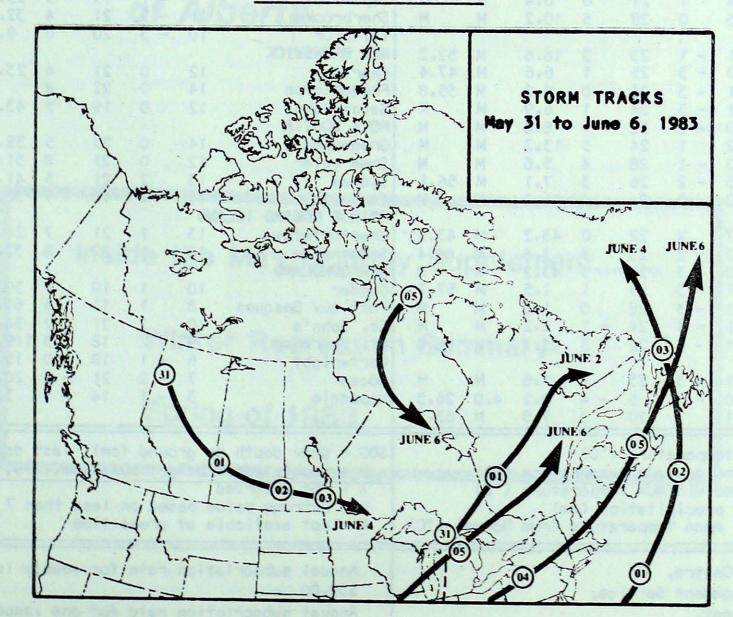
Spring runoff was near normal in southern Manitoba, except in the West Lake-Dauphin-Swan River area, where it was well above normal. Near record floodings occurred in late April on some streams flowing off the Riding, Duck and Porcupine Mountains. Some flooding occurred on the Souris River.

Soil moisture reserves ranged from excessive to good most everywhere, but was considerably variable in Alberta. Parts of northern Alberta has slightly less than adequate moisture in the soil.

A. Shabbar

(Some information provided by the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration)

STORM TRACKS



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