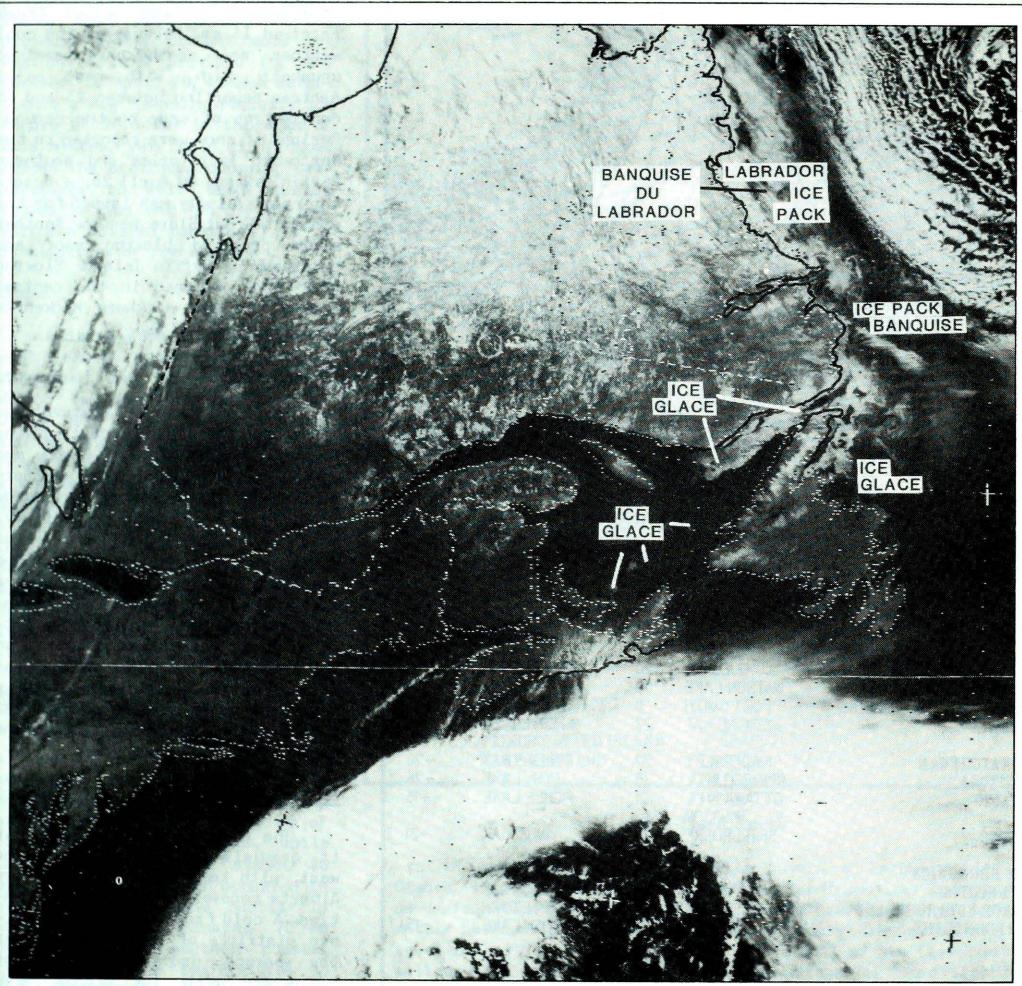


A weekly review of Canadian climate

April 15 to 21, 1986

Vol.8 No.16

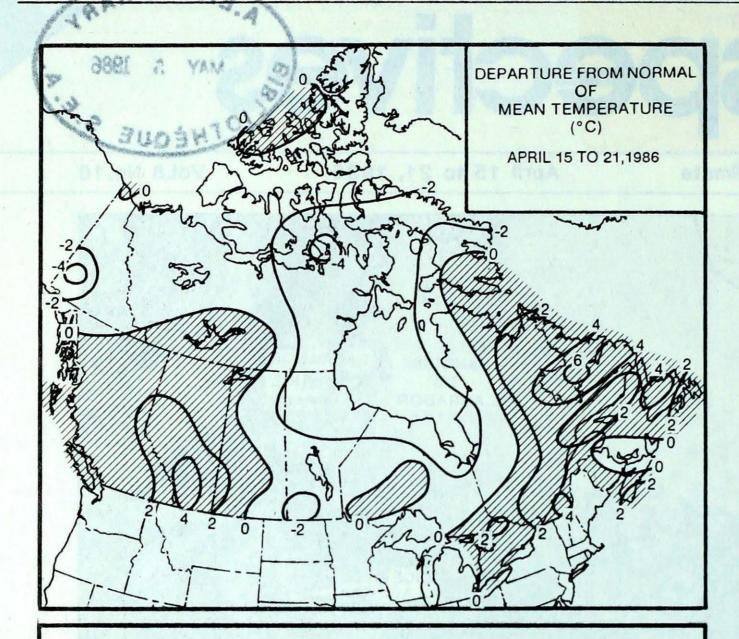


On April 19, an east-west ridge of high pressure produced sunny conditions throughout eastern Camada, as evident in this NOAA 9 satellite photo. For more detail see page 3.

• Unsettled, changeable spring weather

- heavy rains drenched B.C., Manitoba and Newfoundland
- fresh snow blankets Northern Ontario and Northern Quebec





WEEKLY TEMPERATURE EXTREME (C)

MAXIMUM

MINIMUM

| BRITISH COLUMBIA | QUESNEL | 20 | FORT NELSON | -9 |
|-----------------------|----------------|----|---------------|-----|
| YUKON TERRITORY | WATSON LAKE | 9 | OGILVIE | -31 |
| NORTHWEST TERRITORIES | FORT SMITH | 11 | POND INLET | -35 |
| ALBERTA | MEDICINE HAT | 23 | HIGH LEVEL | -8 |
| SASKATCHEWAN | KINDERSLEY | 22 | COLLINS BAY | -20 |
| MANITOBA | WINNIPEG INT'L | 16 | LYNN LAKE | -26 |
| ONTARIO | OTTAWA INT'L | 21 | PICKLE LAKE | -16 |
| | WINDSOR | | | |
| QUEBEC | SHERBROOKE | 23 | INUKJUAK | -21 |
| NEW BRUNSWICK | CHATHAM | 16 | CHATHAM | -7 |
| NOVA SCOTIA | YARMOUTH | 17 | GREENWOOD | -3 |
| PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND | CHARLOTTETOWN | 15 | CHARLOTTETOWN | -4 |
| NEWFOUNDLAND | BADGER | 21 | WABUSH LAKE | -15 |
| | | | | |

ACROSS THE NATION

| WARMEST MEAN TEMPERATURE | 11 | OTTAWA INT'L | ONT |
|--------------------------|-----|--------------|-----|
| COOLEST MEAN TEMPERATURE | -27 | POND INLET | NWT |

ACROSS THE COUNTRY ...

Yukon and Northwest Territories

In the Yukon, temperatures returned to more seasonal values. Generally 2 to 6 centimetres of snow fell across the Yukon, except in the extreme west, where Beaver Creek received 16 cm. Because of the cool weather, snow depths have remained unusually high, with most major centres reporting between 25 and 35 centimetres of snow on the ground. Periods of snow were reported in the Northwest Territories and southern Baffin Island On April 20, a freezing rain advisory was issued for the southern Great Slave region. Another storm produced blowing snow and blizzards on Baffin Island Blowing snow also occurred in the central Arctic and the northern Mackenzie District the last day.

British Columbia

Several frontal disturbances approached the Pacific coast, giving frequent periods of rain. Cloudy and wet weather plagued the southern portions of the province Port Hardy received 75 mm of rain on April 19, while elsewhere along the coast weekly totals exceeded 100 mm. Some interior valleys also received unusually heavy amounts of rain-Thunderstorms with hail were reported in the Peace River district on the evening of the 17th. In the east Kootenays, the precipitation put a damper on range burning activities. Fire weather forecast operations have begun in the province.

Prairie Provinces

The week started off cool, but it gradually warmed up from the west, with temperatures in southern Alberta recovering to the low twenties. A cold front crossed the eastern districts of the prairies over the weekend, dropping temperatures to record daily low values. Weak weather systems brought showers to Alberta, with amounts in central and more northern districts ranging between 10 and 20 millimetres. Heavy rains, between 15 and 40 millimetres, drenched southern Manitoba just before the weekend. Sky conditions varied from day to day.

Ontario

During the first part of the week, a slow moving weather system plagued the southern half of the province, giving cloudy, cool and damp weather conditions. A high pressure area in the north produced mostly sunny weather. Another low pressure system brought more wet weather to the province for the weekend. On April 20, London established a new 24-hour precipitation record of 24.6 mm. In the wake of this system, very cold air flooded across the province, dropping temperatures to well below normal values by the end of the period Northern Ontario received 5 to 10 centimetres of fresh snow.

Quebec

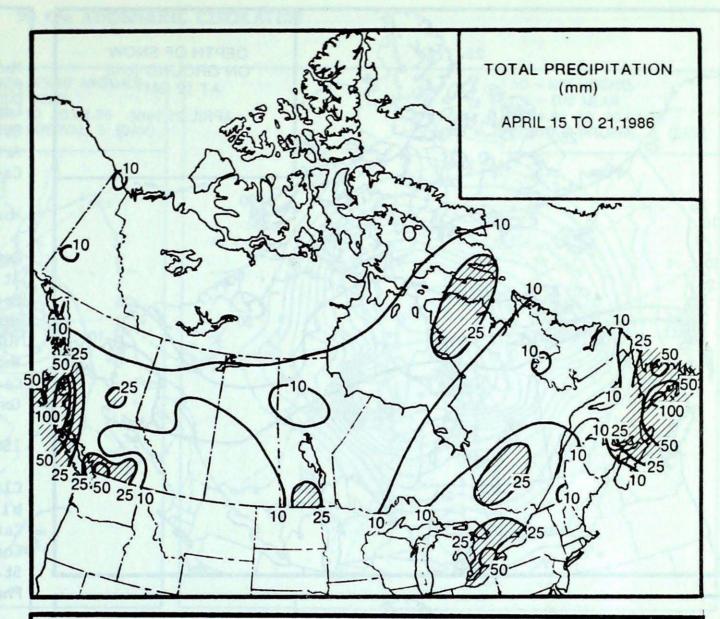
A large area of high pressure kept skies predominantly throughout the first part of the week. Daytime temperatures at Ottawa and Sherbrooke on April 19 and 20 climbed to 21°C and 23°C. respectively. During the weekend, a weather system gave snow to the northern parts of the province, while rain fell in the south. Inukjuak received 26 cm of new snow, while Val d'Or, in western Quebec, received 8 cm. The rain was beneficial in the south, especially in the Eastern Townships, where some fields have been seeded.

Atlantic

.

and

All areas in the Maritimes had alternating periods of cloud and sun. Unsettled and wet conditions occurred primarily during the early part of the week. Up to 65 mm of rain fell on Cape Breton, while Charlottetown received almost 40 mm; some freezing rain occurred in parts of eastern Nova Scotia. In Newfoundland, approximately 70 mm of rain fell on southern coastal communities, with temperatures on April 16 climbing up to the low teens. At St. Anthony some snow was also reported. The combination of heavy precipitation and snow melt caused local flooding in some low lying communities. It became mainly sunny over the weekend Generally fair weather prevailed in Labrador for the entire period

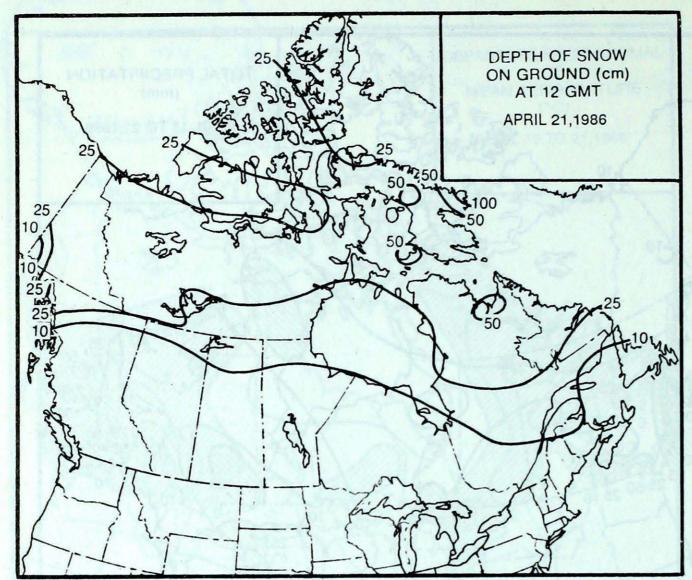


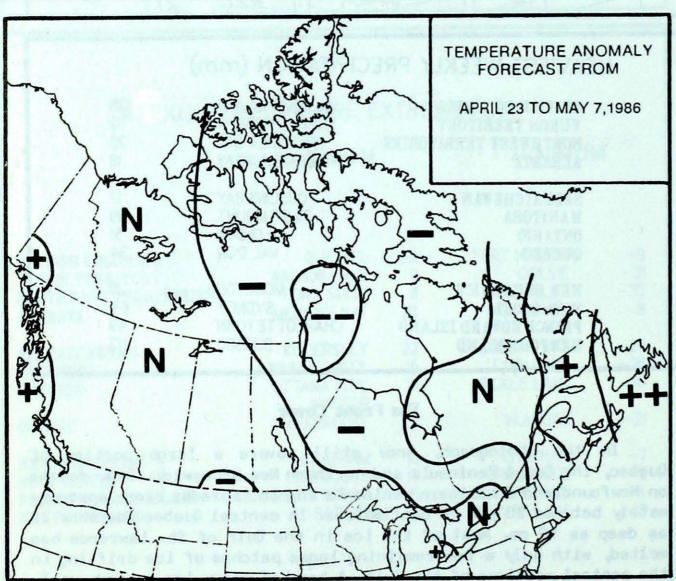
| HEAVIEST WEEKLY PREC | CIPITATION (mm) | |
|--|---|-----------------------|
| BRITISH COLUMBIA YUKON TERRITORY NORTHWEST TERRITORIES ALBERTA | MCINNES ISLAND SHINGLE POINT A FROBISHER BAY FORT MCMURRAY | 128 12 28 18 |
| SASKATCHEWAN MANITOBA ONTARIO QUEBEC | COLLINS BAY PILOT MOUNT LONDON VAL D'OR | 17 39 51 34 |
| NEW BRUNSWICK NOVA SCOTIA PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND NEWFOUNDLAND | MONCTON SYDNEY CHARLOTTETOWN BURGEO | 20 64 49 112 |

The Front Cover

In the photograph, snow still covers a large portion of Quebec, the Gaspé Peninsula and northern New Brunswick. Snow depths on Newfoundland's northern peninsula and in Labrador range approximately between 20 and 30 centimetres. In central Quebec the snow is as deep as 50 cm. Most of the ice in the Gulf of St. Lawrence has melted, with only a few remaining loose patches of ice drifting in the central portions of the Gulf. A band of heavy ice extends westward along the north shore of the Gulf from the Strait of Belle Isle; some leads of open water are visible near the coast, having only opened up in the last few days, due to a shift in wind direction. The decaying Labrador ice pack, swirled by the current, is several hundred kilometres wide, and extends southward along the Atlantic coastline to Newfoundland's north coast.

For more information, and a chart of the ice conditions on April 13, 1986, see feature article on page 148.





Temperature Anomaly Forecast

- much above normal
- above normal
- normal
- below normal
- much below normal

This forecast is prepared by searching historical weather maps to find cases similar to the present. The historical outcome during the 15 days subsequent to the chosen analogues is assumed to be a forecast for the next 15 days from now.

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Unsolicited articles are welcome but should be at maximum about 1500 words in length. They will be subject to editorial change without notice due to publishing time constraints. Black and white photographs can be used, but not colour. The contents may be reprinted freely with proper credit.

The data shown in this publication are based on unverified reports from approximately 225 Canadian synoptic weather stations. Information concerning climatic impacts is gathered from AES contacts with the public and from the media. Articles do not necessarily reflect the views of the Atmospheric Environment Service.

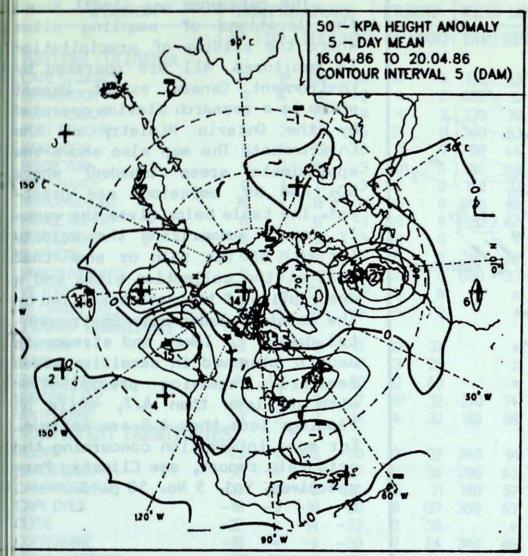
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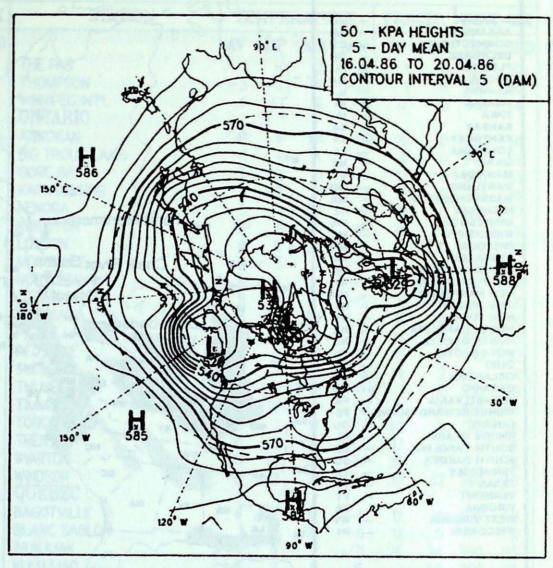
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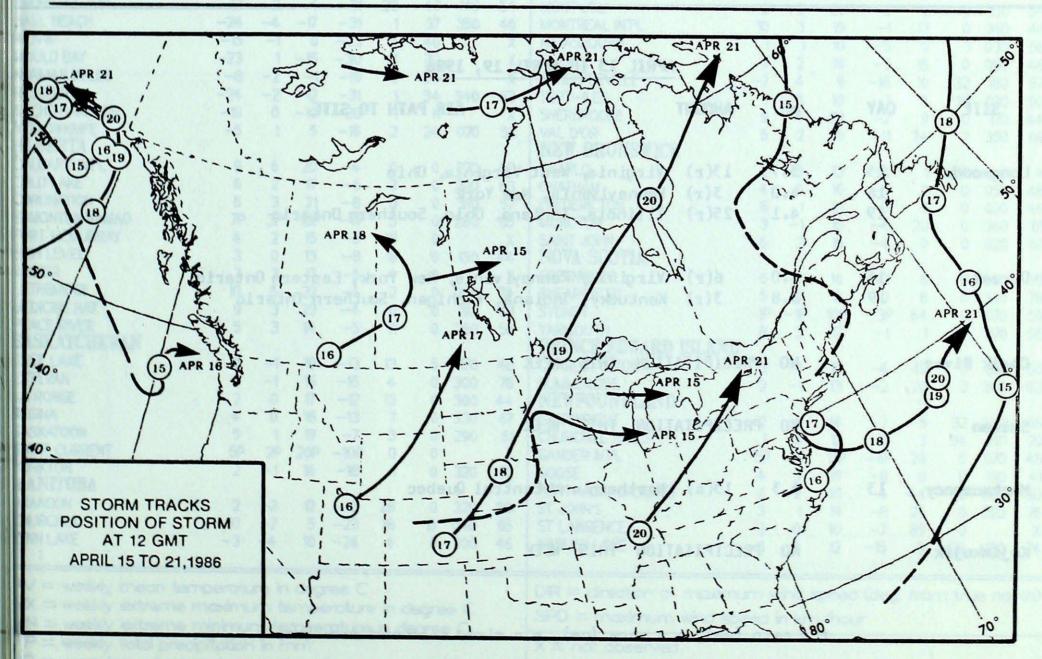
50 KPa ATMOSPHERIC CIRCULATION

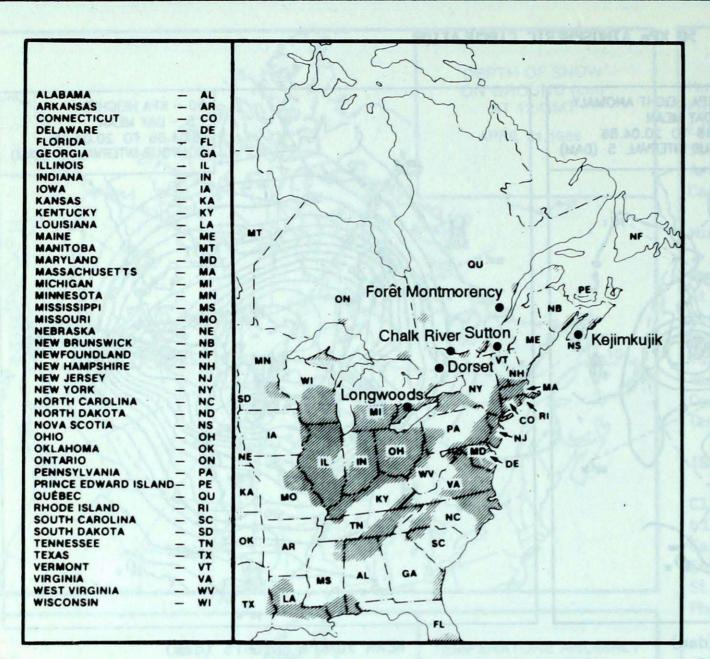


MEAN 50 KPa HEIGHT ANOMALY (dam) April 16 to April 20, 1986



MEAN 50 KPa HEIGHTS (dam) April 16 to April 20, 1986





ACID RAIN REPORT

The reference map (left) shows the locations of sampling sites where the acidity of precipitation is monitored All are operated by Environment Canada except Dorset which is a research station operated by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment. The map also shows the approximate areas (shaded) where 50, and NO, emissions are greatest. The table below gives the weekly report summarizing the acidity (or pH) of the rain or snow that fell at the collection sites and a description of the path travelled by the moisture laden air. Environmental damage to lakes and streams is usually observed in sensitive areas regularly receiving precipitation with pH less than 4.7, while pH readings less than 4.0 are serious. For more information concerning the acid rain report, see Climatic Perspectives, Vol. 5 No. 50 p. 6.

| APRIL | 13 | 10 | APKIL | 19, | 1389 |
|-------|----|----|-------|-----|------|
| | | | | | |

| SITE | DAY | pH A | HOUNT | AIR PATH TO SITE |
|-------------|----------|-------------|-----------------|--|
| Longwoods | 15 16 | 4.0 | 3(r) Pennsylva | West Virginia, Ohio nia, New York |
| | 19 | 4.1 2 | 5(r) Illinois, | Indiana, Ohio, Southern Ontario |
| Dorset | 15 19 | | | Pennsylvania, New York, Eastern Ontario Indiana, Michigan, Southern Ontario |
| Chalk River | | NO PREC | IPITATION THIS | S WEEK |
| Sutton | | NO PREC | IPITATION THIS | WEEK |
| Montmorency | 13 | 5.3 1 | 3(s) Northern | and Central Quebec |
| Kejimkujik | | NO PREC | IPITATION THIS | S WE EX |
| | | r = rain (m | m), s = snow (c | m), m = mixed rain and snow (mm). |

| BRITISH COLUMBIA CRAHBROCK 79 | STATION | TE | MPE | UTAS | RE | PRE | CIP. | WIN | D MX | STATION | TE | MPE | RATU | RE | PRE | CIP. | WIN | D M |
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| IANITOBA PORT-AUX-BASQUES 4 2 10 -4 44 0 060 8 RANDON 2 -2 12 -13 28 0 320 80 ST JOHN'S 3 1 19 -8 26 0 320 7 HURCHILL -10 -2 5 -23 18 15 040 65 ST LAWRENCE 2 0 10 -7 89 0 | | | | | | 1 | 45 | 320 | 72 | | 4 | | | | | | | 41 |
| RANDON 2 -2 12 -13 28 0 320 80 ST JOHN'S 3 1 19 -8 26 0 320 7 HURCHILL -10 -2 5 -23 18 15 040 65 ST LAWRENCE 2 0 10 -7 89 0 | | | | | 1 | | | | | | 4 | | | | | - | | 80 |
| HURCHILL -10 -2 5 -23 18 15 040 65 ST LAWRENCE 2 0 10 -7 89 0 | | 2 | -2 | 12 | -13 | 28 | 0 | 320 | 80 | | 3 | 1 | | | | | | 76 |
| | | -10 | | | | | | | 100000000000000000000000000000000000000 | | 2 | 0 | | | | | | X |
| YNN LAKE -3 -4 10 -26 4 0 300 46 WABUSH LAKE 0 5 12 -15 5 39 180 7 | YNN LAKE | -3 | -4 | 10 | -26 | 4 | - 57 | | 10005 | WABUSH LAKE | 0 | 5 | 100 | -15 | - | 39 | 180 | 74 |

MX = weekly extreme maximum temperature in degree C
MN = weekly extreme minimum temperature in degree C
TP = weekly total precipitation in mm
DP = departure of mean temperature from normal in degree C

SOG = snow depth on ground in cm, last day of the period

SPD = maximum wind speed in km/hour

X = not observed

P =value based on less than 7 days

* = missing

The Forage Drought Early Warning System Report (FoDEWS)

J.A. Dyer Resources and Environment Section Regional Development Branch Agriculture Canada

BACKGROUND

This report projects possible drought stricken areas for the Prairies Provinces by the end of May. It includes weather based estimates of soil moisture reserves for silty clay loam, under a perennial forage. Weather records from three selected past years are used as proxy future weather. At each update historical records are replaced by the most recent daily weather observations.

Two contour maps show the dryness relative to past years. In Figure 1, various percent of normal classes are shown. Figure 2 shows areas with reserves below the lowest levels at several different frequencies of occurrence. To illustrate; in the "below one year in three" area, 20 out of a sample of 30 years can be expected to have more moisture reserves than given. The report now includes 58 weather stations but should still be interpreted as a general outlook or reconnaissance. The Agrometeorology Section, Research Branch is acknowledged for providing the weather data used in this report.

As of March 23, 1986, the higher risk areas are limited to several isolated locations throughout Saskatchewan and Alberta. These are the sites projected to be drier than the driest year in five. Otherwise, most of the prairie region is showing normal or above normal soil moisture conditions.

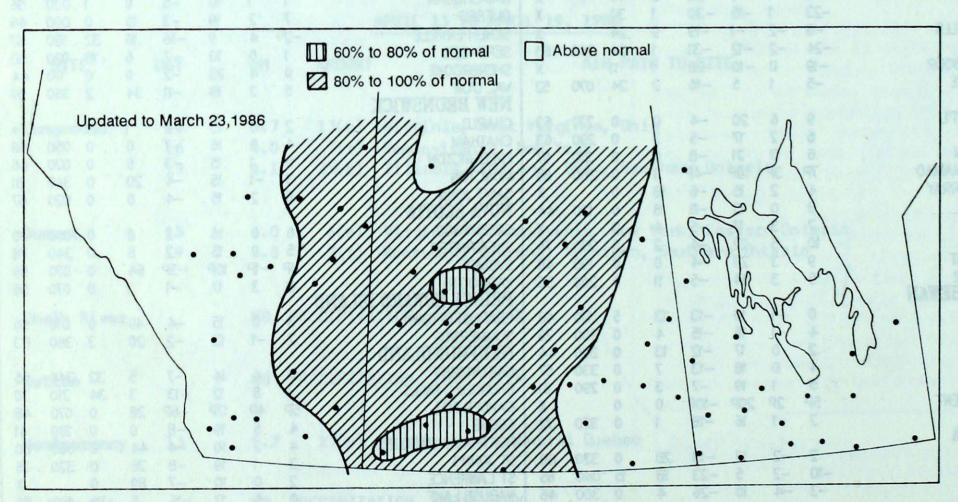


Figure 1: Projected soil moisture reserves under perennial by May 31, expressed as % of normal

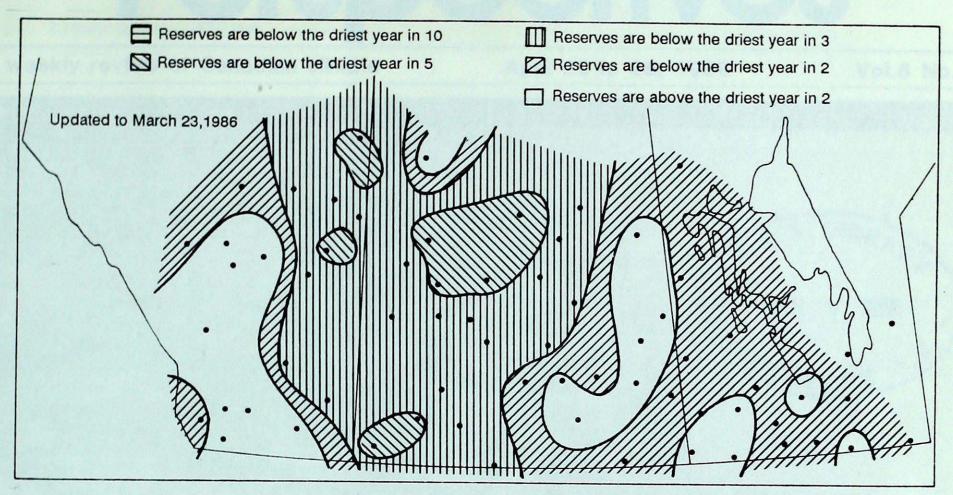


Figure 2: Zones showing the frequency at which the projected moisture conditions for May 31, can be expected to return in future years.

