

22-002  
no. 10  
1932  
May 31  
c. 2

Published by Authority of the Hon. H. E. Stevens, M.P.,  
Minister of Trade and Commerce  
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE  
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS - CANADA  
AGRICULTURAL BRANCH

Dominion Statistician: R. H. Coats, B.A., F.S.S. (Hon.), F.R.S.C.  
Chief, Agricultural Branch: T. W. Grindley, Ph.D.

TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT

Ottawa, May 31, 1932, 4 p.m. - The Dominion Bureau of Statistics issues to-day the first of a series of 15 weekly telegraphic reports on crop conditions in the Prairie Provinces. This service is made possible by the valued co-operation of 35 correspondents composed of agriculturists of the Dominion and Provincial Departments of Agriculture, as well as a number of selected private observers. The reports of the Saskatchewan and Alberta Departments of Agriculture will be summaries of telegraphic advices received from their own correspondents scattered over each province. The Meteorological Service, Toronto, co-operates in the provision of official precipitation and temperature records. Particular attention will again be given to securing authoritative information on damage from insects, hail and plant diseases. The reports of entomologists will be viewed with added interest in this season when cutworm and grasshopper outbreaks are threatened over large and important crop areas. The issue of June 7 will contain a full report on plant disease conditions in each of the three provinces.

SUMMARY

While present conditions range from good in Manitoba and Saskatchewan to excellent in Alberta, there is an increasing realization that frequent rains will be necessary to replenish the low moisture reserves and a growing concern over the probabilities of cutworm and grasshopper damage. During the past week or ten days, there was a decline in crop prospects over the same general areas that have suffered from drought since 1929. Despite the heavy rains of late April and late May and the intervening showers, the main wheat belt is still lacking in moisture reserves, a fact which becomes very apparent after a few days of high temperatures and strong winds. Some damage has already been done by soil-drifting and frost, which cannot be repaired. Rain is now needed in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, while warm weather would be welcome over most of Alberta. Generally, however, conditions are much improved over last year and particularly in the park belt and throughout Alberta.

Wheat seeding is completed and the drilling of coarse grains well advanced. The strong germination and the quickened growth of recent weeks have made up some of the lateness in the season. This is particularly true in Manitoba and over most of Saskatchewan, but in Alberta, the season is still quite late.

The main concern over large areas this year is the probability of crop damage by cutworms and grasshoppers. In Manitoba, grasshoppers have hatched in vast numbers over a wide area, but a strenuous poisoning campaign has been organized. Rather widespread and heavy losses from Pale Western Cutworm are reported in Saskatchewan. Heavy local infestations of grasshoppers are also appearing, especially north of Moose Jaw. In Alberta, rains have curbed the damage from grasshoppers, but cutworms are working over large and productive southern and south-central areas, with damage just starting in earnest.

While the grasshopper damage may be controlled with poison bait, little can be done to stop cutworm damage at this stage, even reseeding being inadvisable.

Hail Damage.

No damage from hail has been reported to date by our correspondents in the three provinces.





Reports of Entomological Laboratories, Dominion Department of Agriculture

The entomologists of the Dominion Department of Agriculture have submitted the following telegraphic reports on conditions in the Prairie Provinces.

Much of the main wheat belt of the West has been chartered by the Entomological Branch as subject to damage by cutworms in 1932. The danger from grasshoppers is most likely to occur in the Red River and eastern Assiniboine River valleys of Manitoba, in central, south-central and west-central Saskatchewan, and in southwestern Alberta.

The feeding period of the cutworms is intensified in the next four weeks but grasshoppers may damage crops throughout the entire growing season.

Dominion Entomological Laboratory, Treesbank, Manitoba

Grasshoppers have hatched in vast numbers over a large area. Practically all districts covered by our map in which outbreaks were forecasted are known to be heavily infested. Every effort is being made to overcome the pest.

Dominion Entomological Laboratory, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Damage by pale western cutworm now becoming conspicuous; rather widespread and heavy losses certain over some large areas. Army cutworm extremely abundant in a few southern localities. Seed destruction by wire worms seems generally less than last year. Grasshopper egg hatching has been irregular but some heavy local infestations appearing, especially northwest of Moose Jaw. False wire worms and beetles numerous in southern and western areas. General enormous abundance beet webworm moths causing undue alarm as this species breeds chiefly on weeds.

Dominion Entomological Laboratory, Lethbridge, Alberta

Grasshoppers in extreme southeastern Alberta practically wiped out by recent rains. Cutworms causing extensive damage at Drumheller, Munson, Morrin, Three Hills, Hanna, Lomond, Albion Ridge, Picture Butte, Diamond City, Coalhurst, Coaldale, Grassy Lake and Lethbridge. Entire area forecasted is seriously infested, but frequent rains keeping damage at minimum. Over three thousand acres reported totally destroyed in southern Alberta already and damage just starting in earnest.

Meteorological Report.

Although the total precipitation recorded in the reporting stations of the three provinces is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 times that of the same period of April and May, 1931, it is still subnormal, except in Alberta.

In the week ending at 7.2 a.m. May 30, the precipitation reported by the Dominion Meteorological Service, Toronto, was as follows (in inches):

<u>Manitoba</u>		<u>Saskatchewan</u>		<u>Alberta</u>	
Minnedosa	0.1	Saskatoon	0.1	Cardston	0.1
Brandon	0.1	Lloydminster	0.1	Medicine Hat	0.1
Boissevain	0.2	Moose Jaw	0.1	Macleod	0.2
Emerson	0.3	Yellow Grass	0.1	Drumheller	0.2
Le Pas	0.3	Qu'Appelle	0.1	Vegreville	0.3
Portage la Prairie	0.5	Regina	0.2	Beaverlodge	0.4
		Estevan	0.3	Red Deer	0.4
		Kindersley	0.5	Calgary	0.4
		Macklin	0.5	Foremost	0.6
		Empress	0.6	Edmonton	0.7

At Dauphin and Pierson in Manitoba, at Swift Current and Prince Albert in Saskatchewan, and at Brooks in Alberta, less than half a tenth was recorded.

In our report of June 7, the summary of both precipitation and temperature for the months of April and May, as compiled by the Meteorological Service, will be published.





Reports from CorrespondentsM A N I T O O B ADepartment of Agriculture, Winnipeg.

Soil condition and weather have been favourable for seeding. Vegetation rather farther advanced than usual at this date. Some damage by soil drifting on sandy soils. Grasshoppers hatching early and rapidly over large area, but poisoning campaign is very widespread. Crops are growing satisfactorily and everything looks well but frequent rains needed as soil moisture resources are low.

Experimental Station, Morden.

Seeding completed, wheat four to seven inches high, barley and oats well up, pastures and clovers making good growth. All crops require rain. Weather cool. Considerable wind of late causing drifting on lighter soil. Grasshoppers hatching fast. Indications point to a heavy outbreak. Poison bat being scattered over large area.

Experimental Farm, Brandon.

Exceptionally fine weather has permitted early completion of seeding in western Manitoba. Early sown crop well advanced. Wild oats plentiful. Much coarse grain sown into dry soil. Cultivated hay crops now needing rain. Pasture barer than usual.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Minnedosa.

Weather of past week has been cool, with hard frost Wednesday night which did not damage grain. Much ground getting very dry. Need day's rain though has good start and looks well. Wild oats abundant; many people have waited to cultivate them off before sowing. Grasses have made a good start.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Russell.

Seeding completed May 24. Early rains made growing conditions excellent. Crops exceptionally well advanced. Acreage various grains about same as usual excepting less fall rye. Slight damage from frost, cutworms and soil drifting on lighter land; no reseeding. Pastures good and water supply sufficient. Rain needed.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Dauphin.

Wheat germinated well and got off to a good start. Seeding complete with most of coarse grain showing above ground. Frost and high winds did some damage. Good rain badly needed to repair damage and carry crops along. Grasshoppers numerous; considerable poisoning being done. No cutworm trouble yet.

S A S K A T C H E W A NDepartment of Agriculture, Regina.

Wheat seeding practically completed; coarse grains well advanced. Numerous patches on open prairie show effect of wind on 21st and good rain would help. Crop on whole, however, shows marked improvement over last year. Slight cutworm damage and some grasshoppers. Pastures improving.

Experimental Farm, Indian Head.

Seeding operations practically completed. Rains during latter part of May have checked soil drifting and generally improved moisture and crop conditions. Reports indicate a fairly widespread infestation of cutworms, working mostly in stubble fields. Hay and pasture fields showing good growth.





S A S K A T C H E W A N (Cont'd.)Experimental Station, Swift Current.

Wheat seeding completed, coarse grains eighty per cent. Early seeding made good start, but with May rainfall half normal, severe winds cut much wheat to ground. Ten per cent destroyed. Immediate rain needed to help recovery of damage crops and replenish very low moisture reserve. Some cutworm and grasshopper damage. Rye prospects poor.

Experimental Station, Scott.

Growing conditions have been exceptionally favourable in northwest Saskatchewan and northeast Alberta since spring opened. Most points report good penetrating showers when needed. Wheat emerged quickly and healthy stands are in evidence with seeding practically completed. Little damage from cutworms yet but certain areas report heavy infestation.

A L B E R T ADominion Range Experiment Station, Manyberries.

General conditions up to present good. Heavy rains in April and May. Seeding of wheat and oats mostly completed. Wheat three inches high. Prospects for crop good. Plentiful supply of moisture. Grass and water supply on range good. Lamb crops and calf crops very good.

Dominion Experiment Station and Supervisor of  
Illustration Stations, Lethbridge.

In Lethbridge district, over ninety-five per cent of wheat seeded and seeding of coarse grains well advanced. Sugar beets seeding completed. Frequent rains have produced uniform germination of all crops and grasses on range particularly good. Some damage from cutworms in grain fields reported, but not yet general.

Experimental Station, Lacombe.

Wheat all seeded, oats eighty and barley fifty per cent. With six decimal five inches rain since April eighteen abundance moisture. Very little frost or cutworm damage, but wet cool weather delaying seeding and growth. Crops well rooted and greatest present need is warm weather to force growth.

Dominion Experimental Sub-Station, Beaverlodge.

Subsoil moisture abundant. Seeding began late but practically completed. Weather cool and dry until last few days but since then growth rapid. Live stock thrifty.

STATISTICS CANADA LIBRARY  
BIBLIOTHÈQUE STATISTIQUE CANADA



1010525317