

22-002
no. 10
1949
June 21
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R. No. 10
1949

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TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT

Ottawa, June 21, 1949, 3 p.m. - The sixth of a series of thirteen telegraphic reports covering crop conditions in the Prairie Provinces is issued today by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. A selected list of crop correspondents chosen from the Dominion and Provincial Departments of Agriculture, private crop observers and grain men, supply the information on which these reports are based. The weather data included in this release are furnished by the Meteorological Division, Department of Transport, Toronto.

SUMMARY

While cooler weather and rains have maintained and even improved crop prospects in some parts of the Prairie Provinces, there remain large areas in Saskatchewan and Alberta where serious deterioration is continuing. The outlook in Manitoba and most of eastern Saskatchewan is quite generally good to excellent while crops in southern sections of Alberta have responded to recent rains. In south-western Saskatchewan particularly, and to a somewhat lesser extent in central and west-central areas of that province, rains are urgently needed. Similar conditions prevail over most of central Alberta from the Calgary-Edmonton line eastward to the Saskatchewan border. Drought is causing rapid deterioration in this large area and frost has caused local damage. Grasshopper infestations appear to be well under control in all three provinces although the possibility of severe damage still exists, particularly in the most seriously affected districts of central Saskatchewan.

Rains and cool weather during the past week in Manitoba have further improved the crop outlook in that province. Prospects are now considered very promising and stands of grain are generally heavy and pastures much improved, especially in areas where moisture reserves were particularly low. Spraying for both weeds and grasshoppers is in full swing in the more seriously affected areas. No serious damage from grasshoppers is indicated as yet.

Although general crop prospects have improved in Saskatchewan during the past month, poor conditions still exist in the greater part of south-central and south-western districts. During the past week the weather has been generally cool, with scattered showers falling in many areas. Moisture conditions are reasonably satisfactory in the eastern part of the province but further rains are urgently required in most of the south-western districts. In the southern part of the province the general appearance of the crops is good as far west as a line extending from Assiniboia to Elbow. West of this dividing line conditions are only fair to poor. Conditions in the central districts are variable, ranging from good to poor. In northern sections conditions are generally favourable but

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further moisture is required to maintain satisfactory progress. From ten to fifty per cent of the wheat throughout the province is in the shot blade stage. There is considerable grasshopper activity in the central part of the province with indications of its spreading into west-central and south-central areas. Losses have been held at a minimum but there still remains the potential danger of heavy damage in the most seriously infested districts.

Crop prospects are extremely variable in Alberta. Growth is still only poor to fair in a large area to the north and east of Calgary. Parts of southern Alberta received rain during the past week ranging from one-half to one inch. Although cool weather has helped to maintain conditions in some areas, crops are deteriorating rapidly in much of central Alberta. Pastures here are poor and hay crops short. General rains are needed immediately if crops are to make a comeback. Frost has been reported at several points throughout the province with local damage around Edmonton and Donaldia reported to range from 5 to 20 per cent. First summerfallow operations are now about 50 to 100 per cent completed in most districts of the province. The control campaigns are effectively limiting grasshopper damage in most areas.

Manitoba - Weather conditions have been generally satisfactory throughout Manitoba during the past week and the crop outlook is very promising. Cool, rainy weather has minimized grasshopper activity over most of the province although quite severe infestations have developed locally in some western areas.

In the Winnipeg area recent rains have improved cereal crops which are now in a very healthy condition. Moisture supplies in the south-central part of the province around Pilot Mound are ample and the wheat crop is in very good condition and showing excellent colour. Wheat here is up 12 inches with some in the shot blade. Pastures are excellent and hay prospects good. Rye has headed and while the coarse grain crop is late, the outlook is satisfactory. No insect damage is indicated in this area. In the East Selkirk section variable rains occurred last week and greatly improved prospects. However, much more moisture will be needed here to mature the crops. Recovery from earlier frost damage is slow and cutworms are causing severe damage to gardens in some local areas. In the Morden area light rains have helped growth but further moisture will be needed to maintain favourable conditions. Alfalfa cutting has begun and pasture and hay crop prospects are fair in this area. In the south-west cool weather and rains during the past week have maintained conditions. While many grasshoppers have hatched and some spraying has been done, no reports of crop damage have been received. Summerfallow is nearly finished and the pasture and wild hay crops in this district are good.

Ideal growing weather is reported from Portage la Prairie with generous rains falling last Thursday and Saturday nights. The weed and insect spraying campaigns are in full swing.

Reports from Brandon, Woodnorth, and Virden in the west-central area are generally optimistic. Grasshopper hatching is being delayed by the wet weather and growth conditions have been excellent for both forage crops and cereals. Pastures are in good condition. At Virden the crop appears to be a week to ten days earlier than last year with many fields now in the shot blade.

In the north-central district, around Teulon, crop conditions have also been improved by recent showers. Hay and pastures here, however, are still very slow and alfalfa crops are poor except on new land. Our correspondents in the north-western parts of the province, at Neepawa, Minnedosa, Dauphin, Shoal Lake and Swan River, all report excellent moisture and growing conditions.

Chemical spraying of weeds is being carried out on a large scale in much of this area. Insect damage in this section is apparently at a minimum. Light hail losses have been reported to date from the Portage la Prairie, High Bluff and Moore Park areas.

Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 9 per cent below normal as compared with 11 per cent below normal a week ago. Mean temperature for the week ending June 20 was 5.4 degrees below normal.

Saskatchewan - No marked change has occurred in the outlook for crops in Saskatchewan during the past week. Moisture conditions are reasonably satisfactory in the eastern part of the province and crop prospects in this area are generally good. In the greater part of the south-central and south-western districts, however, conditions are poor and rain is urgently needed. This area of moisture deficiency also extends into the central district through Elbow, Nokomis, Saskatoon and Wiseton. Conditions in the central districts range from poor to good. In the northern part of the province conditions are generally favourable but, as in nearly all other areas, further moisture is required to maintain satisfactory progress.

Throughout the province from ten to fifty per cent of the wheat is in the shot blade stage. Grasshopper damage has been held to a minimum by the extensive campaign organized early in the season. There is considerable activity, however, in the central regions and this is spreading into west-central and south-central areas. Some damage by red backed cutworm in north-eastern Saskatchewan has been reported by the Dominion Entomological Laboratory at Saskatoon. Hail damage has occurred at Ridgedale, Drinkwater and Prince Albert but losses were light.

Around Manor, in the south-eastern part of the province, moisture conditions have been greatly improved and crop prospects continue good. Early wheat is in the shot blade. All grain is in healthy condition with the exception of some very weedy fields which are being sprayed to kill mustard and thistle. Pastures are in good condition. In the Fillmore district crops are making good progress with the best stands since 1944. There is a fairly heavy growth of weeds, particularly stinkweed, pigweed and Russian thistle. Although moisture conditions have been adequate to date there is little in reserve. Fall rye is quite light due to the dry spring. At Yellow Grass fifty per cent of the wheat is in the shot blade with some early wheat beginning to head. All crops are showing good growth due to recent rains. Weed spraying is being done with good results.

In the central part of the province weather during the past week has been cool with light rains received over the week-end. Grasshopper activity has been retarded and farmers continue to conduct full-scale baiting and spraying campaigns. Reseeded crops are making a good start but additional moisture is needed to maintain and improve all crops. At Scott in the west-central section of the province grain crops have been helped during the past week by the cool weather. Grain crops are generally good north of Battleford but are poor east of Richard. Prospects in the central part of this district are still promising but from Rosetown, south-west to the Saskatchewan river, conditions are generally poor due to repeated frosts and drought. Prospects for most of the flax crop still appear good.

In the Guernsey district in northern Saskatchewan crops are infested with grasshoppers. Poison bait has had only limited effect in their control but sprays are proving fairly effective. New grass and legume seedlings in the area have been eaten off almost completely. Around Melfort there has

been very little rainfall during the past week. Some early seeded crops are in the shot blade and show fair to good stands. Pastures are in generally fair condition.

Although crop conditions have shown general improvement throughout the province during the past month, nearly all the south-central and south-western districts are in urgent need of rain. Moisture conditions throughout the rest of the province have been generally satisfactory but additional moisture is required to maintain progress. While grasshopper damage has been minimized by weather conditions and organized control measures, it is evident that there is still considerable danger of damage in some of the affected areas. No serious infestations of other insects have been reported to date. Considerable weed growth has occurred in some areas but spraying operations are proving effective.

Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 24 per cent below normal as compared with 21 per cent below normal a week ago. Mean temperature for the week ending June 20 was 6.4 degrees below normal.

Alberta - General rains, varying from one half to one inch, have improved crop prospects considerably in south and south-eastern Alberta this past week. In other parts of the province light scattered showers proved insufficient to stop further crop deterioration. Frost has been reported locally in some districts, with damage around Edmonton and Donalda recorded as five to twenty per cent.

Manyberries in the south-eastern area of the province reports improved grain crops and pastures. Range lands are making a favourable comeback. Soil moisture reserves are still inadequate and further general rains are needed to carry present crop prospects. At Brooks .81 inches of rain fell this past week but pastures are still slow. First cutting of alfalfa is under way and haying will become general this week. Grasshopper damage is slight with control measures proving effective.

The south-western sections of Alberta have had general rains varying in amount at different points with about one inch at Lethbridge. Alfalfa stands are good and thinning of an excellent crop of sugar beets has almost been completed on irrigated land. The grasshopper campaign is most active throughout all the forecast area with control being reported as satisfactory. Some sawfly flight is under way but it is too early to know the outcome. Claresholm had one inch of rain on June 17 and prospects for a normal crop are excellent at the present time. Five per cent of wheat is in shot blade and growth is rank and heavy.

Local showers around Hanna in the east-central section of the province have done little to relieve drying conditions. Pastures are very weedy and poor, but a general rain within the week would greatly help the feed situation. Stettler has had only a trace of rain and all crops are poor with pasture and hay crops suffering most.

Donalda in west-central Alberta reports crops at a standstill for lack of moisture. Frost last week did some damage to gardens. Around Edmonton, dry weather has continued with only thirty-six per cent of normal seasonal rainfall to date. In this district both top soil and subsoil moisture is very poor and there is no growth to speak of. At Lacombe precipitation

since April 1 has also been only 36 per cent of normal. The pasture situation has become acute in this area and cattlemen are worried about next winter's feed. Wheat is only fair and is in the shot blade stage on summerfallow. All crops on stubble land extending from Lacombe east to the Saskatchewan border and south from Lacombe along the Calgary-Edmonton road and back through Hanna over to the Saskatchewan border are very poor. In this area a general rain is urgently needed to stop deterioration. In most of this area pastures are becoming poorer every day and the Olds correspondent says there will be very little grain to harvest unless rain is immediately forthcoming.

The north-eastern section of Alberta around Bonnyville reports extensive cutworm and wireworm damage. General outlook in this area is rather poor due to drought, and ten per cent of grain had to be reseeded. About five per cent of grain is in shot blade stage. Vermilion has had no improvement in crops since last report. Late seeded oats and barley will likely come along favourably if a general rain occurs. Pastures are badly burned and the hay crops will be very light.

In the north-western area, in Peace River and Beaverlodge districts, crops are growing well but further rains are needed. Slight frost damage has been reported to some gardens.

Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 41 per cent below normal as compared with 43 per cent below normal a week ago. Mean temperature for the week ending June 20 has been 5.9 degrees below normal.

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Weekly Precipitation and Temperature in the Prairie Provinces 1949

Crop District and Province	Station	Precipitation			Temperature	
		Week ending 8 a.m. June 20, 1949	Total since April 1	Normal since April 1	Week ending 8 a.m. June 20, 1949 Mean	Normal
<u>MANITOBA</u>						
1	Pierson	1.02	5.83	4.92	54	61
	Melita	1.08	5.61	6.02	55	62
	Waskada	1.32	6.84	4.97	55	61
2	Boissevain	1.20	5.30	4.97	55	61
	Ninette	.90	4.18	5.44	56	61
3	Fortage la Prairie	.58	3.02	4.86	59	63
	Graysville	.88	4.24	5.35	59	62
	Morden	.72	3.74	5.20	58	62
	Altona	.54	2.90	5.16	58	62
	Morris	.50	2.80	4.88	59	63
	Emerson	.30	3.54	4.47	57	63
4	Winnipeg	.96	2.83	5.50	59	63
6	Sprague	1.36	4.64	5.43	55	60
	Pinawa	.48	2.26	3.80	57	61
7	Viriden	1.17	7.01	4.26	56	61
	Rivers	1.10	5.08	4.32	55	61
8	Brandon	.91	6.51	4.87	56	61
	Cypress River	.82	4.70	4.86	54	62
9	Minnedosa	.94	6.16 2/	4.84	53	61
	Neepawa	.83	4.20	4.84	55	61
10	Russell	.38	4.89	4.56	53	59
	Birtle	.44	4.34	4.57	54	60
11	Dauphin	.86	5.28	3.95	56	60
12	Gimli	.80	2.53	5.60	57	61
13	Swan River	.78	4.63	4.49	54	59
	The Pas	.24	3.93	3.42	54	60
<u>MANITOBA AVERAGE</u>		.81	4.43	4.85	55.8	61.2
<u>SASKATCHEWAN</u>						
1A	Estevan	1.14	4.17	4.87	53	61
	Carlyle	1.18	5.42	5.08	51	59
1B	Broadview	.36	4.56	4.26	51	59
	Moosomin	.98	7.52	4.33	56	60
2A	Yellow Grass	.64	2.73	4.68	54	60
	Midale	.82	3.20	5.15	52	60
2B	Moose Jaw	.35	1.53	4.67	54	61
	Regina	.58	3.72	4.50	52	60
	Francis	.74	2.54	3.77	50	60
	Qu'Appelle	.74	2.60 2/	5.46	53	61
	Indian Head	.50	4.00	5.22	54	59
3AS	Assiniboia	.42	2.36	3.96	53	62
	Ceylon	.48	2.45	5.95	50	60
3AN	Chaplin	.22	1.30	5.06	55	61
	Gravelbourg	.30	.82 2/	4.18	53	60
	Coderre	.56	2.70	4.30	54	N.R.
	Bishopric	.30	2.54 2/	4.13	54	60
3BS	Instow	N.R.	1.37 2/	4.10	N.R.	60
	Shaunavon	.37	1.95	3.89	53	60
	Cadillac	.90	3.00	6.14	54	59
	Val Marie	.28	1.50	4.39	52	61
	Aneroid	.52	1.36	4.81	54	59

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SASKATCHEWAN						
3BN	Pennant	.50	2.04	5.13	54	59
	Swift Current	.58	2.19	4.03	53	60
4A	Hughton	N.R.	1.16 2/	4.54	N.R.	59
	Maple Creek	.98	2.55 2/	4.50	54	60
	Consul	.73	1.77	4.08	51	58
4B	Roadene	.76	2.09	4.56	54	59
5A	Leross	.36	4.86	4.66	50	57
	Lipton	.56	2.54	4.02	52	57
5B	Yorkton	1.06	6.05	4.38	54	59
	Dafoe	.15	2.42	4.07	52	57
	Foam Lake	N.R.	6.21 2/	4.37	51	57
6A	Lintlaw	.26	6.59	4.43	50	57
	Kamsack	.62	4.08	3.56	53	58
	Davidson	.28	1.66	3.90	52	60
	Dilke	N.R.	2.59 2/	4.31	N.R.	N.R.
6B	Semans	.10	2.88	3.00	54	57
	Strasbourg	.32	5.37	4.43	52	59
	Harris	Nil	1.44 2/	3.66	55	59
	Outlook	.14	3.79	3.03	54	60
	Saskatoon	.14	1.99	3.71	53	59
7A	Elbow	.07	1.91	3.90	52	60
	Dundurn	.18	2.12	4.52	52	58
	Kindersley	.32	2.76	3.46	53	56
7B	Rosetown	.16	1.96	4.32	53	57
	Macklin	.12	3.12	4.55	52	57
8A	Scott	.46	3.91	3.74	52	59
	Ruthilda	.36	3.78 2/	4.24	N.R.	N.R.
	Biggar	.04	3.30	4.11	53	59
8B	Nipawin	N.R.	.67 2/	4.38	N.R.	58
	Hudson Bay	.34	6.17	4.16	52	59
9A	Humboldt	.14	2.05	3.63	53	59
	Melfort	.02	3.18	3.89	52	59
	North Battleford	.42	4.34	4.05	54	61
9B	Rabbit Lake	1.08	3.13	3.91	51	59
	Prince Albert	.08	3.04	4.11	52	60
9B	Waseca	.16	2.50	4.11	52	58
	Island Falls	.06	6.57	3.94	52	58
SASKATCHEWAN AVERAGE		.44	3.26	4.32	52.7	59.1
ALBERTA						
1	Taber	.66	4.73	4.15	54	60
	Foremost	.98	3.76	5.87	54	64
	Winnifred	.54	3.58	4.09	N.R.	N.R.
	Medicine Hat	.61	3.96	3.95	55	61
	Manyberries	.48	2.46	4.26	54	62
2	Cowley	1.14	4.49	5.55	48	56
	Macleod	1.28	5.72	4.43	55	62
	Cardston	1.38	5.18	7.34	50	60
3	Lethbridge	1.20	6.76	4.74	53	60
	Vauxhall	N.R.	3.17 2/	3.73	N.R.	61
	Brooks	1.18	3.34	3.85	54	62
	Empress	.48	2.90	4.21	55	63

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Crop District and Province	Station	Precipitation			Temperature	
		Week ending 8 a.m. June 20, 1949	Total since April 1	Normal since April 1	Week ending 8 a.m. June 20	
					Mean	Normal
ALBERTA						
4	High River	1.72	4.41	5.94	48	56
	Vulcan	1.80	4.04 2/	4.69	N.R.	N.R.
5	Drumheller	.21	1.37	4.70	54	61
	Hanna	.24	1.18 2/	5.08	55	61
	Naco	.02	1.66 2/	4.70	51	60
6	Olds	.22	1.74	5.16	50	55
	Calgary	.39	1.10	5.16	52	57
	Three Hills	.42	2.12	4.40	52	55
	Strathmore	.30	.46 2/	4.78	52	56
	Gleichen	.62	2.16 2/	4.18	51	57
	Sedgewick	.06	.66	3.89	52	57
	Hardisty	.14	1.24 2/	3.67	N.R.	N.R.
	Coronation	.22	1.89	3.85	51	58
	Hughenden	.08	1.99	4.11	52	61
8	Red Deer	.22	2.36	5.98	48	56
	Lacombe	.35	1.82	4.99	52	57
	Wetaskiwin	.04	1.14	4.51	52	57
	Camrose	Nil	1.16	4.52	54	56
	Stettler	.14	.77	5.43	55	56
9	Jasper	.49	2.05	2.52	48	54
	Rocky Mountain House	.36	2.13	5.42	50	54
	Springdale	.14	1.31 2/	5.62	51	54
10	Vegreville	.08	.92 2/	5.08	53	57
	Vermilion	.10	1.94	4.44	51	57
	Lloydminster	.06	1.64	3.69	53	57
11	Edmonton	.01	1.61	4.50	54	57
12	Whitecourt	.14	1.90	4.66	49	57
	Edson	.12	2.67	4.18	50	56
13	Elk Point	.22	2.24	4.05	50	56
14	Campsie	N.R.	2.52 2/	4.54	N.R.	57
	Athabaska	.36	1.94 2/	4.17	55	57
	Lac La Biche	.32	1.86	4.19	54	57
15	High Prairie	.26	2.93	3.94	50	56
	Wagner	.44	3.37	4.19	51	57
16	Beaverlodge	.08	2.97	3.54	50	56
	Grand Prairie	.05	2.73	4.14	50	57
	Fairview	.17	1.69	3.10	52	56
17	Fort St. John	.81	3.14	3.99	53	58
ALBERTA AVERAGE		.44	2.68	4.52	51.9	57.5

N.R. - No report.

1/ - Source: Meteorological Service of Canada.

2/ - Incomplete: not included in average.