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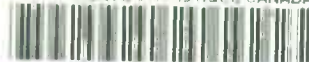
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C. R. No. 3, 1953

Price: \$2.00 for series of 23 Crop Reports

TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT

This is the first of the 1953 series of eight telegraphic reports, issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, covering crop conditions throughout Canada. Included in this report is the first of a series of fourteen telegraphic reports on crop conditions in the Prairie Provinces. A selected list of crop correspondents chosen from the Federal 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.

SUMMARY

In Prince Edward Island and western Nova Scotia the season is earlier than usual. In certain areas work on the land has started and some planting and seeding have already commenced. In Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island grasslands have wintered well and early pasture prospects are good. Orchard spraying is under way. Moisture conditions are satisfactory. In New Brunswick the spring has been wet, cold and late, retarding work on the land. Except for some early potatoes planted in April little seeding is reported to date. Some winter killing of legumes is apparent in the earlier areas and feared elsewhere, due to the mild, open winter.

Cool, wet weather during the month of April hampered spring work in most parts of Quebec. Some planting of vegetables is reported from the Montreal area and a few cereal crops have been seeded around Ste. Anne de la Pocatiere. Meadows and pastures are green in most sections and in general have suffered little winter killing. Livestock wintered well and forage supplies are still abundant.

Considerable seeding of spring grains has been done in central and southwestern Ontario, with planting practically completed on many farms. However, cool backward weather during April with frequent showers during the past two weeks has delayed seeding operations except on light or well-drained soils. Only a little seeding has been done in Eastern Ontario and practically none in Northern Ontario. There was relatively little winter killing of fall wheat, fall rye and hay crops in most counties although development of these crops during the past three weeks has been slow due to cool, wet weather. All sections of the province have ample moisture supplies and the main requirement for seeding progress, plant germination and growth is a prolonged period of warm, dry weather.

Seeding is well under way in southern areas of Manitoba and is expected to become general in most parts of the Prairie Provinces within the next week. With the exception of southern Manitoba and northern areas of

Alberta, surface moisture is quite satisfactory. Subsoil moisture supplies while adequate in many districts are well below the high levels of last year. Some soil drifting has occurred in certain sections of Manitoba but erosion has been generally at a minimum elsewhere. Winter crops are in good condition in most areas.

In British Columbia cloudy, cool weather during April with below average rainfall has retarded spring growth in the Lower Fraser Valley and on Vancouver Island. Hay crops are showing very good growth and ample pasture is available in all districts. Since May 1, higher temperatures have prevailed and delayed seeding operations are now progressing rapidly. In the central interior sections the weather has remained cool and backward. In the Prince George, Vanderhoof and McBride areas it is still too wet for spring cultivation, although some farms are seeded south of Quesnel. In the Peace River District, although generally mild weather has prevailed, temperatures have been below normal and general seeding operations are not expected to get under way for about ten days. In the Kootenays most of April has been dry and night frosts quite heavy. During the last week of the month, rainfall has increased and night temperatures have moderated. Pastures have made a good start and seeding is now getting under way.

Maritime Provinces In Prince Edward Island the season is about ten days earlier than usual. Work on the land is not yet general but some potatoes, turnips and grain have been planted. Given favourable weather, farmers generally will be on the land in a week to ten days. Moisture conditions are satisfactory although the rainfall was below average for the first part of the year. Grasses and clover came through the winter in excellent condition.

In Nova Scotia seeding has started in the Annapolis Valley and the southwestern area but is not more than 10 per cent completed. Throughout the province clover and grasses have wintered well and hay and pasture prospects are good. In the eastern part of the province no seeding is as yet reported. Although some spring ploughing has been done in the Amherst district, the cold, wet weather of the last two weeks has retarded spring work on the land. Some beef cattle have been turned out to graze. Nova Scotia orchards came through the winter well but the fruit buds have been damaged by spring frosts. Spraying is in progress.

In New Brunswick the spring has been cold, wet and late. As a result little work has, as yet, been done on the land. However, some potatoes were planted in April at Grand Falls and at Hartland. Extensive winter killing of hay and pasture crops is reported in the lower Saint John River Valley. Elsewhere, in later crop areas, winter killing of these crops is feared due to the mild, open winter. Strawberry plantations wintered successfully.

Quebec In the St. Jean area April temperatures were slightly below normal but rainfall during the latter part of the month was very abundant. Little field work has been accomplished as yet except for planting late in March and early April of early potatoes, radishes and lettuce in the Sherrington and St. Michel regions. Growth is somewhat below normal for this time of year. In southwestern Quebec development of apple trees, however, is about one week earlier than in 1952 and abundant buds indicate a promising apple crop. Eastern tent caterpillars in about normal numbers are threatening in most orchards and spring canker worm in several. Damage to fruit trees by mice was very minor during the past winter. Due to frequent rains and cool weather there has been practically no seeding of cereals as yet in L'Assomption district. Pastures and meadows are growing slowly.

Southeast of Montreal in the Lennoxville area cold, wet weather has delayed spring work. Warm weather is now required to promote growth of pastures and meadows and to permit commencement of seeding operations. Meadows and pastures came through the winter in excellent condition. East of Quebec City at Ste. Anne de la Pocatiere small areas of cereal crops have been sown on light land. Seeding will be under way on heavy land in a few days. Winter killing of ladino meadows is estimated at 20 per cent but standard mixtures were not affected. Bees hibernated well. There is no evidence of winter killing damage by field mice on fruit trees.

At Normandin in the Lake St. John area soils have been drying well but no field work has been done as yet except on sandy land around Mistassini. It is expected that spring operations will be general next week. Meadows and pastures wintered well and growth is beginning. Warmer weather and rain would be welcome. Winter in the Gaspé Peninsula was very mild with little snow. Winter killing of clover in meadows and pastures was severe. Field work started on Monday, some fifteen days earlier than last year. Nights are still cold and frosty and no seeding has been done as yet.

Ontario. Wet, cool weather has retarded both seeding operations and plant growth throughout most of Ontario. Although seeding is practically completed on many farms in the central and southwestern parts of the province, little progress has been made in Eastern Ontario and practically none in Northern Ontario. Fall-sown cereals and hay crops appear to have come through the winter with relatively little loss but development has been slow due to adverse weather conditions.

In Simcoe County seeding was completed in mid-April on some farms with light soil but has not yet started on others. Although recurring rains during the past week have delayed seeding they have been helpful to winter wheat, meadows and pastures. All wintered-over crops appear promising. Normal acreages are being seeded to spring grains. In Wellington County crop prospects are generally good. Hay, pasture and wheat crops all appear to be in excellent condition. Rainfall has been adequate but has interfered lately with seeding operations, with only about 25 per cent of the crop sown to date. Flaxseed is the only crop for which a decrease in acreage is anticipated. Seeding of spring grains is about 75 per cent completed in Waterloo County. Cool, wet weather has slowed the growth of winter crops and necessitated reseeding of some spring-sown fields.

In Essex County in the extreme southwestern part of the province early potatoes, tobacco seed and early truck crops were planted at the usual time this spring but very little growth has taken place as a result of cold weather during the past three weeks. Tobacco seedlings are about one week behind normal development for this time of year. Oats are up and winter wheat and pastures are in fair condition. Wheat on Pelee Island has a good start and appears very promising. Fall wheat and hay crops wintered well in Essex County and early-seeded spring grain is making good growth. However, farming operations and some crop development have been delayed by the excessive cool, wet weather in April. Although the situation is not generally serious it will likely result in scattered and delayed harvest. Winter survival of corn borer appears to be about normal. Spring seeding in Norfolk County is nearly completed but cold, wet weather has delayed growth. Hay and pasture condition is good although development is late. Growth of fall wheat and fall rye has also been backward. No fruit blossoms have appeared and the season is generally ten days later than normal.

Fruit trees seem to have wintered well in the Niagara Peninsula, with early indications of a heavy bloom. Cool, wet weather during the latter part of April delayed fruit blossoming and favoured apple scab infection. Peach and plum blossoms are opening in the earliest parts of the Peninsula and apricots are in full bloom.

In the Eastern part of the province the weather has been cool and wet and little progress has been made with seeding. In Leeds County only the occasional field has been sown. Meadows and new seedings wintered well but there has been little growth. Pasture development has also been slow and very few cattle have been put out on grass. Some increase is expected in grain acreage and 25 to 30 farmers are expected to sow soybeans, practically a new crop for the area. Prospects for apples are above normal. In Dundas County weather has been very unsatisfactory insofar as both field work and plant growth are concerned. Practically no seeding has been done. Prospects for new seedings and old meadows are not too promising.

Very little spring work has been started in the northern part of the province. There, as in practically all the rest of the province moisture supplies are generally adequate, with the main requirement for both seeding progress and plant growth being a prolonged period of dry, warm weather.

Manitoba Seeding is fairly general in southern sections of Manitoba but will not be general elsewhere for a week or more. An acute shortage of soil moisture exists in much of southern Manitoba but conditions are more favourable in central and northern sections. Due to the dryness, soil drifting of summerfallows is showing up earlier. There is a noticeable tendency again this year to await wild oat growth before planting. The crop pattern would appear to be similar to that of last year with early indications pointing to less interest in flax and more in barley. Increases are expected for shelled corn, sunflowers and field peas. Sugar beet planting is well advanced with half of the more than twenty thousand contracted acres expected to be completed by the week end. Livestock have wintered satisfactorily but pastures are late due to cool, dry weather.

Seeding commenced on April 24 at Sprague in the southeast part of the province. Operations are now general and rain is urgently needed to promote growth. Moisture conditions within the next few weeks will be the determining factor whether a full crop will be seeded or not. Some soil drifting has occurred in the Dominion City—Ridgeville area. Grass growth has been slow. In the southwestern part of the province at Melita seeding is also in full swing. A good rain was received last week and there is now sufficient top moisture for germination but subsoil moisture is practically non-existent. Fall rye has wintered well and livestock are in good shape.

In the Portage la Prairie area seeding is now general but there will be a delay on some land because of weed growth. The surface moisture situation should be sufficient to promote a fair germination. Pastures are very poor. In the Brandon area seeding is also general with possibly 12 per cent of the wheat sown and 5 per cent of the coarse grains. Surface moisture is good but subsoil moisture conditions are only fair. On the western side of the province at Virden spring work has been general since the first of May. Farmers have intentionally held back seeding, however, because of unfavourable growing conditions.

A report from Teulon in the interlake area states that field work is just getting under way with some seeding of wheat started. Soil conditions are fairly good although somewhat dry in places. Pasture growth has not started due to lack of rain. At Arborg weather has been cool all spring and moisture

conditions are only fair. Seeding has just started but will be general at the end of the week.

In central and northern Manitoba soil moisture conditions are generally more satisfactory than in southern areas. In the Swan River area work on land is just commencing. Fall rye is above ground and seems to have wintered well. Live-stock are generally in good condition.

Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 29 per cent below normal as compared with 86 below normal a year ago. Mean temperature for the week ending May 4 was 0.4 degrees below normal in contrast to 20.3 degrees above normal a year ago.

Saskatchewan With the exception of scattered areas in southern and central Saskatchewan, little progress has been made with seeding operations. However, recent higher temperatures have helped dry the soil and seeding conditions are now favourable in most districts except in the northeastern part of the province and in some west-central districts. In these areas the land remains too wet to work and general seeding operations are not expected until mid-May. Rains last week greatly improved surface moisture supplies and, given a period of dry, warm weather, seeding progress should be rapid in most areas.

Although a start has been made on seeding in the southeastern part of the province progress has been delayed by frequent showers. In the district around Manor work on the land is just commencing. Moisture supplies in the district are fair and pastures have started to grow. Around Yellow Grass seeding is about 15 per cent completed. Moisture conditions in the area are ideal and overall conditions appear good, with warm weather assisting seed germination. In the district around Fillmore some seeding has begun but will not be general until the end of the week. Surface soil moisture supplies are good but there has been very little growth to date.

In the southwestern part of the province around Swift Current field work is becoming general. Wet weather has prevented seeding progress but has improved moisture supplies, with both surface and subsoil moisture above average. Fields are now in ideal condition for seeding and progress is expected to be rapid. Prospects are for a good growth of range grass. Around Gravelbourg moisture conditions are very good and seeding is expected to be in full swing in a day or two if good weather continues. At Eastend some cultivation has been started although no seeding has been done to date. The weather during April was quite cool and about two and a half inches of rain and three inches of snow fell during the month. Condition of the small acreage of winter wheat in the district appears good. Pastures have started to show green. Farther north, at Leader, seeding is expected to get under way this week. Fall rye came through the winter in good condition and is making satisfactory growth.

Around Willowbrook in the east-central part of the province no seeding has been done yet as a result of cold, wet weather. However, operations are expected to get under way almost immediately, providing the weather remains dry. Moisture conditions in the Rosetown area of west-central Saskatchewan are now excellent following two inches of rainfall received during the past few days. Seeding is expected to be general at the first of next week, with little change in acreages of the major cereals. Seeding is now generally under way in the area around Saskatoon having started the week of April 27 on medium and light soils and this week on heavy soils. Rains on April 30 and May 1 greatly improved soil moisture conditions which had been below normal. Seeding has commenced on

lighter soils around Scott and is expected to become general soon. Pastures and hay crops in the district are showing green, with unusually good early growth assured.

Work on the land is just beginning in the Tisdale-Somme district in the northeastern part of the province. Fields are drying satisfactorily and moisture conditions are fair. Seeding will not be general for another ten days. Wild oats are beginning to show green. In the Melfort district land should be ready for seeding at the beginning of next week providing warm weather continues. Moisture supplies are adequate for good germination but there has been little or no growth in pastures to date. No field work has been done to date in the district around Meota in the northwestern part of the province. Spring rainfall has been above average and dry, warm weather is needed to permit seeding progress.

Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 37 per cent above normal in contrast to 20 per cent below normal at this time last year. Mean temperature for the week ending May 4 was 1.9 degrees below normal, compared with 12.1 degrees above normal for the corresponding week a year ago.

Alberta Rain last week delayed spring work in all sections of Alberta. Seeding is expected to get under way this week in all regions except in the Eastern Irrigation District and in the foothills south of Calgary. Little spring run-off combined with good April rain have provided ideal moisture conditions for spring growth. Subsoil moisture supplies are good in the south and west, fair in east and north-central areas, and fair to poor in the Peace River District. Soil erosion has been at minimum levels. Winter crops and legumes appear to be in good condition. Due to cool weather, grass has made little growth until the last few days. Warm weather now will promote rapid development.

A report from the Lethbridge Experimental Farm states that no seeding of any account has been done south of Calgary. Continuation of present warm bright weather, however, will see operations well started before the end of this week. Preseeding cultivation is general throughout the area. Growth has started in range and hay lands. Following the cold, wet April, subsoil moisture conditions are generally good in fallow land and fairly good in stubble lands in the western part of the area. Around Cardston crop prospects are very good. The winter crops of wheat and rye are showing very favourable growth and pastures are very good also. Spring work has been delayed for the past two weeks by wet weather but seeding should now be general in a week's time. Seeding will be general at Claresholm by May 11. The weather was cold and wet through April and growth to date has been slow. Subsoil moisture supplies are good.

In the east-central part of the province at Hanna two inches of rain were received last week. Seeding is expected to commence by the end of this week. No work has been done on the land around Calgary but, with continued dry weather, operations are expected to start by this week-end. Surface and subsoil moisture supplies are good in that area. Very little seeding has been accomplished at Olds, due to snow and rain for the past week. Moisture supplies here are the best in years at this early date.

In the Stettler-Donalda sections, rain and snow during the past week have held up spring work. Moisture is in ample supply throughout central Alberta. Some seeding will be done at Donalda by the week-end and at Stettler operations should be general by the 11th which is two weeks later than last year. Pastures have been backward so far this year but livestock have come through the winter in good condition.

In west-central Alberta at Red Deer the season is also late and subsoil conditions are only fair. About one inch of rain was received last week, however. No grass growth has occurred to date and practically no work has been done on the land. Recent rains have improved conditions materially at Lacombe. Hay and pasture crops are fast starting growth. Seeding should be general this week. Wet weather has also delayed operations at Eckville but seeding should commence by the end of this week. **Moisture supplies are ample in this section.**

No work has been done on the land in the Edmonton area or at Athabaska, 100 miles north. The spring has been cold and backward and recently considerable rain has fallen. Seeding may start in about a week to ten days time given good drying weather. In the Peace River area, at Falher, some work has started on the land and seeding should commence this week. Moisture conditions are only fair around Falher.

A report from the Entomological Station at Lethbridge states that rusty grain beetle infestations have been prevalent in the southwest corner of the province since mid-December and that serious infestations may develop with the return of warm weather. Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 72 per cent above normal in contrast to 61 per cent below normal at the same time last year. The mean temperature for the week ending May 4 was 3.8 degrees below normal as compared with 1.3 degrees above normal a year ago.

British Columbia The Lower Fraser Valley and Vancouver Island have experienced generally cloudy, cool weather with precipitation below normal. Spring operations have been curtailed due to the cool, damp weather but since May 1, temperatures have been higher and seeding is now going forward rapidly. All field crops are reported to be in good condition. In the Saanichton area tree fruit bloom has been heavy although the set is not yet fully indicated. Strawberries are just coming into flower while tulip blossoming is at a peak this week. Fall planted cereal crops have wintered well.

At Agassiz in the Fraser Valley precipitation has been the heaviest for April since 1937 and dry, bright weather now is required. Meadows and pastures are in excellent condition. Early oats are growing well and early potatoes look promising. Soil moisture is satisfactory and pastures are excellent. In the Lower Okanagan the warm, dry weather has been favourable to most crops. In comparison to last year's production in the Summerland area prunes and apricots may be lighter, peaches indicate no increase, Bartlett pears are very heavy in bloom and Delicious apples show signs of a heavier crop.

In the Prince George area the ground is still wet and it is estimated that there will be no extensive seeding for at least a week. Grasses and clovers suffered very little damage from winter killing. In the Cariboo district recent rains have assured fair grass although moisture reserves are barely adequate. Cattle are all off feed lots and in pasture. Potato plantings are slightly below average with grain plantings rather indefinite as yet.

In the Peace River Block crops have wintered well, soil moisture reserves are reported to be good and spring seeding although barely started is only slightly behind normal for this area. Most of April has been very dry in the Kootenays with night frosts. During the last week of the month precipitation was heavy and night temperatures more moderate. Seeding is now getting under way and pastures are growing well.

Weekly Precipitation and Temperature in the Prairie Provinces^{1/}

Crop District and Province	Station	Precipitation			Temperature	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	Week ending 8 a.m.	
		8 a.m. May 4, 1953	since April 1	since April 1	May 4, 1953 Mean	Normal
MANITOBA						
1	Pierson	.60	.77	1.54	43	45
	Melita	.57	.76	1.39	45	45
	Waskada	.40	.92	1.09	44	45
	Deloraine	.38	.66	1.42	44	45
2	Boissevain	.86	1.44	1.73	42	45
	Kinette	.50	.83	1.69	44	45
3	Portage la Prairie	.04	.76	1.46	45	45
	Graysville	.34	.99	.99	42	45
	Morden	.65	1.48	1.43	46	46
	Altona	.65	2.19	1.41	45	45
	Morris	.18	1.31	1.28	44	46
	Roland	.39	1.10	1.23	45	46
	Emerson	.30	1.62	.59	45	46
4	Winnipeg	.28	1.61	1.52	45	46
6	Sprague	.03	.85	1.42	42	43
	Seven Sisters Falls	Trace	.60	.97	42	44
7	Virden	.15	.27	.87	45	45
	Reston	.50	.88	1.16	45	45
	Rivers	.24	.40	1.31	44	45
8	Brandon	.52	1.42	1.31	45	46
	Cypress River	.26	.56	1.15	44	45
9	Neepawa	.22	.42	1.30	44	45
	Plumas	.18	.97	1.33	45	45
10	Russell	.20	.25	1.08	45	43
	Birtle	.18	.35	1.14	44	42
11	Dauphin	.06	.38	.72	44	43
12	Gimli	.22	.94	1.20	43	43
13	Swan River	.06	.23	.89	45	40
	The Pas	.01	.29	.79	44	41
MANITOBA Average		.31	.87	1.22	44.1	44.5
SASKATCHEWAN						
1A	Estevan	.62	1.34	1.06	42	45
	Carlyle	.41	.79	1.58	40	43
	Oxbow	.67	.80	1.38	41	45
	Redvers	.83	1.01	1.15	42	43
	Willmar	N.R.	.34 2/	1.35	N.R.	N.R.
1B	Broadview	.37	1.01	1.11	41	44
	Moosomin	.43	.87	.82	43	44
2A	Yellow Grass	.92	1.27	1.14	41	44
	Weyburn	.53	1.08	1.26	42	45
	Midale	.62	1.33	1.38	41	45
2B	Moose Jaw	.99	1.30	.89	43	46
	Regina	.78	.93	.90	43	44
	Rowatt	.74	.87	.92	N.R.	44
	Qu'Appelle	1.04	1.04 2/	1.31	42	44
	Indian Head	.61	.76	1.05	42	45
	Wilcox	N.R.	.05 2/	1.02	N.R.	44
3AS	Assiniboia	1.67	2.07	.91	39	45
	Ormiston	1.22	1.80	.94	40	45
	Ceylon	.99	1.44	1.78	39	45

Weekly Precipitation and Temperature in the Prairie Provinces^{1/}

Crop District and Province	Station	Precipitation			Temperature	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	Week ending 8 a.m.	
		8 a.m.	since	since	May 4, 1953	
		May 4, 1953	April 1	April 1	Mean	Normal
SASKATCHEWAN (concluded)						
3AN	Chaplin	1.60	1.87	1.15	42	46
	Gravelbourg	1.47	1.88	.86	40	45
	Coderre	1.74	2.06	.82	40	45
3BS	Shaunavon	.98	1.75	.96	39	43
	Cadillac	1.56	2.56	1.29	40	43
	Aneroid	1.37	1.97	.96	39	44
3BN	Pennant	1.42	2.82	1.34	40	47
	Swift Current	1.00	1.76	.96	39	46
	Hughton	1.38	1.99	1.36	44	44
4A	Maple Creek	1.08	2.01	1.02	42	46
	Consul	1.19	2.13	1.11	39	44
4B	Roadene	1.90	3.22	1.36	40	44
5A	Leross	.33	.98	1.07	42	43
	Lipton	.54	.72	.87	44	43
	Yorkton	.26	.72	.82	43	43
5B	Bangor	.26	.66	.97	42	44
	Dafoe	.64	1.05	.71	42	40
	Foam Lake	.19	.72	.90	42	40
	Lintlaw	.19	1.15	.93	42	41
	Kamsack	.55	1.30	.81	44	41
	Pelly	.42	.42 2/	.86	N.R.	41
6A	Davidson	.81	1.43	.83	42	44
	Dilke	.63	.83	.84	N.R.	N.R.
	Imperial	1.08	1.23	.77	44	44
	Semans	.46	1.26	.69	42	43
	Strasbourg	.68	1.16	.77	42	43
	6B	Harris	1.47	1.50	.80	43
Outlook		1.05	1.40	.59	43	45
Saskatoon		.46	.84	.77	44	44
	Elbow	1.06	1.25	.61	43	45
	Tugaske	1.23	1.98	.59	43	45
	Dundurn	.52	.93	.97	43	44
7A	Eston	1.82	2.45	.94	42	44
	Kindersley	1.29	1.82	.84	40	43
	Rosetown	1.66	1.94	1.11	41	43
7B	Macklin	1.35	1.50	1.76	42	42
	Scott	1.42	1.62	1.08	42	44
	Biggar	1.40	1.85	.67	42	43
8A	Mistatim	.05	.48	.91	44	42
	Hudson Bay	.23	.99	.93	44	42
	8B	Humboldt	.50	.71	.77	43
Nelfort		.80	.91	.88	45	43
9A		North Battleford	.82	1.33	.71	44
	Rabbit Lake	.35	.35	.88	42	43
	Prince Albert	.15	.54	1.03	45	45
9B	Island Falls	.17	1.17	.90	42	38
	Waseca	1.77	1.77 2/	1.01	42	44
	SASKATCHEWAN Average		.89	1.37	1.00	41.9

N.R. No report. 1/Met. Service of Canada 2/ Incomplete: not included in average.