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CONDITION OF FIELD CROPS AT JUNE 30, 1953

Results of a survey of the condition of principal field crops at June 30 indicate that the numerical condition for all Canada of winter wheat, fall rye, flaxseed, mixed grains, potatoes and pasture was above that at the same date in 1952 while spring wheat, oats, barley and spring rye were rated below the June 30, 1952 levels. The condition of hay, rated at 96 per cent of average, was the same in both years. Condition figures at June 30 this year, both in relation to average and to those of last year, showed considerable variation, largely as a result of unusually wet weather over most of the Prairie Provinces and Ontario, and dry, cool weather in Quebec and the Maritime Provinces during much of the April-June period.

Condition figures for all crops with the exception of spring wheat for the Prairie Provinces are based on reports from the Bureau's crop correspondents who are asked to express their opinion of crop conditions at June 30 as a percentage of the average condition for that time of year. It should be pointed out that the all-Canada condition figure for each crop is an average of the provincial condition figures weighted by the estimated acreage of each crop in each province. It is important also to emphasize that condition figures do not necessarily reflect ultimate yields. Any deviations from normal in respect of weather factors, plant diseases or insect infestations between June 30 and harvest time may lead to outturns which may vary considerably from those apparently indicated by the June 30 condition figures. The first official forecast of production of Canada's 1953 crops, based on yields indicated at August 1, is scheduled for release on August 14.

With the exception of hay and pasture in the Maritime Provinces and Quebec, fall rye in Quebec and flaxseed in Ontario, condition ratings of all crops in Eastern Canada at June 30, 1953 either equalled or exceeded those at June 30 last year. Condition of hay and pasture in the Maritimes and Quebec was not only sharply below that of a year ago but was also below average, with the deficiencies most marked in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. Below-average condition of forage crops in the four eastern provinces is largely attributable to winter-killing and to cold weather and lack of rainfall during the growing season.

In Western Canada, on the other hand, above-average rainfall during and following the normal seeding season has resulted in a wide variation in condition both among different crops and for individual crops within a province. In those areas where seeding was finished and plants sufficiently established before heavy rains were received, condition of crops is generally good. In many districts, however, frequent rains prolonged seeding operations until mid-June or later, with a substantial proportion of the acreage intended for spring grains in the most seriously affected areas being diverted to summerfallow. Flooding, particularly in portions of south-central Saskatchewan and northern Manitoba, either caused complete abandonment of acreage intended for spring grains or virtually ruined crops already seeded. Little insect damage affecting condition

Note: Data for Newfoundland not available.

of crops prior to June 30 was recorded although scattered hail damage had occurred in Alberta and southern Saskatchewan. In many areas weeds were becoming a rather serious problem since it was practically impossible to carry out control measures at the proper time due to wet weather.

With the major exception of Manitoba, where all crops except barley and potatoes were rated above those of a year ago, the condition of practically all spring-sown crops in Western Canada was below that of June 30 last year. The only other exceptions were spring rye and flaxseed in Alberta and spring wheat in British Columbia which were rated one or two points higher than at June 30, 1952 and barley in British Columbia which was rated the same in both years.

Weather conditions which had adversely affected the seeding and development of spring crops in the Prairies had the opposite effect on fall rye, pasture and hay. Despite the fact that temperatures were below normal during much of the April-June period, development of fall rye, pasture and hay throughout the Prairies and British Columbia was excellent. With the exception of fall rye in British Columbia, condition figures for these crops not only exceed those of last year but are also well above average.

Spring wheat condition figures, based on an analysis of weather factors and expressed in terms of the long-time provincial wheat yields, were well above average in all three Prairie Provinces. Manitoba, with a wheat condition figure of 112, registered a substantial increase over the rating of 95 at June 30 in both 1952 and 1951. Saskatchewan's rating, at 125, was 5 points below last year's level but well above the 1951 figure of 106. In Alberta, the wheat condition figure was placed at 120, down slightly from the 1952 and 1951 levels of 125 and 123, respectively.

The weather summary and charts of condition of spring wheat in the Prairie Provinces by crop districts formerly published in the June 30 condition report have been omitted in this report. Readers wishing current information on precipitation and temperature data in the Prairie Provinces may find it in the Bureau's telegraphic crop reports, the latest of which was issued as Crop Report No. 12 on July 15, 1953. The extreme variation in plant development resulting from abnormally high rainfall and other weather factors has precluded the determination this year of reliable condition figures on a crop district basis and the charts ordinarily showing these ratings, therefore, have been omitted.

Numerical Condition  
of Field Crops  
at June 30, 1953

For all Canada, the condition of field crops at June 30, 1953, expressed in percentage of average, was reported as follows, with the figures for June 30, 1952 within brackets: Winter wheat 104 (91); spring wheat 122 (125); oats for grain 93 (95); barley 92 (98); fall rye 103 (94); spring rye 94 (101); mixed grains 90 (87); flaxseed 93 (90); potatoes 94 (92); tame hay 96 (96) and pasture 102 (97).

In the Prairie Provinces, the condition of the principal cereal crops at June 30, 1953, was reported as follows, with the figures for June 30, 1952 within brackets: Manitoba - Wheat 112 (95); oats for grain 88 (87); barley 84 (87); fall rye 100 (80); spring rye 91 (83); and flaxseed 92 (84). Saskatchewan - Wheat 125 (130); oats for grain 95 (105); barley 94 (104); fall rye 106 (98); spring rye 94 (104); and flaxseed 95 (99). Alberta - Wheat 120 (125); oats for grain 96 (101); barley 95 (101); fall rye 101 (89); spring rye 96 (94); and flaxseed 95 (94).



Condition of Field Crops at June 30, 1953 as Compared with June 30, 1952 and 1951

Province and Crop	June 30			Province and Crop	June 30		
	1951	1952	1953		1951	1952	1953
- per cent of average -				- per cent of average -			
<u>CANADA</u>				<u>QUEBEC</u>			
Winter wheat	93	91	104	Spring wheat	97	91	91
Spring wheat 1/	109	125	122	Oats for grain	100	88	94
Oats for grain	98	95	93	Barley	98	88	91
Barley	97	98	92	Fall rye	96	96	95
Fall rye	91	94	103	Mixed grains	101	90	92
Spring rye	97	101	94	Potatoes	100	92	95
Mixed grains	102	87	90	Tame hay 2/	106	105	88
Flaxseed	95	90	93	Pasture	107	105	91
Potatoes	97	92	94				
Tame hay 2/	106	96	96				
Pasture	107	97	102				
<u>PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND</u>				<u>ONTARIO</u>			
Spring wheat	91	96	98	Winter wheat	93	91	104
Oats for grain	96	94	100	Spring wheat	99	81	88
Barley	95	94	100	Oats for grain	102	81	88
Mixed grains	96	95	99	Barley	102	81	86
Potatoes	89	93	96	Fall rye	101	95	101
Tame hay 2/	98	106	82	Mixed grains	103	84	89
Pasture	107	108	89	Flaxseed	97	87	84
				Potatoes	99	88	94
				Tame hay 2/	111	85	101
				Pasture	111	86	104
<u>NOVA SCOTIA</u>				<u>MANITOBA</u>			
Spring wheat	94	78	86	Spring wheat 3/	95	95	112
Oats for grain	96	87	95	Oats for grain	94	87	88
Barley	94	85	95	Barley	96	87	84
Mixed grains	99	83	95	Fall rye	92	80	100
Potatoes	93	91	94	Spring rye	93	83	91
Tame hay 2/	111	110	97	Mixed grains	95	87	89
Pasture	107	107	98	Flaxseed	94	84	92
				Potatoes	96	92	87
				Tame hay 2/	92	66	106
				Pasture	90	71	109
<u>NEW BRUNSWICK</u>				<u>SASKATCHEWAN</u>			
Spring wheat	96	87	96	Spring wheat 3/	106	130	125
Oats for grain	100	85	96	Oats for grain	99	105	95
Barley	98	86	96	Barley	100	104	94
Mixed grains	98	85	96	Fall rye	87	98	106
Potatoes	94	86	93	Spring rye	97	104	94
Tame hay 2/	102	111	74	Mixed grains	97	102	95
Pasture	103	109	81	Flaxseed	97	99	95
				Potatoes	96	101	92
				Tame hay 2/	103	100	108
				Pasture	106	107	114



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Condition of Field Crops at June 30, 1953 as Compared with June 30, 1952 and 1951  
(concluded)

Province and Crop	June 30			Province and Crop	June 30		
	1951	1952	1953		1951	1952	1953
- per cent of average -				- per cent of average -			

ALBERTA

Spring wheat <sup>3/</sup>	123	125	120
Oats for grain	96	101	96
Barley	96	101	95
Fall rye	100	89	101
Spring rye	98	94	96
Mixed grains	97	99	94
Flaxseed	98	94	95
Potatoes	95	98	91
Tame hay <sup>2/</sup>	105	96	106
Pasture	112	102	111

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Spring wheat	87	99	100
Oats for grain	91	102	101
Barley	88	101	101
Fall rye	90	104	101
Mixed grains	90	101	100
Flaxseed	85	100	99
Potatoes	92	101	98
Tame hay <sup>2/</sup>	87	104	106
Pasture	88	105	111

<sup>1/</sup> Includes condition figures for Prairie Provinces based on an analysis of weather factors.

<sup>2/</sup> Including clover and alfalfa.

<sup>3/</sup> Condition figures based on weather factors.