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the Rt. Hon. C. D. Howe, Minister of Trade and Commerce



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PROGRESS OF SEEDING AT MAY 31, 1955

As a result of unfavourable weather conditions, particularly in the Prairie Provinces, only an estimated 77 per cent of the total acreage expected to be sown to spring wheat, oats, barley, flaxseed and mixed grains in Canada* was seeded by May 31. Seeding of these five crops, normally accounting for at least 95 per cent of the total spring-sown crop acreage in Canada, varied from only 63 per cent completed in Prince Edward Island to 99 per cent in Ontario. Although Ontario was the only province in which seeding was virtually completed, good progress had also been made in both British Columbia and Quebec where an estimated 89 per cent and 82 per cent, respectively, had been seeded. Seeding in the Prairie Provinces, which had been repeatedly delayed in some districts by excessive moisture and flooding, was estimated as 73 per cent completed in Manitoba, 77 per cent in Saskatchewan and 79 per cent in Alberta. Least progress had been made in the Maritimes where proportions seeded were estimated at 63 per cent for Prince Edward Island, 72 per cent for Nova Scotia and 74 per cent for New Brunswick.

Seeding of spring wheat, which usually accounts for slightly more than half the total acreage in the five crops, was estimated to have been 87 per cent completed by May 31. Percentages seeded in the Prairie Provinces, where almost all the spring wheat acreage is located, were estimated at 87 in each of Saskatchewan and Alberta and 90 in Manitoba.

Progress of seeding of coarse grains varied widely, with 90 per cent of the mixed grains, 74 per cent of the oats, and 57 per cent of the barley seeded by May 31. Seeding of flaxseed was least advanced, with only slightly more than half completed at the end of May.

Seeding progress varied widely not only among crops but also among provinces for the same crop. Estimated percentages of wheat seeded at May 31 varied from 60 in Nova Scotia to 100 in Ontario while those for oats ranged from 55 in Saskatchewan to 99 in Ontario; barley, from 54 in Prince Edward Island to 99 in Ontario; flaxseed, from 44 in Manitoba to 88 in British Columbia and Ontario; and mixed grains, from 55 in Saskatchewan to 99 in Ontario.

Estimates of the progress of seeding, as well as those of winter-killing, spring condition, and rates of seeding, are based on the May 31 survey of the Bureau's crop correspondents conducted in co-operation with provincial departments. This survey was formerly made at April 30 along with the acreage intentions survey. However, it was found that in some years little, if any, seeding had been done by April 30 and, if the season was particularly late, it was also difficult for correspondents to assess damage caused by winterkilling.

*Excluding Newfoundland for which data are not available.

Prepared in the Crops Section, Agriculture Division

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With the exception of winterkilling, no direct comparisons with previous years are available for estimates in this report. Average rates of seeding obtained from the survey are included in this report for the first time.

On a regional basis, least progress with seeding had been made in the Maritime Provinces. Seeding of oats, the major crop in those provinces, was estimated as 62 per cent completed in Prince Edward Island, 73 per cent in Nova Scotia and 74 per cent in New Brunswick. Percentages of other crops seeded in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, respectively, were estimated as follows: mixed grains, 65, 71 and 71; barley 54, 65 and 72; and spring wheat, 68, 60 and 79.

In Quebec, seeding progress at May 31 was fairly uniform for the various crops, with 83 per cent of the oats, 80 per cent of the mixed grains, 77 per cent of the barley and 74 per cent of the spring wheat estimated to have been sown. In Ontario, seeding of spring wheat, oats, barley and mixed grains was either completed or practically completed by the end of May. However, an estimated 12 per cent of the relatively small flaxseed acreage remained to be seeded in the province.

Seeding progress in the Prairie Provinces, by far the major factor in determining the all-Canada average, has been subject to numerous delays resulting from unusually large pre-seasonal moisture supplies and heavy precipitation in many districts this spring. As a result, seeding of wheat was still in progress at May 31, with an estimated 90 per cent completed in Manitoba and 87 per cent in each of Saskatchewan and Alberta. Wheat seeding was almost completed in southern Manitoba, south-central and western Saskatchewan, and in Alberta except for the Foothills area extending from Red Deer south to the border. Elsewhere, progress varied widely, with less than half being seeded in the Interlake region in Manitoba and in Crop District 2 in the extreme south-western part of Alberta. From 20 to 30 per cent of the wheat remained to be seeded along the west side of Lake Manitoba, in central and east-central districts of Saskatchewan and in most of the Foothills section of Alberta.

Seeding of coarse grains and flaxseed in the Prairies at the end of May was much less advanced than for wheat. Percentages of these grains seeded by May 31 in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, respectively, were estimated as follows: oats, 71, 55, 78; barley, 65, 57, 66; mixed grains, 65, 55, 70; and flaxseed, 44, 50, and 76. In general, the progress pattern was similar to that for wheat.

In British Columbia, an estimated 89 per cent of the seeding had been completed by May 31, with fairly uniform progress indicated throughout the province for all five grains. In the Peace River district, the major grain-growing area in the province, over 90 per cent of the wheat and oats and 85 per cent of the barley had been seeded by the end of the month.

Although seeding progress at May 31 this year was later than usual in many sections of the country, conditions since that date have been generally favourable for field work. With minor exceptions, it is expected that seeding will be practically completed by the end of this week.

Estimated Progress of Seeding at May 31, 1955

Province	Spring Wheat	Oats	Barley	Flax- seed	Mixed Grains	Total, Five Grains
- percentage completed -						
Prince Edward Island	68	62	54	-	65	63
Nova Scotia	60	73	65	-	71	72
New Brunswick	79	74	72	-	71	74
Quebec	74	83	77	-	80	82
Ontario	100	99	99	88	99	99
Manitoba	90	71	65	44	65	73
Saskatchewan	87	55	57	50	55	77
Alberta	87	78	66	76	70	79
British Columbia	91	90	85	88	81	89
CANADA	87	74	57	53	90	77

Condition of Winter Wheat, Fall Rye, Tame Hay and Pasture This year, for the first time at May 31, correspondents were asked to report the condition of winter wheat, fall rye and tame hay in their neighbourhood as being above average, average, or below average for that time of year. In Ontario, the major winter wheat producing area, 32 per cent of the correspondents reporting on the condition of winter wheat at the end of May indicated that the condition was above average, while 57 per cent reported average and 11 per cent below-average conditions.

Percentages of correspondents reporting the condition of tame hay, pasture and fall rye in each of the three condition categories as at May 31, 1955 are set out in the accompanying table. A relatively high proportion of correspondents reported condition as average or above-average for all three crops, with the major exception of British Columbia where almost half reported condition of both tame hay and pasture as below average.

Percentage of Correspondents Reporting Condition of Tame Hay, Pasture and Fall Rye as Above Average, Average and Below Average at May 31, 1955

Province	Tame Hay			Pasture			Fall Rye		
	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Above Average	Average	Below Average
P.E.I.	49	46	5	44	50	6	-	-	-
N.S.	17	71	12	20	60	20	-	-	-
N.B.	52	45	3	62	34	4	-	-	-
Que.	55	41	4	56	41	3	57	31	12
Ont.	30	53	17	36	53	11	27	68	5
Man.	38	56	6	45	50	5	34	59	7
Sask.	42	44	14	45	44	11	27	60	13
Alta.	20	57	23	25	53	22	18	67	15
B.C.	10	44	46	8	44	48	10	58	32



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Winterkilling of
Winter Wheat, Fall
Rye and Tame Hay

Relatively little damage to fall-sown crops and hay by winterkilling was reported by the Bureau's correspondents this year. In Ontario, where most of Canada's winter wheat is grown, it is estimated that 5 per cent of the area seeded in the fall of 1954 was winterkilled, compared with an estimated 4 per cent for the preceding year. Winterkilling of fall-sown rye by provinces, with the previous year's figures in brackets, is estimated as follows: Canada, 4 (7); Quebec, 4 (5); Ontario, 2 (2); Manitoba, 3 (6); Saskatchewan 4 (8); Alberta, 4 (7); and British Columbia, 3 (6).

During the winter of 1954-55 the following percentages of tame hay acreages are estimated to have been winterkilled, with the corresponding figures for the previous winter in brackets: Canada, 5 (5); Prince Edward Island, 3 (9); Nova Scotia, 3 (6); New Brunswick, 3 (7); Quebec, 4 (5); Ontario, 7 (4); Manitoba, 3 (3); Saskatchewan, 2 (2); Alberta, 4 (4); and British Columbia, 3 (8).

Average Rates
of Seeding

Average rates of seeding, as reported by crop correspondents for their own farms this year, are set out in the table below. With the exception of flaxseed, which is sown at an average

rate of 0.6 bushels per acre in all provinces, seeding rates for the various grains show some variation between regions. In general, seeding rates are heaviest in the Maritimes and lightest in the Prairie Provinces.

Average Rates of Seeding Reported by Crop Correspondents, 1955

Province	Spring Wheat	Oats	Barley	Spring Rye	Flax- seed
- bushels per acre -					
Prince Edward Island	2.0	3.6	2.2	*	*
Nova Scotia	1.8	3.2	2.2	*	*
New Brunswick	1.9	3.6	2.2	*	*
Quebec	1.9	3.0	2.0	*	*
Ontario	1.7	2.7	1.9	1.7	0.6
Manitoba	1.5	2.3	1.7	1.2	0.6
Saskatchewan	1.4	2.1	1.6	1.1	0.6
Alberta	1.4	2.3	1.7	1.1	0.6
British Columbia	1.6	2.9	1.9	*	0.6

* Area seeded too small to permit reliable estimates being made.