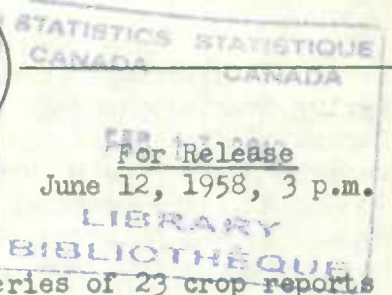


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PROGRESS OF SEEDING AT MAY 31, 1958

Winterkilling and Condition of Over-wintered Crops and Rates of Seeding

An estimated 94 per cent of the total Canadian <sup>1</sup>/ <sub>acreage</sub> expected to be sown to spring wheat, oats, barley, flaxseed and mixed grains were seeded by May 31. The percentage sown at this date is exactly the same as a year ago but considerably ahead of the 1956 season when 84 per cent was seeded. Spring came early to most parts of Canada this year and consequently full scale planting operations were under way somewhat earlier than a year ago. For instance, by May 15, this season some 64 per cent of the wheat was planted in the Prairie Provinces compared with 58 per cent a year ago and in contrast to 25 per cent planted at that date two years ago. Seeding progress was similarly advanced with other crops. During the last half of May the weather was generally favourable for seeding operations, although in many parts of the Prairies, especially in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, top soil became very dry and farmers delayed seeding of oats, barley and flaxseed to await more favourable conditions. Despite these intentional delays, some 95 per cent of the spring-sown grain in the Prairie Provinces was in the ground by May 31, compared with 94 per cent a year ago. In Eastern Canada at the same date seeding of the five major grains was 88 per cent completed compared with 91 per cent a year earlier. Delays, because of wet, cool weather were experienced in Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. In Prince Edward Island excellent progress was made during the latter part of May and by May 31, some 73 per cent of the crop was in the ground in contrast to 43 per cent a year earlier. About 96 per cent of the seeding was completed in Ontario compared with 97 per cent a year earlier. Some 93 per cent of the planting had been done in British Columbia by May 31, compared with 92 per cent a year ago. The percentages seeded by May 31 of the intended acreage for Canada for the five crops, with corresponding figures for 1957 in brackets, are as follows: spring wheat, 100 (99); oats, 92 (92); barley, 92 (88); flaxseed, 88 (81); mixed grains, 89 (91); and total for the five grains, 94 (94).

Hay and pasture lands generally came through the winter in good condition. Across Canada, an estimated 6 per cent of these crops were killed this past winter, the same percentage as the previous year, but dry weather during May in the Prairie Provinces and cool, dry weather in much of Ontario caused prospects to deteriorate quickly. In Quebec and the Maritime Provinces pastures are considerably better than a year earlier. Winterkilling of fall rye was light and the estimates for all Canada indicate that 5 per cent was killed, somewhat below a year earlier when some 8 per cent of the crop was killed. Average rates of seeding of spring grains show the usual variations between regions in Canada, but within regions they vary but slightly from the preceding year.

1/ Excluding Newfoundland for which data are not available.

Prepared in the Crops Section, Agriculture Division

Estimates of the progress of seeding, as well as those of winterkilling, spring condition and rates of seeding are based on the May 31 survey of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics' crop correspondents conducted in co-operation with provincial departments. This survey was formerly made at April 30 but in 1955 was moved ahead to May 31. The new date makes it possible for crop correspondents to better assess damage caused by winterkilling and if the season is particularly late it provides more valuable information on the progress of seeding.

Progress of Seeding at May 31 Throughout Canada 94 per cent of the five spring-sown grains which normally account for at least 95 per cent of the total spring-sown crop acreage was seeded by May 31. This is the same percentage as a year earlier but considerably ahead of two years ago when 84 per cent was sown. On a regional basis, in the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia seeding was 95 and 93 per cent completed, respectively. The west accounts for some 90 per cent of the intended acreage to be sown to the five crops. In eastern Canada, where about 10 per cent of the intended acreage of the five spring-sown grains is located, seeding progress is slightly behind a year ago. In Ontario, spring came early and seeding conditions were ideal in most areas. Although progress has been slower in the Maritimes and Quebec, good progress had been made by May 31. For eastern Canada as a whole seeding was 88 per cent complete on May 31 compared with 91 per cent a year earlier and 57 per cent two years ago. In the Peace River region of Alberta and British Columbia the long dry spring made it possible for farmers to take off the remains of last year's crop and by May 31 practically all this year's crop was planted.

Seeding proceeded throughout most of May across the Prairies and wet weather caused few if any delays. Because of the long planting season, however, many farmers intentionally delayed seeding to obtain a kill of wild oats. In addition farmers in many parts of Manitoba and Saskatchewan also delayed completion of seeding of coarse grains and flaxseed because of extremely dry top soil conditions. For the Prairie Provinces as a whole seeding of spring wheat was estimated to have been 100 per cent completed by May 31 compared with 99 per cent a year earlier. Seeding of oats was 94 per cent completed, barley 92 per cent, flaxseed 81 per cent completed, and mixed grains 89 per cent completed. In British Columbia, by May 31, seeding of all crops was virtually completed.

In eastern Canada some 63 per cent of the spring wheat, 87 per cent of the oats, 88 per cent of the barley, 85 per cent of the flaxseed, and 92 per cent of the mixed grains had been sown by May 31. In Ontario where progress was better than the average for eastern Canada, the following percentages were sown by May 31: spring wheat, 81; oats, 95; barley, 94; flaxseed, 85; and mixed grains, 97. In Quebec by May 31, some 43 per cent of the spring wheat, 79 per cent of the oats, 72 per cent of the barley, and 76 per cent of the mixed grains had been seeded.

In the Maritimes seeding also progressed much faster than a year earlier. Combined percentages of spring wheat, oats, barley and mixed grains sown for Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, respectively, with 1957 comparisons in brackets were as follows: 73 (43); 52 (67); 75 (83).

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Estimated Progress of Seeding at May 31, 1957 and 1958

	Spring Wheat		Oats		Barley		Flaxseed		Mixed Grains		Total Five Grains	
	- percentage completed -											
	1957	1958	1957	1958	1957	1958	1957	1958	1957	1958	1957	1958
P.E.I.	55	70	43	73	38	63	-	-	43	74	43	73
N.S.	63	46	67	53	62	46	-	-	68	49	67	52
N.B.	82	65	83	77	82	68	-	-	79	57	83	75
Que.	80	43	89	79	82	72	-	-	86	76	88	78
Ont.	99	81	97	95	96	94	84	85	97	97	97	96
Man.	98	100	89	95	84	94	74	76	67	93	88	94
Sask.	99	100	94	95	91	95	92	79	94	91	96	97
Alta.	99	99	94	92	88	87	93	93	79	87	94	93
B.C.	97	97	95	95	86	87	92	95	77	95	92	93
Canada	99	100	92	92	88	92	88	81	89	91	94	94

Condition of Winter  
Wheat, Fall Rye,  
Tame Hay and Pasture

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, 16 per cent of the correspondents reported the winter wheat condition as above average, while 66 per cent reported average and 18 per cent reported 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, 1958 are set out in the accompanying table. A high proportion of the correspondents in all provinces, with the exceptions of Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia, reported conditions as average or below average with average condition predominating. In Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia above average conditions were reported most frequently for tame hay and pasture while in Manitoba and Saskatchewan below average conditions predominate.

Percentage of Correspondents Reporting Condition of Tame Hay, Pasture and Fall Rye as Above Average, Average and Below Average at May 31, 1958

Province	Tame Hay			Pasture			Fall Rye		
	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Above Average	Average	Below Average
P.E.I.	48	50	2	51	47	2	43	57	-
N.S.	59	40	1	55	45	-	22	69	9
N.B.	19	72	9	17	72	11	38	50	12
Que.	13	65	22	13	67	20	36	46	18
Ont.	4	32	64	5	32	63	14	65	21
Man.	-	8	92	-	8	92	1	43	56
Sask.	5	30	65	3	24	73	4	37	59
Alta.	9	47	44	10	50	40	12	60	28
B.C.	21	49	30	21	58	21	23	64	13



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Winterkilling of  
Winter Wheat, Fall  
Rye and Tame Hay

Relatively light damage to fall-sown crops and hay by winterkilling was reported by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics' 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 1957 was winterkilled compared with 4 per cent the previous year. Winterkilling of fall-sown rye is estimated as follows, with the previous year's figures in brackets: Canada, 5 (8); Quebec, 3 (5); Ontario, 3 (4); Manitoba, 8 (8); Saskatchewan, 5 (10); Alberta, 4 (6); and British Columbia, 2 (3).

During the winter of 1957-58 the following percentages of tame hay acreages are estimated to have been winterkilled with the corresponding figures for the previous winter in brackets: Canada, 6 (6); Prince Edward Island, 7 (10); Nova Scotia, 6 (5); New Brunswick, 7 (8); Quebec, 6 (7); Ontario, 7 (5); Manitoba, 8 (5); Saskatchewan, 4 (5); Alberta, 4 (6); and British Columbia, 4 (4).

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. Seeding rates for the various grains show some variation between regions with rates generally heaviest in the Maritimes and lightest in the Prairie Provinces.

Average Rates of Seeding Reported by Crop Correspondents, 1958

Province	Spring Wheat	Oats	Barley	Spring Rye	Flax- seed
- bushels per acre -					
Prince Edward Island	2.0	3.7	2.2	-	-
Nova Scotia .....	1.9	3.2	2.0	-	-
New Brunswick .....	2.1	3.4	2.4	-	-
Quebec .....	1.9	3.1	2.0	1.7	-
Ontario .....	1.7	2.4	1.7	1.5	0.6
Manitoba .....	1.5	2.3	1.6	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	2.8	1.9	1.5	0.5