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CROP REPORTING SERIES - 10

PROGRESS OF SEEDING AT MAY 31, 1960

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

An estimated 82 per cent of the total Canadian ^{1/} acreage expected to be sown to spring wheat, oats, barley, flaxseed and mixed grains was seeded by May 31. The percentage sown at this date is slightly lower than in the years 1959 and 1958 when 88 and 94 per cent, respectively, was seeded. Seeding in the Prairie Provinces, where the bulk of the spring grains are grown, was delayed by snow and frequent rain during late April and May. However, most farmers managed to plant a sizable portion of their crops in the few dry days spring offered and by May 15 this season some 41 per cent of the wheat was planted compared with 51 per cent a year ago and 64 per cent planted at that date two years ago. Seeding of other crops was also delayed by adverse weather, and by May 15 only 19 per cent of the oats and barley, 11 per cent of the flaxseed and 14 per cent of the mixed grains were planted.

During the last two weeks in May the weather improved enough for some 83 per cent of the spring-sown grain in the Prairie Provinces to be planted by May 31 compared with 88 per cent a year ago. In Eastern Canada at the same date seeding of the five major grains was 70 per cent completed compared with 93 per cent a year earlier. Delays because of wet weather, were experienced in New Brunswick, but better than average progress was made in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

In Quebec conditions were fair to satisfactory throughout most of May and by May 31, some 86 per cent of the crop was in the ground compared with 92 per cent a year earlier. Only about 60 per cent of the seeding was completed in Ontario in contrast with 96 per cent a year earlier. Some 88 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 major crops, with corresponding figures for 1959 in brackets, are as follows: spring wheat, 93 (95); oats, 74 (86); barley, 71 (80); flaxseed, 66 (70); mixed grains, 65 (82); and total for the five grains, 82 (88).

Hay lands generally came through the winter in very good condition. Across Canada, an estimated 5 per cent of these crops were killed this past winter, compared with 9 per cent for the previous year. Hay and pasture conditions at May 31, 1960 were considerably better throughout all Canada than a year earlier especially in the Maritimes. Winterkilling of fall rye was light and the estimates for all Canada indicate that only 4 per cent was killed, considerably below a year earlier when some 12 per cent of the crop was killed. In Ontario where most of the fall wheat is grown, winterkill was also light. For the province an estimated 6 per cent was killed this year compared with 38 per cent in 1959.

^{1/} Excluding Newfoundland for which data are not available.

Estimates of the progress of seeding, as well as those of winterkilling, spring conditions 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.

Progress of Seeding at May 31 Throughout Canada 82 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 compares with 88 per cent in 1959 and 94 per cent in 1958. On a regional basis, in the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia seeding was 83 and 88 per cent completed, respectively, compared with 88 per cent and 92 per cent in 1959. 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, except in Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia, was also behind that of a year ago. For Eastern Canada as a whole seeding was 70 per cent complete on May 31 compared with 93 per cent a year earlier and 88 per cent two years ago.

For the Prairie Provinces as a whole, seeding of spring wheat is estimated to have been 93 per cent completed by May 31 compared with 95 per cent a year earlier. Seeding of oats was 74 per cent completed, barley 72 per cent, flaxseed 66 per cent and mixed grains 69 per cent completed. In British Columbia, by May 31, the proportion of seeding completed varied from 82 per cent for flaxseed and barley to 96 per cent for spring wheat.

In Eastern Canada some 67 per cent of the spring wheat, 73 per cent of the oats, 59 per cent of the barley, 22 per cent of the flaxseed, and 64 per cent of the mixed grains had been sown by May 31. In Quebec where progress was better than the average for Eastern Canada, the following percentages were sown by May 31; spring wheat, 81; oats, 86; barley, 78; and mixed grains, 84. In Ontario by May 31 some 48 per cent of the spring wheat, 62 per cent of the oats, 54 per cent of the barley, 22 per cent of the flaxseed and 57 per cent of the mixed grains had been seeded.

In the Maritime Provinces seeding progressed faster than a year earlier with the exception of New Brunswick. Combined percentages of spring wheat, oats, barley and mixed grains sown for Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, respectively, with 1959 comparisons in brackets, were as follows: 89 (66), 87 (65), and 80 (84).

Estimated Progress of Seeding at May 31, 1959 and 1960

	Spring Wheat		Oats		Barley		Flaxseed		Mixed Grains		Total Five Grains	
	- percentage completed -											
	1959	1960	1959	1960	1959	1960	1959	1960	1959	1960	1959	1960
P.E.I.	76	94	66	89	50	88	-	-	66	88	66	89
N.S.	46	99	68	86	60	84	-	-	58	89	65	87
N.B.	94	88	84	80	72	83	-	-	82	80	84	80
Que.	88	81	93	86	90	78	-	-	89	84	92	86
Ont.	98	48	97	62	94	54	94	22	94	57	96	60
Man.	75	75	58	52	54	46	26	25	29	45	60	57
Sask.	99	95	92	76	91	76	85	77	88	75	96	88
Alta.	95	98	88	88	79	77	79	83	69	79	87	88
B.C.	98	96	93	89	86	82	87	82	85	87	92	88
Canada	95	93	86	74	80	71	70	66	82	65	88	82

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,

20 per cent of the correspondents reported the winter wheat condition as above average, while 65 per cent reported average and 15 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, 1960 are set out in the accompanying table. A high proportion of the correspondents in all provinces reported conditions as average. Few correspondents reported below average conditions.

Percentage of Correspondents reporting Condition of Tame Hay, Pasture and Fall Rye, as Above Average, Average and Below Average at May 31, 1960

Prov.	Tame Hay			Pasture			Fall Rye		
	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Above Average	Average	Below Average
P.E.I.	65	34	1	68	29	3	40	60	-
N.S.	62	37	1	54	43	3	29	64	7
N.B.	38	54	8	45	48	7	30	50	20
Que.	37	55	8	42	52	6	19	76	5
Ont.	58	37	5	63	34	3	29	63	8
Man.	23	66	11	24	66	10	16	67	17
Sask.	44	52	4	43	52	5	33	61	6
Alta.	22	65	13	21	65	14	22	71	7
B.C.	24	54	22	34	46	20	18	71	11

Winterkilling of
Winter Wheat, Fall
Rye and Tame Hay

Only light damage to fall-sown crops and clovers by winterkilling was reported by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics' correspondents this year. In Ontario it is estimated that 6 per cent of the wheat area seeded in the fall of 1959 was winterkilled compared

with 38 per cent the previous year. Winterkilling of fall-sown rye is estimated as follows, with the previous year's figures in brackets: Canada 4 (12); Quebec 2 (3); Ontario 3 (23); Manitoba 5 (6); Saskatchewan 4 (11); Alberta 5 (6); and British Columbia 5 (5).

During the winter of 1959-60 the following percentages of tame hay acreages, including grasses and legumes, are estimated to have been winterkilled with the corresponding figures for the previous winter in brackets: Canada 5 (9); Prince Edward Island 6 (34); Nova Scotia 3 (7); New Brunswick 8 (16); Quebec 5 (5); Ontario 6 (13); Manitoba 4 (4); Saskatchewan 2 (6); Alberta 5 (7); and British Columbia 6 (14).

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, 1960

Province	Spring Wheat	Oats	Barley	Spring Rye	Flax- seed
- bushels per acre -					
Prince Edward Is.	2.0	3.5	2.2	-	-
Nova Scotia	1.8	3.1	2.1	-	-
New Brunswick	2.0	3.4	2.1	-	-
Quebec	1.8	3.1	2.0	1.9	-
Ontario	1.4	2.4	1.7	1.6	0.5
Manitoba	1.5	2.3	1.6	1.1	0.6
Saskatchewan	1.4	2.1	1.6	1.2	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