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PROGRESS OF SEEDING AT MAY 31, 1961

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

An estimated 91 per cent of the combined total 1961 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 higher than that accomplished in 1960 when 82 per cent was completed and the 1955-59 average which totalled 87 per cent.

Seeding in the Prairie Provinces, where the bulk of the spring grains is grown, was somewhat delayed in the early part of May by cool unsettled weather, but by May 15 some 31 per cent of the five grains had been sown compared with 30 per cent a year earlier and the five-year average of 33 per cent. During the latter part of May, nearly ideal conditions existed and farmers had planted 93 per cent of their intended acreage by May 31. This was considerably more than the 83 per cent seeded by the same date in 1960 and the five-year average of 88 per cent.

In Ontario reasonably good seeding conditions were experienced this spring and 89 per cent of the five grains was in the ground by May 31. This is in sharp contrast to the late season in 1960 when only 60 per cent was seeded, but only slightly less than the five-year 1955-59 average of 91 per cent. However, the seeding situation this spring in Quebec was the opposite to that of Ontario and by May 31 only 60 per cent of the five grains had been sown compared with 86 per cent a year earlier and the five year average of 75 per cent. Delays were occasioned by continued cool, wet weather this season. This situation was much worse in the east where the Maritime Provinces experienced extremely bad seeding weather. In Prince Edward Island only 16 per cent of the five grains had been sown by May 31 compared with 89 per cent a year earlier and the five-year average of 56 per cent. Comparable figures for Nova Scotia are 32, 87, 55 and for New Brunswick 21, 80 and 72. Late reports indicate some improvement in the situation but this spring will be recorded as one of the worst ever experienced. At the other end of the country, British Columbia was favoured with good spring weather and seeding was generally ahead of normal. By May 31, some 95 per cent of the intended acreage of the five grains included in this report was in the ground, compared with 88 per cent a year ago and the five-year average of 92 per cent.

Estimates of progress of seeding, as well as those of winterkilling, spring conditions and rates of seeding are based on May 31 surveys of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics' crop correspondents conducted in co-operation with provincial departments.

Progress of Seeding at May 31 and May 15

The following two tables provide data for comparing the progress of seeding in 1960 and 1961 with the five-year 1955-59 average. The survey in its present form was first undertaken in 1955.

¹/ Excluding Newfoundland for which data are not available.

Estimated Progress of Seeding at May 31, 1961 with Comparisons

	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Canada
- percentage completed -										
<u>SPRING WHEAT</u>										
Av. 1955-1959	62	41	77	64	83	90	96	95	96	95
1960	94	99	88	81	48	75	95	98	96	93
1961	13	12	19	45	86	94	99	99	98	98
<u>OATS</u>										
Av. 1955-1959	57	57	73	76	91	77	83	89	94	84
1960	89	86	80	86	62	52	76	88	89	74
1961	15	32	22	61	88	83	91	91	96	84
<u>BARLEY</u>										
Av. 1955-1959	45	50	66	64	90	71	84	81	88	79
1960	88	84	83	78	54	46	76	77	82	71
1961	9	23	14	59	90	80	92	83	91	86
<u>FLAXSEED</u>										
Av. 1955-1959	-	-	-	-	77	54	80	87	92	76
1960	-	-	-	-	22	25	77	83	82	66
1961	-	-	-	-	65	64	87	88	94	80
<u>MIXED GRAINS</u>										
Av. 1955-1959	56	51	63	72	92	54	82	76	84	83
1960	88	89	80	84	57	45	75	79	87	65
1961	17	29	12	56	93	80	90	84	96	83
<u>TOTAL - FIVE GRAINS</u>										
Av. 1955-1959	56	55	72	75	91	77	91	89	92	87
1960	89	87	80	86	60	57	88	88	88	82
1961	16	32	21	60	89	84	96	92	95	91

Estimated Progress of Seeding at May 15, 1961 with Comparisons

	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Canada
- percentage completed -										
<u>SPRING WHEAT</u>										
Av. 1955-1959	6	5	20	34	59	43	44	45	57	44
1960	23	55	23	28	22	18	42	50	67	41
1961	1/	2	7	12	51	26	44	45	71	42
<u>OATS</u>										
Av. 1955-1959	7	16	18	36	66	23	21	24	45	30
1960	24	37	20	30	27	9	19	27	43	22
1961	1	9	4	17	45	15	23	23	52	24
<u>BARLEY</u>										
Av. 1955-1959	4	9	16	26	64	22	29	18	25	23
1960	12	36	18	23	24	9	24	19	37	19
1961	1/	5	3	11	47	14	25	16	41	20
<u>FLAXSEED</u>										
Av. 1955-1959	-	-	-	-	45	9	20	22	41	18
1960	-	-	-	-	8	3	10	19	51	11
1961	-	-	-	-	25	7	9	18	49	10
<u>MIXED GRAINS</u>										
Av. 1955-1959	6	13	15	31	63	16	19	16	42	45
1960	26	36	14	25	26	4	11	21	35	22
1961	4	7	3	14	45	14	14	17	38	30
<u>TOTAL - FIVE GRAINS</u>										
Av. 1955-1959	7	15	18	35	64	28	36	31	42	35
1960	25	37	20	29	27	12	34	33	47	30
1961	2	8	4	17	45	18	36	30	53	32

1/ Less than one per cent.

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 12 per cent of the correspondents reported the winter wheat condition as above average, while 60 per cent reported average and 28 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, 1961 are set out in the accompanying table.

Percentage of Correspondents reporting Condition of Tame Hay, Pasture and Fall Rye, as Above Average, Average and Below Average at May 31, 1961

Prov.	Tame Hay			Pasture			Fall Rye		
	Above	Average	Below	Above	Average	Below	Above	Average	Below
	Average		Average	Average		Average	Average		Average
P.E.I.	17	61	22	16	50	34	-	100	-
N.S.	11	59	30	10	52	38	8	73	19
N.B.	9	49	42	4	47	49	-	80	20
Que.	14	64	22	14	53	33	21	58	21
Ont.	13	58	29	12	56	32	10	72	18
Man.	1	35	64	-	30	70	4	68	28
Sask.	5	56	39	4	53	43	7	57	36
Alta.	15	65	20	13	59	28	14	65	21
B.C.	37	57	6	42	52	6	19	72	9

Winterkilling of
Winter Wheat, Fall
Rye and Tame Hay

Only moderate damage to fall-sown crops and clovers by winter-killing was reported by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics' correspondents this year. In Ontario it is estimated that 8 per cent of the wheat area seeded in the fall of 1960 was winterkilled compared with 6 per cent the previous year. Winterkilling of fall-sown rye is estimated as follows, with the previous year's figures in brackets: Canada 5 (4); Quebec, 1 (2); Ontario 3 (3); Manitoba 5 (5); Saskatchewan 7 (4); Alberta 5 (5); and British Columbia 2 (5).

During the winter of 1960-61 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 (5); Prince Edward Island 4 (6); Nova Scotia 4 (3); New Brunswick 5 (8); Quebec 7 (5); Ontario 4 (6); Manitoba 5 (4); Saskatchewan 3 (2); Alberta 3 (5); and British Columbia 3 (6).

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
1961

Province	Spring Wheat	Oats	Barley	Spring Rye	Flax- seed
- bushels per acre -					
Prince Edward Is.	2.1	3.6	2.2	1.3	-
Nova Scotia	1.5	3.2	2.2	1.4	-
New Brunswick	2.0	3.4	2.4	2.0	-
Quebec	1.7	3.1	1.9	1.7	-
Ontario	1.7	2.4	1.8	1.6	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	2.2	1.7	1.0	0.6
British Columbia	1.5	2.7	1.9	1.3	0.6



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Average Rate
of Seeding

between regions with rates generally recorded in the regions and in the
Provinces

Average Rate of Seeding

1961

Province	Spring Rate	Summer Rate	Autumn Rate	Winter Rate
Prince Edward Is.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1
Nova Scotia	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
New Brunswick	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Quebec	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7
Ontario	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7
Manitoba	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3
Saskatchewan	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
Alberta	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
British Columbia	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1