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PROGRESS OF SEEDING AT MAY 31, 1964

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

An estimated 93 per cent of the combined total 1964 acreage expected to be sown in Canada(1) to spring wheat, oats, barley, flaxseed and mixed grains was seeded by May 31. The percentage sown at this date is slightly higher than that accomplished in 1963 when 91 per cent was completed and ahead of the 1958-62 average of 88 per cent.

Seeding in the Prairie Provinces, where the bulk of the spring-sown grain is grown was 94 per cent completed by May 31, 1964 compared with 92 per cent a year earlier and the five-year average of 88 per cent. General rains in the early part of May retarded planting operations in nearly all sections of the Prairies and as a result operations were only 29 per cent completed by May 15 compared with 37 per cent at the same time in 1963 and the five year average of 36 per cent. The weather during the last two weeks of the month was generally windy and dry and with modern equipment farmers had little difficulty in practically completing planting operations. In contrast to a year ago, when seeding was delayed in large sections of southern and eastern

(1) Excluding Newfoundland for which annual data are not available. Only 121 acres were reported by the 1961 Census to have been seeded to the specified crops in that province.

Prepared in the Crops Section, Agriculture Division

Manitoba due to wet weather and flooded fields, progress was fairly uniform in all three provinces this season. Due to the continued dry weather in many sections in early June some farmers delayed completing operations while awaiting more favourable seed bed conditions.

Progress of seeding in Ontario was rapid and some 96 per cent of the five grains included in this report was in the ground by May 31, compared with 89 per cent a year ago and the recent five-year average of 87 per cent. Although progress of seeding in Quebec at 70 per cent completed was slightly ahead of last season's 68 per cent, this rate was behind the 1958-62 average of 77 per cent. Dates of planting in the Maritimes are generally somewhat behind those of the rest of Canada and by May 31 some 67 per cent of the five grains were in the ground which compares favourably with last season's 62 per cent and the recent average of 64 per cent. Some 86 per cent of the seeding had been completed in British Columbia by the end of May. This rate of progress was behind last season when 91 per cent was in the ground 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 progress of seeding in 1963 and 1964 with the five-year 1958-62 average. The survey in its present form was first undertaken in 1955.

Estimated Progress of Seeding with Comparisons at May 31 and 15, 1964

	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Canada
- percentage completed -										
<u>MAY 31, 1964</u>										
<u>Spring wheat</u>										
Average 1958-62	67	59	71	59	80	78	98	97	98	96
1963	63	87	74	45	81	87	100	98	99	98
1964	70	66	85	67	99	98	99	97	96	98
<u>Oats</u>										
Average 1958-62	60	64	68	78	87	65	88	88	93	82
1963	57	60	69	69	88	70	91	90	92	84
1964	58	76	77	70	96	93	92	85	89	88
<u>Barley</u>										
Average 1958-62	55	60	64	71	86	64	89	79	87	81
1963	57	50	69	55	88	69	91	83	81	84
1964	53	74	77	65	92	88	93	75	76	82
<u>Flaxseed</u>										
Average 1958-62	-	-	-	-	74	43	82	84	91	72
1963	-	-	-	29	75	54	87	80	98	69
1964	-	-	-	69	96	84	88	80	91	84
<u>Mixed Grains</u>										
Average 1958-62	63	62	62	73	88	47	85	78	91	79
1963	59	59	68	62	91	56	92	82	91	83
1964	59	76	78	66	98	92	92	77	91	89
<u>Total - Five Grains</u>										
Average 1958-62	61	64	67	77	87	67	94	89	92	88
1963	58	60	69	68	89	76	97	91	91	91
1964	58	76	77	70	96	94	98	88	86	93
<u>MAY 15, 1964</u>										
<u>Spring Wheat</u>										
Average 1958-62	11	14	18	26	53	32	50	49	64	48
1963	4	13	10	10	60	27	47	52	47	46
1964	9	21	19	34	76	25	39	32	47	36
<u>Oats</u>										
Average 1958-62	10	21	14	28	59	18	26	25	47	30
1963	4	8	9	15	61	15	25	27	34	28
1964	7	26	22	38	74	16	20	16	35	29
<u>Barley</u>										
Average 1958-62	5	16	13	22	63	20	33	19	30	25
1963	2	8	7	10	62	12	26	21	15	22
1964	6	19	15	30	73	13	22	10	17	15
<u>Flaxseed</u>										
Average 1958-62	-	-	-	-	47	7	15	20	46	14
1963	-	-	-	8	40	8	12	16	15	11
1964	-	-	-	36	51	11	9	10	30	11
<u>Mixed Grains</u>										
Average 1958-62	11	18	12	24	61	11	19	19	41	40
1963	2	9	6	11	64	10	24	21	36	40
1964	8	28	20	33	76	15	16	10	39	45
<u>Total - Five Grains</u>										
Average 1958-62	10	20	14	27	59	23	42	33	46	37
1963	3	9	9	15	62	19	42	37	32	37
1964	7	26	21	38	74	20	35	22	32	31

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

32 per cent of the correspondents reported the winter wheat condition as above average, while 60 per cent reported average and 8 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, 1964 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, 1964

Prov.	TAME HAY			PASTURE			FALL RYE		
	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Above Average	Average	Below Average
P.E.I.	44	51	5	37	54	9	17	83	-
N.S.	14	61	25	12	61	27	12	80	8
N.B.	14	73	13	14	71	15	-	86	14
Que.	17	65	18	19	64	17	18	82	-
Ont.	41	49	10	37	54	9	23	71	6
Man.	6	61	33	8	60	32	13	67	20
Sask.	11	70	19	13	66	21	14	65	21
Alta.	22	65	13	23	62	15	21	64	15
B.C.	11	46	43	10	50	40	11	71	18

Winterkilling of
Winter Wheat, Fall
Rye and Tame Hay

Only moderate damage to fall-sown crops and clovers by winterkilling was reported by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics' correspondents in most provinces this year. In Ontario it is estimated that 5 per cent of the wheat area

seeded in the fall of 1963 was winterkilled compared with 9 per cent the previous year. Some 20 per cent of the Alberta winter wheat acreage was reported as winterkilled or destroyed this spring because of streak mosaic, with some areas reporting very heavy losses due to the latter factor. Winterkilling of fall-sown rye is estimated as follows, with the previous year's figures in brackets: Canada, 7 (10); Quebec, 1 (2); Ontario, 3 (7); Manitoba, 6 (16); Saskatchewan, 10 (9); Alberta, 5 (9); and British Columbia, 4 (1).

During the winter of 1963-64 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, 7 (6); Prince Edward Island, 5 (10); Nova Scotia, 6 (7); New Brunswick, 7 (5); Quebec, 10 (5); Ontario, 7 (6); Manitoba, 5 (15); Saskatchewan, 3 (5); Alberta, 4 (5); and British Columbia, 4 (5).

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

1 9 6 4

Province	Spring Wheat	Oats	Barley	Spring Rye	Flaxseed
- bushels per acre -					
Prince Edward Island	2.0	3.5	2.2	-	-
Nova Scotia	1.9	3.0	2.0	-	-
New Brunswick	2.0	3.4	2.3	-	-
Quebec	1.4	3.0	1.9	1.5	0.8
Ontario	1.7	2.4	1.7	1.6	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	1.6	0.6

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