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PROGRESS OF SEEDING AT MAY 31, 1965

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

An estimated 81 per cent of the combined total 1965 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 considerably below that accomplished in 1964 when 93 per cent was completed and the 1959-63 average of 87 per cent.

Seeding in the Prairie Provinces where the bulk of the spring-sown grain is grown was 80 per cent completed by May 31, 1965, compared with 94 per cent a year earlier and the five-year average of 88 per cent. Above normal rainfall in most areas in May and below normal temperatures retarded planting operations in nearly all sections of the prairies, and by mid-month operations were only 25 per cent completed compared with 29 per cent a year earlier and the five-year average of 34 per cent. Conditions were not particularly favourable for completing operations during the first ten days in June, but a period of warm dry weather since then has allowed farmers to make rapid progress with the remainder of the seeding.

(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

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Relatively, wheat seeding in the Prairie Provinces experienced less delay than feed grains and oilseeds. Some 90 per cent of the wheat was in the ground by May 31 compared with 98 per cent a year earlier and the five-year average of 95 per cent. In contrast, only 66 per cent of the oats and 63 per cent of the barley acreage in the Prairie Provinces had been seeded compared with 90 per cent and 82 per cent respectively a year earlier and the five-year average of 81 per cent and 78 per cent. Only 54 per cent of the flax was seeded by May 31 compared with 84 per cent by the same date in 1964 when planting proceeded quickly and the five-year average of 69 per cent.

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, the same percentage as a year ago and well ahead of the recent five-year average of 86 per cent. Progress of seeding in Quebec at 63 per cent completed was behind last season's 70 per cent and the 1959-63 average of 75 per cent. Dates of planting in the Maritimes are normally somewhat behind those of the rest of Canada, but by May 31 some 75 per cent of the five grains were in the ground. However, this compares favourably with last season's 67 per cent and the recent five-year average of 62 per cent. Some 81 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 86 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.

Estimated Progress of Seeding with Comparisons at May 31 and 15, 1965

	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Canada
- percentage completed -										
					<u>MAY 31, 1965</u>					
<u>Spring wheat</u>										
Average 1959-63	65	69	73	61	80	76	98	97	98	95
1964	70	66	85	67	99	98	99	97	96	98
1965	82	72	85	35	95	74	92	93	92	90
<u>Oats</u>										
Average 1959-63	57	66	66	76	86	60	88	88	93	81
1964	58	76	77	70	96	93	92	85	89	88
1965	74	77	75	65	96	56	72	68	81	71
<u>Barley</u>										
Average 1959-63	55	59	64	68	84	56	87	78	85	78
1964	53	74	77	65	92	88	93	75	76	82
1965	66	75	78	51	95	52	71	60	70	63
<u>Flaxseed</u>										
Average 1959-63	-	-	-	-	72	38	83	82	90	69
1964	-	-	-	69	96	84	88	80	91	84
1965	-	-	-	31	75	41	59	82	65	53
<u>Mixed Grains</u>										
Average 1959-63	60	64	65	71	86	43	86	78	90	78
1964	59	76	78	66	98	92	92	77	91	89
1965	76	77	78	57	97	54	58	61	82	78
<u>Total - Five Grains</u>										
Average 1959-63	58	65	66	75	86	63	95	89	92	87
1964	58	76	77	70	96	94	98	88	86	93
1965	74	77	76	63	96	61	87	78	81	81
					<u>MAY 15, 1965</u>					
<u>Spring Wheat</u>										
Average 1959-63	9	17	15	23	54	24	47	48	59	45
1964	9	21	19	34	76	25	39	32	47	36
1965	10	20	25	16	65	22	32	33	41	31
<u>Oats</u>										
Average 1959-63	9	19	13	25	56	13	25	25	44	27
1964	7	26	22	38	74	16	20	16	35	29
1965	11	22	18	22	66	14	16	14	29	24
<u>Barley</u>										
Average 1959-63	2	16	10	20	59	12	28	18	27	22
1964	6	19	15	30	73	13	22	10	17	15
1965	6	21	16	14	54	12	19	12	12	15
<u>Flaxseed</u>										
Average 1959-63	-	-	-	-	43	5	11	17	45	11
1964	-	-	-	36	51	11	9	10	30	11
1965	-	-	-	13	40	9	5	13	13	9
<u>Mixed Grains</u>										
Average 1959-63	9	19	10	22	60	7	20	19	38	38
1964	8	28	20	33	76	15	16	10	39	45
1965	10	23	16	18	55	14	13	10	44	33
<u>Total - Five Grains</u>										
Average 1959-63	9	19	13	25	57	16	40	33	43	35
1964	7	26	21	38	74	20	35	22	32	31
1965	10	22	18	21	62	17	28	22	28	26

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 2 per cent of the correspondents reported the winter wheat condition as above average, while 38 per cent reported average and 60 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, 1965 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, 1965

Prov.	TAME HAY			PASTURE			FALL RYE		
	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Above Average	Average	Below Average
P.E.I.	12	58	30	10	55	35	29	71	-
N.S.	5	41	54	4	40	56	4	70	26
N.B.	8	68	24	9	64	27	-	80	20
Que.	6	51	43	6	50	44	18	53	29
Ont.	9	54	37	10	58	32	5	62	33
Man.	16	59	25	15	58	27	10	68	22
Sask.	41	48	11	43	46	11	27	61	12
Alta.	33	56	11	36	52	12	20	58	22
B.C.	11	54	35	12	57	31	7	66	27

Winterkilling of
Winter Wheat, Fall
Rye and Tame Hay

Relatively heavy 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 26 per cent of the wheat area seeded in the fall of 1964 was winterkilled compared with 5 per cent the previous year. Revised reports indicate that 492,000 acres were seeded to this crop in the fall of 1964 and only 362,000 survived the winter. Heavy winterkill is also reported in winter wheat fields in Alberta. Winterkilling of fall-sown rye is estimated as follows, with the previous year's figures in brackets: Canada, 9 (7); Quebec, 10 (1); Ontario, 6 (3); Manitoba, 8 (6); Saskatchewan, 8 (10); Alberta, 13 (5); and British Columbia, 5 (4).

During the winter of 1964-65 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, 11 (7); Prince Edward Island, 5 (5); Nova Scotia, 6 (6); New Brunswick, 6 (7); Quebec, 19 (10); Ontario, 15 (7); Manitoba, 5 (5); Saskatchewan, 5 (3); Alberta, 5 (4); and British Columbia, 7 (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

1 9 6 5

Province	Spring Wheat	Oats	Barley	Spring Rye	Flaxseed
- bushels per acre -					
Prince Edward Island	2.0	3.5	2.1	-	-
Nova Scotia	2.0	2.9	2.0	-	-
New Brunswick	2.0	3.3	2.1	-	-
Quebec	1.6	2.8	2.1	1.5	0.6
Ontario	1.6	2.4	1.8	1.6	0.8
Manitoba	1.5	2.3	1.6	1.2	0.6
Saskatchewan	1.4	2.1	1.5	1.1	0.6
Alberta	1.4	2.3	1.7	1.0	0.6
British Columbia	1.6	2.9	2.0	1.5	0.8

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