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PROGRESS OF SEEDING AT MAY 31, 1967

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

Seeding of the five spring-sown grains in Canada was 81 per cent completed by May 31. Because of the lateness of the spring in many parts of Canada very little seeding had been done by May 15. However, improved weather conditions during the latter part of May and into June permitted rapid progress except in southwest Alberta, Quebec and much of the Maritime provinces. The per cent completed by May 31, 1967 was below the five-year average of 88 per cent and also behind the 90 per cent completed by the same date in 1966. In the Prairie Provinces where most of the spring-sown grain is grown, seeding was 82 per cent completed by May 31 compared with 90 per cent a year earlier and the five-year average of 88 per cent.

In the Prairie Provinces cold, wet weather during the first half of May delayed seeding operations in nearly all regions and by mid-month seeding was only 8 per cent completed compared with 27 per cent the previous year and the five-year average of 31 per cent. In Alberta successive late-season snowfalls seriously hampered field work, particularly in the southwest corner of the province but seeding operations in the central region and Peace River progressed rapidly from mid-May onwards. Improved seeding conditions in Saskatchewan resulted in general seeding activity in most areas by mid-May except on wet soils in the southwest and northeast regions of the province. The seeding of wheat was nearing completion in Saskatchewan at the end of May. In Manitoba field activity and some seeding by May 15 were confined to the southwestern part of the province. Excessive moisture and lower temperatures delayed the seeding of most crops particularly in the Eastern region, and in the Northwest. By May 20 however, seeding was general in most of the province and progress was rapid with the bulk of the grains being seeded by the end of May. The percentage sown at May 31 in Manitoba this year exceeds the 1966 figure.

(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.

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Seeding of the remaining acreages of wheat in Alberta and coarse grains in all three provinces was accomplished quickly in early June in the presence of drying weather. The bulk of the oilseeds and other crops are now in the ground and early-seeded grains are growing vigorously.

The percentage of wheat sown by May 31 in the Prairie Provinces was 92 per cent compared with 96 per cent last year and the five-year average of 95 per cent. Some 70 per cent of the oats and 60 per cent of the barley acreage has been seeded compared with 81 per cent and 80 per cent respectively the year earlier and the five-year average of 81 per cent and 77 per cent respectively. Some 54 per cent of the flax was seeded by May 31 compared with 64 per cent by the same date in 1966 and the five-year average of 69 per cent.

Unseasonably cool temperatures in much of Ontario and Quebec delayed field work and seeding of crops at mid-May was restricted to lighter soils in the southern part of both provinces. In Ontario spring seeding of the five grains by May 31 was 89 per cent completed compared with 94 per cent the year earlier and the recent five-year average of 93 per cent. Very little seeding was done in Quebec by mid-May and at May 31 the situation indicated 53 per cent of the five grains were sown compared with last season's 80 per cent and the 1961-65 average of 66 per cent. Spring seeding throughout the Maritime provinces was considerably later than normal on account of late snow, sodden fields and low temperatures and only small percentages of the grains were planted. At the end of May seeding was only 12 per cent completed in the Maritimes compared with last season's 80 per cent and the recent five-year average of 58 per cent. Warm, drying weather starting in June hastened seeding operations on heavier soils but most areas suffered a delay of up to three weeks. Given fine weather the bulk of the seeding is expected to be completed before June 20.

Below-normal temperatures at the beginning of May in the central interior and northern regions of British Columbia held up field operations but seeding of grains and vegetable crops was normal elsewhere in the province. At May 31, 78 per cent of the seeding was completed compared with 93 per cent in 1966 and the five-year average of 89 per cent. Variable weather conditions at mid-month slowed crop growth and caused further delays in the central interior. Towards the end of May seeding advanced rapidly over much of the province including the Peace River Block where the majority of the grain acreages was sown by May 31.

Estimated Progress of Seeding with Comparisons at May 31 and 15, 1967

	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Canada
- percentage completed -										
<u>MAY 31, 1967</u>										
<u>Spring wheat</u>										
Average 1961-65	63	68	70	43	90	81	98	96	96	95
1966	82	96	83	77	92	82	98	98	99	96
1967	1	6	38	34	81	89	96	80	96	92
<u>Oats</u>										
Average 1961-65	53	65	62	67	93	67	87	84	90	81
1966	78	85	81	80	94	63	86	88	94	83
1967	2	9	27	54	89	75	77	61	83	70
<u>Barley</u>										
Average 1961-65	57	63	64	56	93	64	87	74	79	77
1966	71	84	85	76	95	66	87	79	89	80
1967	3	8	18	41	91	75	76	48	61	61
<u>Flaxseed</u>										
Average 1961-65	—	—	—	—	82	53	82	82	93	69
1966	—	—	—	74	85	44	80	88	98	64
1967	—	—	—	26	76	55	64	39	71	54
<u>Mixed Grains</u>										
Average 1961-65	55	64	66	59	95	56	82	75	90	82
1966	81	86	84	77	95	52	81	81	94	85
1967	5	6	17	45	90	74	66	46	87	70
<u>Total - Five Grains</u>										
Average 1961-65	54	65	62	66	93	71	95	87	89	88
1966	78	86	82	80	94	69	96	90	93	90
1967	3	8	27	53	89	80	92	66	78	81
<u>MAY 15, 1967</u>										
<u>Spring Wheat</u>										
Average 1961-65	8	17	16	16	64	23	42	41	50	39
1966	11	42	19	29	50	9	35	44	60	34
1967	—	—	2	4	25	8	11	7	20	10
<u>Oats</u>										
Average 1961-65	6	18	12	22	64	14	23	20	39	27
1966	11	34	19	24	55	5	17	20	43	23
1967	1	1	5	7	32	5	5	3	23	9
<u>Barley</u>										
Average 1961-65	5	15	10	14	63	12	24	15	20	18
1966	7	32	24	19	56	6	21	15	23	17
1967	1	1	3	4	34	6	6	2	7	5
<u>Flaxseed</u>										
Average 1961-65	—	—	—	—	44	8	9	15	39	10
1966	—	—	—	20	27	3	7	16	39	7
1967	—	—	—	2	21	2	1	1	15	2
<u>Mixed Grains</u>										
Average 1961-65	6	18	12	17	65	11	18	15	40	39
1966	12	34	20	21	55	4	15	16	51	34
1967	1	—	4	5	32	3	4	2	49	17
<u>Total - Five Grains</u>										
Average 1961-65	6	18	12	21	64	17	36	28	37	32
1966	11	34	19	24	55	7	31	29	40	28
1967	1	—	4	7	32	6	10	5	16	9

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 6 per cent of the correspondents reported the winter wheat condition as above average, while 53 per cent reported average and 41 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, 1967 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, 1967

	TAME HAY			PASTURE			FALL RYE		
	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Above Average	Average	Below Average
P.E.I.	7	25	68	6	19	75	—	—	—
N.S.	6	21	73	5	16	79	—	—	—
N.B.	2	21	77	2	15	83	—	—	—
Que.	4	33	63	3	28	69	9	76	15
Ont.	2	36	62	2	33	65	5	65	30
Man.	4	62	34	3	55	42	5	66	29
Sask.	10	63	27	10	59	31	10	64	26
Alta.	18	50	32	19	50	31	27	54	19
B.C.	20	64	16	21	61	18	20	72	8

Winterkilling of Winter Wheat, Fall Rye and Tame Hay Considerably less 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 11 per cent of the wheat area seeded in the fall of 1966 was winterkilled compared with 5 per cent the previous year. Revised reports indicate that 460,000 acres were seeded to this crop in the fall of 1966 and 410,000 survived the winter. Light winterkill damage was 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, 5 (4); Quebec, 1 (3); Ontario, 8 (4); Manitoba, 7 (4); Saskatchewan, 5 (5); Alberta, 3 (4); and British Columbia, 2 (2).

During the winter of 1966-67 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 (9); Prince Edward Island, 5 (8); Nova Scotia, 5 (4); New Brunswick, 5 (5); Quebec, 8 (16); Ontario, 11 (12); Manitoba, 4 (4); Saskatchewan, 4 (3); Alberta, 6 (5); and British Columbia, 2 (3).

Seeding of Rapeseed

The percentage of rapeseed sown by May 15, 1967 in the Prairie Provinces was 2 per cent with some 45 per cent seeded by May 31. The percentages of the crop seeded by the end of May, by province, is as follows: Manitoba 66, Saskatchewan 49, and Alberta 37. A comparison of the seeding progress with other years is not available as this is the first year that seeding information on the rapeseed crop has been collected.

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

1967

Province	Spring Wheat	Oats	Barley	Spring Rye	Flaxseed	Rapeseed
- bushels per acre -						
Prince Edward Island	2.0	3.3	2.1	—	—	—
Nova Scotia	1.8	2.9	2.0	—	—	—
New Brunswick	1.9	3.4	2.2	—	—	—
Quebec	1.6	2.9	2.1	1.2	0.8	—
Ontario	1.7	2.5	1.9	1.8	0.6	—
Manitoba	1.4	2.3	1.5	1.1	0.7	0.2
Saskatchewan	1.3	2.0	1.5	1.1	0.6	0.1
Alberta	1.4	2.3	1.7	1.1	0.6	0.2
British Columbia	1.6	3.0	2.0	1.6	0.9	—

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