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PROGRESS OF SEEDING AT MAY 31, 1968

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

Seeding of the five spring sown grains in Canada was 92 per cent completed by May 31. Owing to the generally open spring slightly over 40 per cent of the seeding had been done by May 15. Cooler and generally variable soil moisture conditions in the different regions in Canada caused some seeding delays during the latter half of the month. However, warmer weather and timely rains coming at the end of May and early June got most crops off to a good start. The per cent of seeding completed by May 31, 1968 was above the five-year 1962-1966 average of 88 per cent and well above the 81 per cent completed by the same date in 1967. In the Prairie Provinces where the bulk of the spring grains are grown, seeding was 92 per cent completed at May 31 compared with 82 per cent a year ago and the five-year average of 88 per cent.

In the Prairie Provinces warm summer-like weather at the beginning of May advanced seeding operations in most southern and some central areas. Soil moisture levels in the region were generally adequate for germination with the exception of some dry areas in Saskatchewan and Alberta. At May 15 the seeding of the five spring-sown grains was some 41 per cent completed in contrast to 8 per cent last year and the five-year average of 30 per cent. As the month progressed, cool temperatures slowed growth and below normal soil moisture particularly in Southern Saskatchewan, but also in Central and Northern Alberta, delayed germination and early growth prospects. Towards the end of the month, as most of the seeding was nearing completion, timely rains improved the moisture situation in the drier areas providing a satisfactory start for all crops.

The percentages of wheat sown by May 31 in the Prairie Provinces was 97 per cent compared with 92 a year earlier and the five-year average of 95 per cent. Some 85 per cent of the oats and 82 per cent of the barley acreage had been seeded compared with 70 per cent and 60 per cent respectively last year and the five-year average of 79 per cent and 76 per cent respectively. The seeding of flax by May 31 was 71 per cent completed compared with 54 per cent at the same date last year and the five-year average of 64 per cent.

In Ontario excellent field conditions at the start of May allowed seeding operations to progress two to three weeks ahead of normal. However, cooler, wet

Note: Excluding Newfoundland for which annual data are not available.

Agriculture Division
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weather towards the end of the month delayed completion of seeding in some areas and generally retarded growth of emerged crops. Planting activity, nonetheless, was still ahead of normal. The seeding of the five spring grains by May 31 was 98 per cent completed compared with 89 per cent of the previous year and the 1962-66 average of 94 per cent. In Quebec below normal temperatures at the beginning of May had delayed seeding operations and slowed the growth in early-seeded crops. Although seeding progress and growth were most advanced in southern regions, the lack of rainfall up to the end of May had also retarded growth of crops. Seeding in Quebec at May 31 was 86 per cent completed compared with last year's 53 per cent and the five-year 1962-66 average of 69 per cent. In contrast to last year's prolonged delays, favourable spring conditions in 1968 throughout much of the Maritimes permitted seeding of crops two weeks ahead of normal. Although most crops got off to an early start, low temperatures at the end of May caused frost damage to some fruit and early emerged crops. End of May rains replenished soil moisture levels and improved growing conditions in most areas. Seeding at May 31 in the Maritime Provinces was some 87 per cent completed compared with last season's 12 per cent and the recent five-year average of 71 per cent.

Generally favourable weather conditions over much of British Columbia at seeding time allowed normal progress to be made in the planting of spring crops. Cooler temperatures, however, in the first half of May slowed plant growth and dry soil conditions particularly in the Peace River Block delayed germination of grains and flaxseed. At the end of May warmer weather accompanied by rains in many parts of the Province greatly improved growing conditions. At May 31, 93 per cent of the seeding was completed compared with 78 per cent in the spring of 1967 and the five-year average of 89 per cent.

Estimated Progress of Seeding with Comparisons at May 31 and 15, 1968

		P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Canada
		percentage completed									
		May 31, 1968									
<u>Spring wheat</u>											
Average	1962-66 ..	73	81	82	51	92	79	97	96	97	95
	1967	1	6	38	34	81	89	96	80	96	92
	1968	100	81	91	75	96	87	99	98	100	97
<u>Oats</u>											
Average	1962-66 ..	66	76	75	71	94	63	86	83	90	80
	1967	2	9	27	54	89	75	77	61	83	70
	1968	88	82	86	87	99	76	92	87	95	87
<u>Barley</u>											
Average	1962-66 ..	61	74	77	59	94	60	85	73	80	76
	1967	3	8	18	41	91	75	76	48	61	61
	1968	91	87	90	81	96	77	92	78	87	83
<u>Flaxseed</u>											
Average	1962-66 ..	—	—	—	—	84	49	78	81	94	65
	1967	—	—	—	26	76	55	64	39	71	54
	1968	—	—	—	42	89	59	89	87	88	71
<u>Mixed grains</u>											
Average	1962-66 ..	68	77	78	63	96	50	81	75	90	82
	1967	5	6	17	45	90	74	66	46	87	70
	1968	88	87	86	84	98	71	88	80	94	89
<u>Total — Five grains</u>											
Average	1962-66 ..	66	76	75	69	94	68	95	86	89	88
	1967	3	8	27	53	89	80	92	66	78	81
	1968	89	84	87	86	98	79	97	88	93	92
		May 15, 1968									
<u>Spring wheat</u>											
Average	1962-66 ..	9	25	18	20	64	20	40	41	50	38
	1967	—	—	2	4	25	8	11	7	20	10
	1968	41	33	41	34	67	34	55	50	59	51
<u>Oats</u>											
Average	1962-66 ..	8	23	15	23	66	12	22	20	37	26
	1967	1	1	5	7	32	5	5	23	23	9
	1968	29	28	34	39	75	21	30	23	44	32
<u>Barley</u>											
Average	1962-66 ..	6	22	15	16	64	10	23	15	18	18
	1967	1	1	3	4	34	6	6	2	7	5
	1968	35	32	39	32	80	24	35	20	25	27
<u>Flaxseed</u>											
Average	1962-66 ..	—	—	—	—	42	7	8	14	34	9
	1967	—	—	—	2	21	2	1	1	15	2
	1968	—	—	—	22	51	11	14	24	24	15
<u>Mixed grains</u>											
Average	1962-66 ..	7	23	15	18	67	9	18	15	43	40
	1967	1	—	4	5	32	3	4	2	49	17
	1968	26	32	27	36	79	16	27	18	60	48
<u>Total — Five grains</u>											
Average	1962-66 ..	8	23	15	23	66	14	35	28	35	31
	1967	1	—	4	7	32	6	10	5	16	9
	1968	29	30	34	38	77	27	50	33	40	42

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, 16 per cent of the correspondents reported the winter wheat condition as above average, while 72 per cent reported average and 12 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, 1968 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, 1968

	Tame hay			Pasture			Fall rye		
	Above average	Average	Below average	Above average	Average	Below average	Above average	Average	Below average
P.E.I.	32	61	7	28	63	9	—	—	—
N.S.	20	68	12	21	64	15	—	—	—
N.B.	16	72	12	23	62	15	—	—	—
Que.	12	65	23	12	64	24	22	64	14
Ont.	18	64	18	23	61	16	16	74	10
Man.	11	70	19	12	66	22	13	65	22
Sask.	6	62	32	6	58	36	6	67	27
Alta.	3	34	63	3	32	65	3	50	47
B.C.	15	65	20	18	63	19	12	82	6

Winterkilling of
Winter Wheat, Fall
Rye and Tame Hay

Considerably ^{more} ~~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 1967 was winterkilled, unchanged from the previous year. Revised reports indicate that 400,000 acres were seeded to this crop in the fall of 1967 and 355,000 survived the winter. Winterkill damage to winter wheat in Alberta is estimated at 13 per cent. Winterkilling of fall-sown rye is estimated as follows, with the previous year's figures in brackets: Canada, 8 (5); Quebec, 3 (1); Ontario, 8 (8); Manitoba 6 (7); Saskatchewan, 7 (5); Alberta, 12 (3); and British Columbia, 2 (2).

During the winter of 1967-68 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, 9 (7); Prince Edward Island, 6 (5); Nova Scotia, 6 (5); New Brunswick, 6 (5); Quebec, 11 (8); Ontario, 8 (11); Manitoba, 5 (4); Saskatchewan, 5 (4); Alberta, 10 (6); and British Columbia, 5 (2).

Seeding of
Rapeseed

The percentage of rapeseed sown in the Prairie Provinces by May 15 and May 31, 1968, respectively, with last year's percentages in brackets: 12 (2) and 74 (45). The percentages of the crop seeded by the end of May, by province, with last year's figures in brackets, are as follows: Manitoba, 71 (66); Saskatchewan, 78 (49) and Alberta, 70 (37).

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 per Acre Reported by Crop Correspondents

1968

Province	Spring wheat	Oats	Barley	Spring rye	Flaxseed	Rapeseed
			bushels			pounds
Prince Edward Island	1.9	3.5	2.2	—	—	—
Nova Scotia	2.0	3.0	2.1	—	—	—
New Brunswick	1.9	3.3	2.1	—	—	—
Quebec	1.6	2.9	1.9	1.2	0.7	—
Ontario	1.6	2.4	1.9	1.7	0.5	—
Manitoba	1.4	2.3	1.6	1.1	0.6	10
Saskatchewan	1.3	2.0	1.5	1.1	0.6	7
Alberta	1.4	2.2	1.7	1.0	0.6	8
British Columbia	1.6	2.9	1.9	1.6	0.5	—

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