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PROGRESS OF SEEDING AT MAY 31, 1969

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

The seeding of the five spring sown grains in Canada was 89 per cent completed by May 31. At May 15 seeding of the 5 spring grown grains was 29 per cent completed in contrast to 42 per cent last year and the 5-year average of 26 per cent. Generally favourable conditions during the last two weeks of May saw considerable progress. The per cent of seeding completed by May 31, 1969 was slightly above the 5-year 1963-67 average of 87 per cent but below the 92 per cent completed by the same date in 1968.

In the Prairie Provinces where the bulk of the spring grains are grown, seeding was 91 per cent completed at May 31 compared with 92 per cent a year ago and the 5-year average of 88 per cent. Most crops made a good start with soil moisture supplies adequate for germination and early development in most areas; the main exception was southeast Alberta. On the Prairies excess moisture from last fall prevented an early start on the land but as the month progressed precipitation was generally light and temperatures were above normal in Alberta but below normal in Saskatchewan and Manitoba. The percentage of wheat sown by May 31 in the Prairie Provinces was 97 per cent the same as that of a year earlier and slightly greater than the five-year average of 95 per cent. Some 84 per cent of the oats and 82 per cent of the barley acreage had been seeded compared with 85 per cent and 82 per cent respectively last year and the five-year average of 79 per cent and 73 per cent respectively. The seeding of flax by May 31 was 74 per cent completed compared with 71 per cent at the same date last year and the five-year average of 65 per cent.

In Ontario the late, wet spring delayed seeding operations and slower progress was made than last year and well behind the 5-year average. The seeding of the five spring grains by May 31 was 73 per cent completed compared with 98 per cent the previous year and the 1963-67 average of 93 per cent. Similarly in Quebec, backward weather in May greatly hampered seeding activity and as a result only 49 per cent was completed at May 31 in contrast to 86 per cent the previous season and the 5-year average of 67 per cent. In the Maritimes also the progress of seeding this year was markedly late compared with 1968 but was slightly above the 5-year average.

Generally favourable weather conditions over much of British Columbia at seeding time allowed normal progress to be made in the planting of spring crops. By May 31, 89 per cent of the seeding was completed compared with 93 per cent in the spring of 1968 and the 5-year average of 86 per cent.

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

Agriculture Division
Crops Section

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Estimated Progress of Seeding with Comparisons at May 31 and 15, 1969

		P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Canada
		percentage completed									
<u>Spring wheat</u>		<u>May 31, 1969</u>									
Average	1963-67	61	57	67	52	90	86	97	93	96	95
	1968	100	81	91	75	96	87	99	98	100	97
	1969	80	68	68	40	47	89	98	98	96	97
<u>Oats</u>											
Average	1963-67	55	63	67	68	93	72	84	79	88	80
	1968	88	82	86	87	99	76	92	87	95	87
	1969	65	56	58	50	74	75	88	86	91	79
<u>Barley</u>											
Average	1963-67	48	50	61	58	92	70	83	68	75	73
	1968	91	87	90	81	96	77	92	78	87	83
	1969	70	52	58	41	73	75	90	79	81	82
<u>Flaxseed</u>											
Average	1963-67	—	—	—	48	82	55	76	76	84	65
	1968	—	—	—	42	89	59	89	87	88	71
	1969	—	—	—	15	63	58	84	92	94	74
<u>Mixed grains</u>											
Average	1963-67	55	59	65	61	94	66	77	69	89	81
	1968	88	87	86	84	98	71	88	80	94	89
	1969	66	60	61	44	72	72	85	80	87	73
<u>Total — Five grains</u>											
Average	1963-67	55	61	67	67	93	76	94	82	86	87
	1968	89	84	87	86	98	79	97	88	93	92
	1969	66	57	59	49	73	78	96	88	89	89
<u>Spring wheat</u>		<u>May 15, 1969</u>									
Average	1963-67	7	17	13	18	58	18	32	33	42	31
	1968	41	33	41	34	67	34	55	50	59	51
	1969	5	18	12	6	13	18	37	46	53	37
<u>Oats</u>											
Average	1963-67	7	18	15	21	58	11	17	17	33	23
	1968	29	28	34	39	75	21	30	23	44	32
	1969	7	14	12	6	27	10	20	22	35	18
<u>Barley</u>											
Average	1963-67	5	14	12	15	51	9	18	12	15	14
	1968	35	32	39	32	80	24	35	20	25	27
	1969	9	14	12	4	26	12	27	22	20	22
<u>Flaxseed</u>											
Average	1963-67	—	—	—	18	37	6	7	12	23	8
	1968	—	—	—	22	51	11	14	24	24	15
	1969	—	—	—	2	9	5	7	24	38	10
<u>Mixed grains</u>											
Average	1963-67	6	18	13	18	56	9	15	12	44	33
	1968	26	32	27	36	79	16	27	18	60	48
	1969	9	16	12	6	26	10	17	15	41	19
<u>Total — Five grains</u>											
Average	1963-67	7	18	14	21	57	14	29	23	29	26
	1968	29	30	34	38	77	27	50	33	40	42
	1969	8	14	12	6	26	13	33	31	36	29

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 64 per cent reported average and 20 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, 1969 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, 1969

	Tame hay			Pasture			Fall rye		
	Above average	Average	Below average	Above average	Average	Below average	Above average	Average	Below average
P.E.I.	12	71	17	11	70	19	—	—	—
N.S.	9	72	19	11	69	20	—	—	—
N.B.	7	67	26	10	62	28	—	—	—
Que.	12	64	24	12	63	25	28	55	17
Ont.	25	59	16	22	61	17	13	76	11
Man.	10	73	17	12	68	20	21	67	12
Sask.	32	61	7	35	58	7	40	56	4
Alta.	21	67	12	23	64	13	31	63	6
B.C.	21	56	23	28	54	18	18	69	13

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 9 per cent of the wheat area seeded in the fall of 1968 was winterkilled, compared with 11 per cent the previous year. Revised reports indicate that 402,000 acres were seeded to this crop in the fall of 1968 and 365,000 survived the winter. Winterkill damage to winter wheat in Alberta is estimated at 3 per cent. Winterkilling of fall-sown rye is estimated as follows, with the previous year's figures in brackets: Canada, 4 (8); Quebec, 2 (3); Ontario, 10 (8); Manitoba 4 (6); Saskatchewan, 3 (7); Alberta, 2 (12); and British Columbia, 3 (2).

During the winter of 1968-69 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, 6 (9); Prince Edward Island, 5 (6); Nova Scotia, 4 (6); New Brunswick, 5 (6); Quebec, 6 (11); Ontario, 10 (8); Manitoba, 4 (5); Saskatchewan, 2 (5); Alberta, 3 (10); and British Columbia, 6 (5).



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Seeding of Rapeseed The percentage of rapeseed sown in the Prairie Provinces by May 15 and May 31, 1969, respectively, with last year's percentages in brackets: 11 (12) and 77 (74). The percentages of the crop seeded by the end of May, by province, with last year's figures in brackets, are as follows: Manitoba, 70 (71); Saskatchewan, 81 (78) and Alberta, 75 (70).

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

1969

Province	Spring wheat	Oats	Barley	Spring rye	Flaxseed	Rapeseed
	bushels				pounds	
Prince Edward Island	2.0	3.5	2.2	—	—	—
Nova Scotia	1.8	2.8	2.0	—	—	—
New Brunswick	1.8	3.2	2.0	—	—	—
Quebec	1.6	2.9	1.9	1.6	0.7	—
Ontario	1.6	2.3	1.8	1.5	1.0	—
Manitoba	1.4	2.3	1.6	1.2	0.7	10
Saskatchewan	1.3	2.1	1.5	1.1	0.6	7
Alberta	1.4	2.2	1.7	1.1	0.6	9
British Columbia	1.5	2.8	1.9	1.3	0.6	—