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PROGRESS OF SEEDING AT MAY 31, 1970

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

The seeding of the five spring sown grains in Canada was 64 per cent completed by May 31. At May 15 seeding of the 5 spring grown grains was 16 per cent completed in contrast to 29 per cent last year and the 5-year average of 27 per cent. Seeding was mainly delayed due to the cool, wet weather. The per cent of seeding completed by May 31, 1970 was significantly below the 5-year (1964-68) average of 87 per cent and the 89 per cent completed by the same date in 1969.

In the Prairie Provinces where the bulk of the spring grains are grown, seeding was 63 per cent completed at May 31 compared with 91 per cent a year ago and the 5-year average of 88 per cent. Seeding operations were delayed in the Prairie Provinces due to excessive precipitation in Manitoba and the eastern half of Saskatchewan. Soil moisture conditions were adequate in western Saskatchewan and much of Alberta from fall and winter precipitation, however, weather conditions during the last two weeks of May were dry enough to permit most of the seeding to be completed.

The percentage of wheat sown by May 31 in the Prairie Provinces was 70 per cent in contrast to 97 per cent a year earlier and the five-year average of 95 per cent. Some 56 per cent of the oats and 64 per cent of the barley acreage had been seeded compared with 84 per cent and 82 per cent last year and the five-year averages of 79 per cent and 74 per cent respectively. The seeding of flax by May 31 was 45 per cent completed compared with 74 per cent at the same date last year and the five-year average of 65 per cent.

In Ontario, early spring seeding was slow with cool, showery, weather retarding field work, particularly in the eastern areas of the province. Nevertheless seeding of the five spring grains by May 31 was 92 per cent completed compared with 73 per cent the previous year and the 1964-68 average of 95 per cent. In Quebec, unfavourable weather hampered seeding progress with 55 per cent of the five major grains having been sown by May 31 this year, considerably below the five-year average of 70 per cent but better than last year's 49 per cent. In the Maritimes seeding this year was delayed by backward weather conditions. By the end of May only 50 per cent of the five spring cereals had been sown in Prince Edward Island along with 56 per cent in Nova Scotia and 34 per cent in New Brunswick. These percentages are in contrast to last year's percentages, with the five-year averages in brackets, of 66 (61), 57 (66) and 59 (70) respectively.

In British Columbia seeding was started early but was later retarded by cool weather. At May 31 seeding was 87 per cent completed compared with 89 per cent at the same date in 1969 and the five-year average of 86 per cent.

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

Agriculture Division

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Crops Section

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Estimated Progress of Seeding with Comparisons at May 31 and 15, 1970

	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Canada
	percentage completed									
<u>Spring wheat</u>	<u>May 31, 1970</u>									
Average 1964-68	64	59	70	62	93	86	97	93	97	95
1969	80	68	68	40	47	89	98	98	96	97
1970	56	75	39	58	80	19	69	97	96	70
<u>Oats</u>										
Average 1964-68	61	67	70	71	95	73	83	78	88	80
1969	65	56	58	50	74	75	88	86	91	79
1970	48	53	34	55	87	11	56	83	88	59
<u>Barley</u>										
Average 1964-68	57	63	70	64	94	72	84	68	77	74
1969	70	52	58	41	73	75	90	79	81	82
1970	55	58	36	53	94	14	63	77	80	65
<u>Flaxseed</u>										
Average 1964-68	—	—	—	51	84	56	75	77	82	65
1969	—	—	—	15	63	58	84	92	94	74
1970	—	—	—	62	80	9	49	89	66	45
<u>Mixed grains</u>										
Average 1964-68	61	66	68	66	96	69	77	69	90	82
1969	66	60	61	44	72	72	85	80	87	73
1970	51	56	31	51	95	4	40	74	84	69
<u>Total — Five grains</u>										
Average 1964-68	61	66	70	70	95	77	94	82	86	87
1969	66	57	59	49	73	78	96	88	89	89
1970	50	56	34	55	92	13	65	85	87	64
<u>Spring wheat</u>	<u>May 15, 1970</u>									
Average 1964-68	11	23	18	26	59	20	34	33	45	32
1969	5	18	12	6	13	18	37	46	53	37
1970	11	31	2	15	57	1	12	39	68	16
<u>Oats</u>										
Average 1964-68	12	22	19	26	60	12	17	15	35	24
1969	7	14	12	6	27	10	20	22	35	18
1970	7	20	4	12	57	1	8	20	42	15
<u>Barley</u>										
Average 1964-68	12	21	22	20	60	13	21	12	17	16
1969	9	14	12	4	26	12	27	22	20	22
1970	10	20	5	12	69	1	11	18	27	15
<u>Flaxseed</u>										
Average 1964-68	—	—	—	20	37	7	7	13	24	9
1969	—	—	—	2	9	5	7	24	38	10
1970	—	—	—	14	60	1	2	20	31	6
<u>Mixed grains</u>										
Average 1964-68	12	24	17	23	59	10	16	11	49	35
1969	9	16	12	6	26	10	17	15	41	19
1970	8	22	6	10	69	1	8	12	46	36
<u>Total — Five grains</u>										
Average 1964-68	12	22	19	26	60	15	31	22	31	27
1969	8	14	12	6	26	13	33	31	36	29
1970	8	21	4	12	64	1	10	24	43	16

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, 37 per cent of the correspondents reported the winter wheat condition as above average, while 56 per cent reported average and 7 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, 1970 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, 1970

	Tame hay			Pasture			Fall rye		
	Above average	Average	Below average	Above average	Average	Below average	Above average	Average	Below average
P.E.I.	14	67	19	18	72	10	—	—	—
N.S.	16	70	14	17	68	15	—	—	—
N.B.	11	54	35	12	55	33	—	—	—
Que.	11	66	23	10	66	24	30	52	18
Ont.	25	70	5	26	63	11	40	54	6
Man.	4	43	53	4	38	58	6	62	32
Sask.	22	52	26	21	56	23	16	68	16
Alta.	9	65	26	9	58	33	18	63	19
B.C.	14	61	25	15	62	23	17	68	15

Winterkilling of Winter Wheat, Fall Rye and Tame Hay

In Ontario it is estimated that under 5 per cent of the wheat area seeded in the fall of 1969 was winterkilled, compared with 9 per cent the previous year. Revised reports indicate that 372,000 acres were seeded to this crop in the fall of 1969 and 355,000 survived the winter. Winterkill damage to winter wheat in Alberta is estimated at 4 per cent. Winterkilling of fall-sown rye is estimated as follows, with the previous year's figures in brackets: Canada, 4 (4); Quebec, 10 (2); Ontario, 6 (10); Manitoba 4 (4); Saskatchewan, 4 (3); Alberta, 3 (2); and British Columbia, 3 (3).

During the winter of 1969-70 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, 12 (5); Nova Scotia, 6 (4); New Brunswick, 12 (5); Quebec, 12 (6); Ontario, 8 (10); Manitoba, 4 (4); Saskatchewan, 3 (2); Alberta, 4 (3); and British Columbia, 3 (6).

Seeding of Rapeseed The percentage of rapeseed sown in the Prairie Provinces by May 15 and May 31, 1970, respectively, with last year's percentages in brackets: 5 (11) and 55 (77). The percentages of the crop seeded by the end of May, by province, with last year's figures in brackets, are as follows: Manitoba, 8 (70); Saskatchewan, 49 (81) and Alberta, 74 (75).

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

1970

Province	Spring wheat	Oats	Barley	Spring rye	Flaxseed	Rapeseed
		bushels				pounds
Prince Edward Island	2.0	3.5	2.2	—	—	—
Nova Scotia	1.9	3.1	2.1	—	—	—
New Brunswick	1.8	3.4	2.1	—	—	—
Quebec	1.6	2.9	1.9	1.5	0.8	—
Ontario	1.6	2.3	1.8	1.7	0.7	—
Manitoba	1.4	2.2	1.5	1.1	0.6	9
Saskatchewan	1.3	2.0	1.6	1.1	0.6	7
Alberta	1.4	2.1	1.6	1.1	0.6	8
British Columbia	1.5	2.9	1.9	1.3	0.5	—