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PROGRESS OF SEEDING AT MAY 31, 1973

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

Seeding of the five spring-sown grains in Canada was 85 per cent completed by May 31. At May 15 seeding of the five spring-sown grains was 26 per cent completed compared with 27 per cent last year and the five-year (1967-71) average of 26 per cent. The 85 per cent of seeding completed by May 31, 1973 was one per cent above the five-year average and the 84 per cent completed by the same date in 1972.

In the Prairie Provinces where the bulk of the spring grains are grown, seeding was 87 per cent completed at May 31 compared with 84 per cent a year ago and the five-year average of 84 per cent. The percentage of wheat sown by May 31 in the Prairie Provinces was 94 per cent compared with 92 per cent for both a year ago and the five-year average. Some 80 per cent of the oats and 79 per cent of the barley acreage had been seeded compared with 77 per cent and 76 per cent last year and the five-year averages of 76 per cent and 77 per cent respectively. The seeding of flax by May 31 was 73 per cent completed compared with 71 per cent at the same date last year and the five-year average of 62 per cent.

In Ontario progress with seeding was ahead of last season so that by May 15 seeding of spring wheat, oats, barley and mixed grains was 47 per cent completed compared with 45 per cent in 1972. However, wet weather delayed seeding during the second half of May and by May 31 seeding was only 78 per cent completed in contrast to 95 per cent the previous year and the 1967-71 average of 89 per cent. In Quebec, 49 per cent of the five major grains was sown by May 31 this year in contrast to the five-year average of 61 per cent and last year's 73 per cent. In the Maritimes seeding this year was 29 per cent completed by the end of May. Some 31 per cent of the four spring grains had been sown in Prince Edward Island along with 34 per cent in Nova Scotia and 22 per cent in New Brunswick. The comparable percentages for last year with the five-year averages in brackets were as follows: 36 (52), 31 (49) and 53 (54) respectively.

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

Agriculture Division
Crops Section

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In British Columbia at May 31 seeding was 90 per cent completed compared with 84 per cent at the same date in 1972 and the five-year average of 88 per cent.

Seeding of
Rapeseed

The percentage of rapeseed sown in the Prairie Provinces by May 15 and May 31, 1973, respectively, with last year's percentages in brackets: 13 (11) 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, 72 (66); Saskatchewan, 78 (80) and Alberta, 78 (70).

Estimated Progress of Seeding with Comparisons at May 31 and 15, 1973

		P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Canada
		percentage completed									
		May 31, 1973									
<u>Spring wheat</u>											
Average	1967-71 ..	53	54	57	59	79	80	94	93	97	92
	1972	38	39	58	78	96	81	93	95	92	92
	1973	37	55	24	58	N/A	88	94	97	99	94
<u>Oats</u>											
Average	1967-71 ..	51	47	54	62	88	65	79	81	90	76
	1972	35	30	55	73	91	71	79	78	85	77
	1973	31	31	25	49	79	78	79	83	90	77
<u>Barley</u>											
Average	1967-71 ..	57	50	55	57	90	66	84	74	80	77
	1972	39	32	47	69	96	72	84	71	76	77
	1973	38	34	19	47	80	78	81	77	83	78
<u>Flaxseed</u>											
Average	1967-71 ..	—	—	—	41	78	45	70	83	78	62
	1972	—	—	—	84	—	57	77	82	64	71
	1973	—	—	—	—	—	64	77	87	—	73
<u>Mixed grains</u>											
Average	1967-71 ..	52	52	50	59	90	59	71	73	89	78
	1972	37	30	44	75	97	73	82	72	76	83
	1973	28	29	12	46	77	77	83	78	84	74
<u>Total — Five grains</u>											
Average	1967-71 ..	52	49	54	61	89	68	90	83	88	84
	1972	36	31	53	73	95	74	89	81	84	84
	1973	31	34	22	49	78	81	89	85	90	85
		May 15, 1973									
<u>Spring wheat</u>											
Average	1967-71 ..	14	24	14	18	46	18	32	34	52	31
	1972	4	2	4	8	45	20	36	36	39	34
	1973	7	34	4	32	N/A	28	29	39	57	31
<u>Oats</u>											
Average	1967-71 ..	12	16	14	16	49	11	17	18	37	20
	1972	5	4	5	9	42	15	20	16	24	18
	1973	4	14	4	21	48	20	19	19	33	22
<u>Barley</u>											
Average	1967-71 ..	16	18	16	14	57	13	26	17	21	21
	1972	4	3	3	7	48	16	27	17	17	22
	1973	4	12	3	19	50	22	20	18	26	20
<u>Flaxseed</u>											
Average	1967-71 ..	—	—	—	11	32	5	6	19	23	8
	1972	—	—	—	6	—	5	10	20	4	10
	1973	—	—	—	—	—	8	7	21	—	9
<u>Mixed grains</u>											
Average	1967-71 ..	13	18	12	16	56	9	14	12	48	33
	1972	3	4	2	5	47	15	21	12	36	28
	1973	6	11	1	22	45	20	20	14	54	29
<u>Total — Five grains</u>											
Average	1967-71 ..	13	17	14	16	53	13	28	24	35	26
	1972	4	4	6	9	45	16	31	23	27	27
	1973	5	15	4	22	47	23	25	26	38	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, 12 per cent of the correspondents reported the winter wheat condition as above average, while 69 per cent reported average and 19 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, 1973 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, 1973.

	Tame hay			Pasture			Fall rye		
	Above average	Average	Below average	Above average	Average	Below average	Above average	Average	Below average
P.E.I. ...	25	62	13	25	61	14	—	—	—
N.S.	22	64	14	25	59	16	—	—	—
N.B.	28	52	20	28	55	17	—	—	—
Que.	12	64	24	15	61	24	19	61	20
Ont.	13	65	22	17	65	18	11	71	18
Man.	4	57	39	4	49	47	9	71	20
Sask. ...	21	64	15	18	65	17	18	68	14
Alta. ...	10	59	31	9	52	39	7	62	31
B.C.	17	55	28	19	57	24	17	72	11

Winterkilling of
Winter Wheat, Fall
Rye and Tame Hay

In Ontario it is estimated that 9 per cent of the wheat area seeded in the fall of 1972 was winterkilled, compared with 10 per cent the previous year. Latest reports indicate that 380,000 acres were seeded to this crop in the fall of 1972 and 346,000 survived the winter. Winterkill damage to winter wheat in Alberta is estimated at 6 per cent. Winterkilling of fall-sown rye is estimated as follows, with the previous year's figures in brackets: Canada, 5 (9); Quebec, 9 (41); Ontario, 4 (15); Manitoba, 6 (6); Saskatchewan, 6 (10); Alberta, 5 (6); and British Columbia, 3 (4).

During the winter of 1972-73 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, 8 (15); Prince Edward Island, 7 (20); Nova Scotia, 6 (11); New Brunswick, 5 (16); Quebec, 12 (35); Ontario, 11 (18); Manitoba, 7 (5); Saskatchewan, 4 (4); Alberta, 5 (4); and British Columbia, 8 (6).

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

1973

Province	Spring wheat	Oats	Barley	Spring rye	Flaxseed	Rapeseed
			bushels			pounds
Prince Edward Island	2.2	3.4	2.4	—	—	—
Nova Scotia	2.2	3.0	2.0	—	—	—
New Brunswick	1.9	3.3	2.1	—	—	—
Quebec	1.7	2.9	1.9	1.6	—	—
Ontario	2.0	2.5	1.9	1.8	—	—
Manitoba	1.4	2.3	1.6	1.2	0.7	7
Saskatchewan	1.3	2.0	1.5	1.1	0.6	7
Alberta	1.4	2.2	1.6	1.0	0.6	8
British Columbia	1.5	2.8	1.9	1.3	—	—

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