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Intended Acreage of Principal Field Crops in Canada,* 1953

On the basis of their intentions at April 30, Canadian farmers plan little or no change in 1953 from last year's seeded acreages of wheat, mixed grains and potatoes. Barley acreage is expected to set a record for the second successive year while decreases are indicated for the areas seeded to oats for grain, flaxseed and spring rye. Farmers in the Prairie Provinces indicate an increase of 3 per cent over 1952 in the area to be summerfallowed.

The combined acreage of spring and winter wheat in Canada for harvest in 1953 is placed at 25.9 million acres, virtually unchanged from 1952. Continued expansion of barley acreage is indicated, with the 1953 intended area, 8.8 million acres, surpassing last year's record 8.5 million by more than 4 per cent. Offsetting the indicated increase in barley acreage is an expected decrease of slightly more than 4 per cent in this year's acreage of oats for grain, anticipated seedings of which are placed at 10.6 million acres as against 11.1 million seeded in 1952. The combined acreage of fall and spring rye is indicated at 1.3 million acres, the same as in 1952, but intended flaxseed acreage, at 1.1 million acres, is 150,000 acres less than last year.

Basic data for the estimates of intended acreages in 1953, winter-killing and condition of fall-sown crops and tame hay, and progress of spring seeding as presented in this report were obtained from the annual April 30 survey of the Bureau's crop correspondents conducted in co-operation with provincial departments. It must be emphasized that intended acreages are merely indicative of farmers' plans at the end of April, and that acreages actually seeded, therefore, may vary considerably from the intentions figures, depending upon conditions affecting seeding subsequent to April 30. In view of the relatively small proportion of seeding completed by April 30 this year and the adverse seeding conditions existing throughout most of the country during the first half of May fairly substantial changes from original acreage intentions may occur. A preliminary estimate of the area sown to field crops in 1953, based on the Bureau's annual June 1 survey, is scheduled for release on July 29.

Wheat The indicated acreage in Canada for all wheat (spring and winter) for harvest in 1953 is placed at 25.9 million acres, a decrease of less than half of one per cent from the 1952 area. Intended spring wheat seedings at 25.2 million acres, are down slightly from last year's 25.3 million but this decline has been partially offset by the increased acreage seeded to winter wheat in Ontario last fall. Saskatchewan, with an indicated decrease of one per cent from the 1952 level of 16.4 million acres, is the only one of the Prairie Provinces where a measurable change from last year's wheat acreage is expected. In the rest of Canada, spring wheat acreages are expected to show slight declines in all provinces except Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Ontario's wheat acreage is placed at 750,000 acres (all but 35,000 of which is winter wheat), an increase of 9 per cent over 1952.

*Excluding Newfoundland for which annual estimates are not available.

Oats for Grain,
Barley and
Mixed Grains

Indicated decreases in the 1953 acreage seeded to oats for grain, increases in barley, and no change in mixed grains will result in a small net decrease in the total area seeded to the major feed grains in Canada this year. The area intended for oats for grain, at 10.6 million acres, is down slightly more than 4 per cent from last year, with decreases indicated in Quebec, Ontario and the three Prairie Provinces. The prospective barley acreage, at 8.8 million acres, is more than 4 per cent above last year's record 8.5 million. Expected increases of 200,000 acres in Alberta and 173,000 acres in Manitoba are the major factors in the indicated over-all increase in barley acreage this year. The acreage intended for mixed grains, grown principally in Ontario and Quebec, is placed at 1.6 million acres, the same as in 1952.

Rye The area intended for spring rye in 1953 is placed at 421,100 acres, some 16 per cent below last year's level of 499,600 acres. The indicated decrease in spring rye acreage, however, was offset by an increase in the area seeded to fall rye in 1952. The fall rye acreage, accounting for two-thirds of the total, is placed at 841,000 acres, an increase of 11 per cent over the area seeded in the fall of 1951. The indicated combined area of fall rye and spring rye, at 1.3 million acres, is practically unchanged from 1952.

Flaxseed Decreases in the area seeded to flaxseed in 1953, ranging from 2 per cent in British Columbia to 15 per cent in Manitoba, are indicated in all flax-producing provinces. This year's intended flaxseed acreage is placed at 1.1 million acres, with the decrease in Manitoba accounting for 89,000 acres out of the total indicated decrease of 150,000 from 1952.

Potatoes Little or no change is indicated in the potato acreage planned in all provinces in 1953. In five provinces - Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, Alberta and British Columbia - intended acreages are the same as the acreages seeded in 1952. Slight decreases, ranging from 1 to 4 per cent, are indicated for the other provinces. As a result, the all-Canada prospective potato acreage, at 292,000 acres, is slightly below the 1952 area of 294,200 acres.

Summary of Acreages
Intended for Principal
Crops and Summerfallow

For all Canada, the intended acreages for 1953 as reported at April 30, are as follows, with the 1952 acreages within brackets: Spring wheat 25,176,400 (25,345,000); oats for grain 10,599,700 (11,062,400); barley 8,846,800 (8,477,400); spring rye 421,100 (499,600); mixed grains 1,560,600 (1,570,100); flaxseed 1,056,100 (1,206,500); potatoes 292,000 (294,200).

Corresponding figures for the Prairie Provinces are as follows: Three Provinces - Spring wheat 25,040,000 (25,204,000); oats for grain 7,124,000 (7,560,000); barley 8,518,000 (8,145,000); spring rye 421,100 (499,600); flaxseed 982,000 (1,124,000); summerfallow 21,930,000 (21,245,000). Manitoba - Spring wheat 2,368,000 (2,368,000); oats for grain 1,530,000 (1,611,000); barley 2,338,000 (2,165,000); spring rye 10,600 (10,600); flaxseed 504,000 (593,000); summerfallow 2,669,000 (2,669,000). Saskatchewan - Spring wheat 16,268,000 (16,432,000); oats for grain 3,059,000 (3,362,000); barley 2,644,000 (2,644,000); spring rye 316,000 (363,000); flaxseed 342,000 (380,000); summerfallow 13,176,000 (12,430,000). Alberta - Spring wheat 6,404,000 (6,404,000); oats for grain 2,535,000 (2,587,000); barley 3,536,000 (3,336,000); spring rye 94,500 (126,000); flaxseed 136,000 (151,000); summerfallow 6,085,000 (6,146,000).

Intended Acreages of Principal Field Crops and Summerfallow at April 30, 1953
as Compared with Acreages in 1952

Province and Crop	Area 1952	Intentions	
		% of 1952	Area 1953
	acres		acres
<u>CANADA</u>			
Winter wheat 1/	650,000	110.0	715,000
Spring wheat 2/	25,345,000	99.3	25,176,400
All wheat	25,995,000	99.6	25,891,400
Oats for grain	11,062,400	95.8	10,599,700
Barley	8,477,400	104.4	8,846,800
Fall rye 3/	757,700	111.0	841,100
Spring rye	499,600	84.3	421,100
All rye	1,257,300	100.4	1,262,200
Mixed grains	1,570,100	99.4	1,560,600
Flaxseed	1,206,500	87.5	1,056,100
Potatoes	294,200	99.3	292,000
Summerfallow 4/	21,245,000	102.2	21,930,000
 <u>PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND</u>			
Spring wheat	3,700	96	3,600
Oats for grain	96,000	101	97,000
Barley	4,200	100	4,200
Mixed grains	71,200	101	71,900
Potatoes	33,400	100	33,400
 <u>NOVA SCOTIA</u>			
Spring wheat	900	100	900
Oats for grain	56,100	101	56,700
Barley	3,700	96	3,600
Mixed grains	9,800	97	9,500
Potatoes	12,000	96	11,500
 <u>NEW BRUNSWICK</u>			
Spring wheat	2,800	100	2,800
Oats for grain	155,000	102	158,000
Barley	10,300	101	10,400
Mixed grains	7,600	99	7,500
Potatoes	42,700	100	42,700

^{1/} Seeded in the fall of the preceding year; Ontario only.

^{2/} Includes relatively small acreages of winter wheat in all provinces other than Ontario.

^{3/} Seeded in the fall of the preceding year; includes small acreages of spring rye in Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia.

^{4/} Prairie Provinces only.

Intended Acreages of Principal Field Crops and Summerfallow at April 30, 1953
as Compared with Acreages in 1952

Province and Crop	Area 1952	Intentions	
		% of 1952	Area 1953
	acres		acres
<u>QUEBEC</u>			
Spring Wheat	11,100	88	9,800
Oats for grain	1,363,000	99	1,349,000
Barley	60,800	95	57,800
Fall rye	3,500	100	3,500
Mixed grains	218,000	98	214,000
Potatoes	91,700	100	91,700
<u>ONTARIO</u>			
Winter wheat	650,000	110	715,000
Spring wheat	36,700	96	35,200
All wheat	686,700	109	750,200
Oats for grain	1,732,300	99	1,715,000
Barley	202,700	98	198,600
Fall rye	74,700	93	69,500
Mixed grains	1,128,700	100	1,128,700
Flaxseed	75,100	89	66,800
Potatoes	56,100	98	55,000
<u>MANITOBA</u>			
Spring wheat	2,368,000	100	2,368,000
Oats for grain	1,611,000	95	1,530,000
Barley	2,165,000	108	2,338,000
Fall rye	44,100	150	66,200
Spring rye	10,600	100	10,600
All rye	54,700	140	76,800
Mixed grains	36,600	95	34,800
Flaxseed	593,000	85	504,000
Potatoes	17,300	99	17,100
Summerfallow	2,669,000	100	2,669,000
<u>SASKATCHEWAN</u>			
Spring wheat	16,432,000	99	16,268,000
Oats for grain	3,362,000	91	3,059,000
Barley	2,644,000	100	2,644,000
Fall rye	379,000	111	421,000
Spring rye	363,000	87	316,000
All rye	742,000	99	737,000
Mixed grains	24,500	91	22,300
Flaxseed	380,000	90	342,000
Potatoes	14,100	97	13,700
Summerfallow	12,430,000	106	13,176,000

Intended Acreages of Principal Field Crops and Summerfallow at April 30, 1953
as Compared with Acreages in 1952

Province and Crop	Area 1952	Intentions	
		% of 1952	Area 1953
<u>ALBERTA</u>	acres		acres
Spring wheat	6,404,000	100	6,404,000
Oats for grain	2,587,000	98	2,535,000
Barley	3,336,000	106	3,536,000
Fall rye	254,000	110	279,000
Spring rye	126,000	75	94,500
All rye	380,000	98	373,500
Mixed grains	71,300	98	69,900
Flaxseed	151,000	90	136,000
Potatoes	16,700	100	16,700
Summerfallow	6,146,000	99	6,085,000
<u>BRITISH COLUMBIA</u>			
Spring wheat	85,800	98	84,100
Oats for grain	100,000	100	100,000
Barley	50,700	107	54,200
Fall rye	2,400	80	1,900
Mixed grains	2,400	83	2,000
Flaxseed	7,400	98	7,300
Potatoes	10,200	100	10,200

Indicated Acreage Changes from 1952 in the Prairie Provinces

	Prairie Provinces	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta
	- acres -			
Wheat	- 164,000	-	- 164,000	-
Oats for grain	- 436,000	- 81,000	- 303,000	- 52,000
Barley	+ 373,000	+ 173,000	-	+ 200,000
Rye	+ 10,600	+ 22,100	- 5,000	- 6,500
Flaxseed	- 142,000	- 89,000	- 38,000	- 15,000
Summerfallow	+ 685,000	-	+ 746,000	- 61,000

Winterkilling of Winter Wheat, Fall Rye and Tame Hay In Ontario, where most of Canada's winter wheat is grown, it is estimated that 6 per cent of the area seeded in the fall of 1952 was winterkilled, compared with an estimated 8 per cent of the area seeded in the fall of 1951. Winterkilling of fall-sown rye by provinces, with the previous year's figures in brackets, is estimated as follows: Quebec, 3 (1); Ontario, 3 (4); Manitoba, 4 (4); Saskatchewan, 4 (5); Alberta, 4 (7); and British Columbia, 2 (3).

During the winter of 1952-53 the following percentages of tame hay acreages are estimated to have been winterkilled, with the corresponding figures for the previous winter in brackets: Canada, 5 (6); Prince Edward Island, 7 (5); Nova Scotia, 4 (3); New Brunswick, 10 (4); Quebec, 4 (7); Ontario, 6 (6); Manitoba, 3 (5); Saskatchewan, 2 (3); Alberta, 2 (3); and British Columbia, 3 (4).

Condition of Winter Wheat, Fall Rye and Tame Hay This year, as in 1952, correspondents were asked to report the condition of winter wheat, fall rye and tame hay in their neighbourhood at the end of April as being below average, average or above average for that time of year. In Ontario, the major winter wheat producing area, 9 per cent of the correspondents

reporting on the condition of winter wheat at the end of April this year indicated that the condition was below average, while 63 per cent reported average and 28 per cent above-average conditions. Comparable percentages for April 30, 1952 were 14, 63 and 23, respectively.

Percentages of correspondents reporting the condition of tame hay and fall rye in each of the three condition categories as at April 30, 1953 are set out in the accompanying table together with comparable figures for April 30, 1952. With the exception of Nova Scotia, a greater proportion of correspondents in each province reported below-average conditions for tame hay at April 30, 1953 than a year earlier. Deterioration in condition as compared with a year ago was particularly marked in Manitoba where half the correspondents reported condition of tame hay as below average at the end of April this year. Only three provinces, Nova Scotia, Quebec and British Columbia, registered increases in the proportion of correspondents reporting above-average conditions as compared with 1952. The condition of both fall rye and tame hay at the end of April this year appears to have been poorer in the Prairie Provinces than in the rest of Canada. In the case of fall rye, larger proportions of correspondents reported above-average and fewer reported below-average conditions in Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia than in 1952 while the opposite was true in the Prairie Provinces.

Percentages of Correspondents Reporting Condition of Tame Hay and Fall Rye as Below Average, Average and Above Average at April 30, 1952 and 1953

Province	Tame Hay						Fall Rye					
	Below Average		Average		Above Average		Below Average		Average		Above Average	
	1952	1953	1952	1953	1952	1953	1952	1953	1952	1953	1952	1953
P.E.I. ..	1	8	59	71	40	21	-	-	-	-	-	-
N.S.	9	2	59	53	32	45	-	-	-	-	-	-
N.B.	3	30	64	61	33	9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Que.	9	15	75	64	16	21	31	12	66	60	3	28
Ont.	7	15	60	66	33	19	13	11	71	68	16	21
Man.	14	50	56	49	30	1	14	32	55	63	31	5
Sask. ...	4	28	49	68	47	4	7	20	55	72	38	8
Alta. ...	7	26	66	68	27	6	18	25	61	59	21	16
B.C. ...	0	11	80	59	20	30	20	9	80	73	0	18

Progress of Seeding Relatively little progress had been made with seeding operations by April 30 this year except in southwestern Ontario and in some southern districts in Manitoba and British Columbia. Although considerably less acreage had been seeded by April 30 this year than at the same time in 1952, seeding was further advanced than at the end of April, 1951 in Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Estimated Percentages of Total Intended Acreages of Spring Wheat, Oats and Barley, Ontario and Western Canada, Seeded by April 30, 1951 - 1953

Province	Spring Wheat			Oats			Barley		
	1951	1952	1953	1951	1952	1953	1951	1952	1953
Ont.	*	30	11	3	54	29	1	46	27
Man.	3	68	21	*	26	5	1	26	6
Sask.	*	27	4	*	11	1	*	10	2
Alta.	3	16	*	2	8	*	3	6	*
B.C.	21	23	6	26	19	13	12	12	9

* Less than 1 per cent.