



C. R. No. 2, 1955

Price: \$2.00 for series of 23 crop reports.

INTENDED ACREAGE OF PRINCIPAL FIELD CROPS IN CANADA,\* 1955

On the basis of their intentions at March 1, Canadian farmers plan substantial increases over 1954 in the acreage seeded to oats, barley and flaxseed and slight to moderate increases in spring rye, mixed grains, and potatoes. These indicated increases are largely offset by prospective decreases of 2.4 million acres in land for summerfallow in the Prairie Provinces and 0.6 million acres in the area seeded to spring wheat. Reduced acreages seeded to winter wheat and fall rye last autumn also provide some of the area for the increase in area planned for feed grains and flaxseed in 1955.

Basic data for the estimates of intended acreages in this report were obtained from the annual acreage intentions survey of the Bureau's crop correspondents conducted in co-operation with provincial departments. The survey was formerly made at April 30 and the report issued about May 18. Advancing the survey date to March 1 should, it is hoped, increase the usefulness of the report in helping farmers and others make suitable adjustments in plans for the 1955 season. However, it is emphasized that intended acreages are merely indicative of farmers' plans at March 1, and that acreages actually seeded, therefore, may vary considerably from the intentions figures, depending upon conditions before and during seeding.

A number of factors appear to have influenced the shifts in acreages among crops as indicated in this report. Current price relationships and marketing quota arrangements in the Prairie Provinces may have had some influence on the swing toward coarse grains. It is also observed that the indicated shift into coarse grains, particularly in Saskatchewan, is most marked in those districts where the incidence of wheat rust was heaviest in 1954. However, weather during the seeding season will, as usual, be a most important determinant of acreages actually seeded. In many parts of the country a smaller-than-usual amount of fall cultivation was done and additional time will be required to complete this work before seeding begins. Throughout much of Western Canada and parts of Eastern Canada moisture reserves are abnormally high and, while this condition is desirable from the standpoint of plant requirements, it could well prevent realization of current acreage intentions unless weather conditions during the seeding season are unusually favourable.

Additional factors, such as the availability of good quality seed and the possible effect of this report itself on farmers' plans may contribute to changes in acreages currently indicated. An estimate of the area actually sown to field crops in 1955, based on the Bureau's annual June survey, is scheduled for release on August 5.

\*Excluding Newfoundland for which these estimates are not available.

Prepared in the Crops Section, Agriculture Division

5502-514: 16-3-55

The largest individual shift indicated in use of Canadian crop land in 1955 is the reduction of 2.4 million acres in summerfallow area in the Prairie Provinces from the record level of 25.3 million acres in 1954. The sharp increase in summerfallow acreage in 1954 resulted from farmers' inability to carry out their original seeding plans due to adverse weather conditions, and the indicated decrease in summerfallow acreage for 1955 represents, in large part, a return to more normal cultivation practices. This year's indicated summerfallow area, at 22.8 million acres, is only slightly above that of 1953 and about 1.2 million acres above that of 1951.

The other major acreage reduction from 1954 is indicated for the area seeded to spring wheat. The intended area for this crop is slightly less than 23.0 million acres, representing a decrease of 0.6 million acres or 2.6 per cent from 1954. When combined with the area seeded to winter wheat last fall, the indicated total for all wheat is 23.6 million acres, a decrease of 2.8 per cent from 1954.

If farmers' current plans are realized, the area seeded to barley in Canada in 1955 will reach a record 9.8 million acres, an increase of almost 2 million acres or 25 per cent above that of 1954. The indicated area for oats, at 11.2 million acres, is up 1.0 million acres or 10 per cent from last year.

Acreages planned for flaxseed and mixed grains are slightly under 1.7 million acres for each. However, the flaxseed acreage represents an indicated increase of 38 per cent over 1954 while that for mixed grains is up by only 1.8 per cent. Increases are also indicated for spring rye, at 222,000 acres (25 per cent), and potatoes, at 309,000 acres (4 per cent), but a decrease of 5 per cent is planned in the area planted to soybeans, currently indicated at 242,000 acres.

#### Wheat

If farmers' current plans are realized, wheat acreage in Canada in 1955 will register the third consecutive annual decrease. On the basis of farmers' intentions at March 1, the acreage seeded to spring wheat will be slightly less than 23.0 million acres, a decrease of 600,000 acres from 1954. An indicated decrease of 840,000 acres in Saskatchewan is almost entirely responsible for this year's lower acreage, considerably more than offsetting increases planned in Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia.

The combined acreage of spring and winter wheat, at 23.6 million acres, will, if realized, be the smallest since 1945 and will be about 10 per cent below the five-year (1949-1953) average of 26.3 million. Ontario's winter wheat acreage, based on the preliminary estimate issued last November, is placed at 639,000 acres. The relatively small amount of winter wheat grown in other provinces is included with spring wheat for the purpose of these estimates.

Oats for Grain, Increases are indicated in the acreages to be seeded in 1955  
Barley and to each of the three major feed grains. The area intended for  
Mixed Grains oats for grain, at 11.2 million acres, is up 10 per cent from 1954 and is virtually the same as the five-year average. Increases are indicated for all provinces except Prince Edward Island where a decrease of 3 per cent is expected and Quebec where there is no change.

A record barley acreage of 9.8 million acres is in prospect for 1955. An area of the size currently indicated would be about 25 per cent higher than last year's area of 7.9 million, 30 per cent above the five-year average of 7.6 million, and 10 per cent above the previous record of 8.9 million



in 1953. The major part of the over-all indicated increase of almost 2 million acres is in Saskatchewan where intended barley acreage is up by almost 1.3 million acres or 56 per cent over last year's total. Increases are also intended in Alberta, Manitoba and Ontario. Moderate decreases are indicated in each of the Maritime Provinces and Quebec, while no change is indicated in British Columbia.

An over-all increase of less than two per cent is indicated for mixed grains, with the area currently placed at 1.7 million acres. Increases are indicated in each of the Prairie Provinces and in Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia. However, no change is in prospect in Ontario, which accounts for 68 per cent of the total area, nor in New Brunswick, while decreases are anticipated in Quebec and British Columbia.

Rye The area intended for spring rye in 1955 is placed at 222,000 acres, up by 25 per cent over last year's low level. However, the decrease of almost 16 per cent in the area seeded to fall rye last autumn was sufficient to cause an over-all decrease of about 7 per cent in the combined acreage of fall and spring rye. The indicated all-rye acreage, at 790,000 acres, is some 37 per cent below the five-year average of 1,249,000 acres.

Flaxseed With the exception of Ontario, where a decrease of 5 per cent is indicated, moderate to substantial increases in flaxseed acreage are in prospect in each of the flax-growing provinces. The indicated total of almost 1.7 million acres is 38 per cent above last year's area, is double the five-year average of 828,000 acres, and is the highest since 1948. Prospective increases range from 10 per cent in British Columbia to 64 per cent in Saskatchewan.

Soybeans The soybean acreage intended for 1955 in Ontario, the only province growing this crop on a commercial scale, is placed at 242,000 acres, a decrease of about 5 per cent from last year's 254,000 acres. If this decrease materializes, it will be the first time since 1944 that soybean acreage in the province has failed to register an increase.

Potatoes With the exceptions of Ontario, Saskatchewan and British Columbia, where no change is in prospect, slight to moderate increases are planned for potato acreages in 1955. The all-Canada total, currently placed at 309,000 acres, is 4 per cent above the 1954 level but about 7 per cent under the 1949-1953 average of 332,000 acres.

<u>Summary of Acreages</u>	For all Canada, the intended acreages for 1955 as
<u>Intended for Principal</u>	reported at March 1, are as follows: Spring wheat,
<u>Crops and Summerfallow</u>	22,954,200 (23,556,800); oats for grain, 11,177,000
	(10,160,600); barley, 9,814,800 (7,855,900); Spring
	rye, 222,000 (178,000); mixed grains, 1,661,500 (1,632,600); flaxseed, 1,665,000
	(1,206,000); potatoes, 309,000 (296,200).

Corresponding figures for the Prairie Provinces are as follows:

Three Provinces - Spring wheat, 22,828,000 (23,437,000); oats for grain, 7,679,000 (6,715,000); barley, 9,524,000 (7,568,000); spring rye, 222,000 (178,000); flaxseed, 1,636,000 (1,177,000); summerfallow, 22,845,000 (25,253,000). Manitoba - Spring wheat, 2,123,000 (2,035,000); oats for grain, 1,680,000 (1,510,000); barley, 2,327,000 (2,202,000); spring rye, 5,000 (5,700); flaxseed 515,000 (444,000); summerfallow, 2,723,000 (3,100,000). Saskatchewan - Spring wheat, 14,700,000 (15,540,000); oats for grain 3,360,000 (2,851,000); barley, 3,600,000 (2,313,000); spring rye, 179,000 (138,000); flaxseed, 850,000 (518,000); summerfallow, 13,570,000 (14,679,000). Alberta - Spring wheat, 6,005,000 (5,862,000); oats for grain, 2,639,000 (2,354,000); barley, 3,597,000 (3,053,000); spring rye, 38,000 (34,300); flaxseed, 271,000 (215,000); summerfallow, 6,552,000 (7,474,000).

Intended Acreages of Principal Field Crops and Summerfallow, Canada,  
as at March 1, 1955, compared with Estimated Acreages, 1952-1954

Province and Crop	Seeded Area <u>1/</u>			Intended Area, 1955	
	1952	1953	1954	Area	as % of 1954
	acres	acres	acres	acres	per cent
<u>CANADA</u>					
Winter wheat <u>2/</u> .....	650,000	732,000	710,000	639,000	90.0
Spring wheat <u>3/</u> .....	25,345,000	24,780,600	23,556,800	22,954,200	97.4
All wheat .....	25,995,000	25,512,600	24,266,800	23,593,200	97.2
Oats for grain .....	11,062,400	9,830,000	10,160,600	11,177,000	110.0
Barley .....	8,477,400	8,911,100	7,855,900	9,814,800	124.9
Fall rye <u>4/</u> .....	772,400	1,031,200	672,500	567,700	84.4
Spring rye .....	501,200	463,000	178,000	222,000	124.7
All rye .....	1,273,600	1,494,200	850,500	789,700	92.9
Mixed grains .....	1,570,100	1,445,400	1,632,600	1,661,500	101.8
Flaxseed .....	1,129,500	972,000	1,206,000	1,665,000	138.1
Soybeans .....	172,000	216,000	254,000	242,000	95.3
Potatoes .....	296,800	321,100	296,200	309,000	104.3
Summerfallow <u>5/</u> .....	21,245,000	22,764,000	25,253,000	22,845,000	90.5
<u>PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND</u>					
Spring wheat .....	3,700	2,900	3,300	3,300	100
Oats for grain .....	96,000	106,200	97,600	95,000	97
Barley .....	4,200	4,800	3,800	3,500	92
Mixed grains .....	71,200	70,200	78,700	82,000	104
Potatoes .....	36,000	39,000	37,000	40,000	108
<u>NOVA SCOTIA</u>					
Spring wheat .....	900	1,000	1,000	1,000	100
Oats for grain .....	56,100	55,800	54,600	55,000	101
Barley .....	3,700	3,000	2,500	2,400	95
Mixed grains .....	9,800	9,400	10,100	11,000	109
Potatoes .....	12,000	12,400	11,300	12,000	106
<u>NEW BRUNSWICK</u>					
Spring wheat .....	2,800	2,700	3,200	3,200	100
Oats for grain .....	155,000	152,000	153,000	158,000	103
Barley .....	10,300	8,900	9,100	8,500	93
Mixed grains .....	7,600	7,200	8,000	8,000	100
Potatoes .....	42,700	48,400	45,600	47,500	104

1/ Except for summerfallow.

2/ Seeded in the fall of the preceding year; Ontario only.

3/ Includes relatively small acreages of winter wheat in all provinces other than Ontario.

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

5/ Prairie Provinces only.



Intended Acreages of Principal Field Crops and Summerfallow, Canada,  
as at March 1, 1955, compared with Estimated Acreages, 1952-1954

Province and Crop	Seeded Area 1/			Intended Area, 1955	
	1952	1953	1954	Area	as % of 1954
	acres	acres	acres	acres	per cent
<u>QUEBEC</u>					
Spring wheat .....	11,100	11,100	11,300	10,700	95
Oats for grain .....	1,363,000	1,380,000	1,371,000	1,371,000	100
Barley .....	60,800	56,500	53,100	52,000	98
Fall rye .....	3,500	2,700	2,800	2,500	90
Mixed grains .....	218,000	202,000	209,000	205,000	98
Potatoes .....	91,700	100,000	92,000	95,700	104
<u>ONTARIO</u>					
Winter wheat .....	650,000	732,000	710,000	639,000	90
Spring wheat .....	36,700	33,500	31,000	31,000	100
All wheat .....	686,700	765,500	741,000	670,000	90
Oats for grain .....	1,732,300	1,548,000	1,685,000	1,734,000	103
Barley .....	202,700	171,000	144,000	149,000	103
Fall rye .....	74,700	75,000	90,000	85,500	95
Mixed grains .....	1,128,700	1,017,000	1,130,000	1,130,000	100
Flaxseed .....	75,100	41,000	19,000	18,000	95
Soybeans .....	172,000	216,000	254,000	242,000	95
Potatoes .....	56,100	63,000	56,500	56,500	100
<u>MANITOBA</u>					
Spring wheat .....	2,368,000	2,208,000	2,035,000	2,123,000	104
Oats for grain .....	1,611,000	1,412,000	1,510,000	1,680,000	111
Barley .....	2,165,000	2,365,000	2,202,000	2,327,000	106
Fall rye .....	58,800	120,000	78,700	78,700	100
Spring rye .....	12,200	15,000	5,700	5,000	88
All rye .....	71,000	135,000	84,400	83,700	99
Mixed grains .....	36,600	33,300	38,300	40,000	104
Flaxseed .....	500,000	420,000	444,000	515,000	116
Potatoes .....	17,300	18,800	17,100	18,000	105
Summerfallow .....	2,669,000	2,845,000	3,100,000	2,723,000	88
<u>SASKATCHEWAN</u>					
Spring wheat .....	16,432,000	16,100,000	15,540,000	14,700,000	95
Oats for grain .....	3,362,000	2,721,000	2,851,000	3,360,000	118
Barley .....	2,644,000	2,745,000	2,313,000	3,600,000	156
Fall rye .....	379,000	500,000	315,000	261,000	83
Spring rye .....	363,000	316,000	138,000	179,000	130
All rye .....	742,000	816,000	453,000	440,000	97
Mixed grains .....	24,500	22,800	35,600	39,000	110
Flaxseed .....	380,000	342,000	518,000	850,000	164
Potatoes .....	14,100	12,800	11,100	11,100	100
Summerfallow .....	12,430,000	13,544,000	14,679,000	13,570,000	92

1/ Except for summerfallow.



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Intended Acreages of Principal Field Crops and Summerfallow, Canada,  
as at March 1, 1955, compared with Estimated Acreages, 1952-1954

Province and Crop	Seeded Area 1/			Intended Area, 1955	
	1952	1953	1954	Area	as % of 1954
	acres	acres	acres	acres	per cent
<u>ALBERTA</u>					
Spring wheat .....	6,404,000	6,340,000	5,862,000	6,005,000	102
Oats for grain .....	2,587,000	2,357,000	2,354,000	2,639,000	112
Barley .....	3,336,000	3,489,000	3,053,000	3,597,000	118
Fall rye .....	254,000	328,000	181,000	136,000	75
Spring rye .....	126,000	132,000	34,300	38,000	111
All rye .....	380,000	460,000	215,300	174,000	81
Mixed grains .....	71,300	80,600	120,000	144,000	120
Flaxseed .....	167,000	164,000	215,000	271,000	126
Potatoes .....	16,700	15,400	15,400	18,000	117
Summerfallow .....	6,146,000	6,375,000	7,474,000	6,552,000	88
<u>BRITISH COLUMBIA</u>					
Spring wheat .....	85,800	81,400	70,000	77,000	110
Oats for grain .....	100,000	98,000	84,400	85,000	101
Barley .....	50,700	67,900	75,400	75,400	100
Fall rye .....	2,400	5,500	5,000	4,000	80
Mixed grains .....	2,400	2,900	2,900	2,500	86
Flaxseed .....	7,400	5,000	10,000	11,000	110
Potatoes .....	10,200	11,300	10,200	10,200	100

1/ Except for summerfallow.

Indicated Acreage Changes from 1954 in the Prairie Provinces

Crop	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta	Prairie Provinces
	- acres -			
Wheat .....	+ 88,000	- 840,000	+ 143,000	- 609,000
Oats for grain .....	+ 170,000	+ 509,000	+ 285,000	+ 964,000
Barley .....	+ 125,000	+ 1,287,000	+ 544,000	+ 1,956,000
Rye .....	- 700	- 13,000	- 41,300	- 55,000
Flaxseed .....	+ 71,000	+ 332,000	+ 56,000	+ 459,000
Summerfallow .....	- 377,000	- 1,109,000	- 922,000	- 2,408,000