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TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT - CANADA

This is the second of the 1961 series of nine telegraphic reports, issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, covering crop conditions throughout Canada. Included in this report is the third of a series of thirteen telegraphic reports on crop conditions in the Prairie Provinces. A selected list of crop correspondents chosen from the Federal and Provincial Departments of Agriculture, private crop observers and grain men supply the information on which these reports are based. The weather data included in this release are furnished by the Meteorological Division, Department of Transport.

S U M M A R Y

Maritime Provinces: Although the season in the Maritime Provinces is still generally backward, recent warm dry weather has melted most of the remaining snows and farming operations have commenced in early areas and should be general within about one week. Some early potatoes and turnips have been planted in Prince Edward Island, while in sections of Nova Scotia almost half of the potatoes are in the ground and grain seeding is well underway. Farmers in New Brunswick have also benefited from the recent more favourable weather and seeding has started on early soils. Practically no cattle are out on pasture in the Maritimes. Although grass growth is slow, pastures and hay meadows have wintered well.

Quebec: Several days of warm weather in the Province of Quebec have started growth and allowed farmers to make progress with their field work. Only a small percentage of the grain crops has been seeded to date. However, if weather remains favourable, seeding should now proceed rapidly. In the southern part of the province, horticultural crops are doing well. Early potatoes are in the ground and sugar beet seeding is underway. Meadows and pastures are generally in good condition and there is little winter damage reported so far. In those parts of the province where growth is most advanced livestock are being turned out to pasture. In some localities forage reserves are nearly exhausted following the long period of stable feeding. South of Montreal, orchards were damaged by frost and ice during the winter. Plums and cherries are in bloom.

Ontario: Wet weather and cold nights continued to delay spring seeding operations in Ontario prior to the weekend of May 12-13, but field work has since accelerated. Most acreage in Essex and Kent was seeded by the first week of April before the wet weather commenced, but in most other counties less than half the spring seeding has been completed. Fall wheat, hay and pastures are now making good growth in most areas, but a few wheat fields are reported to be yellowing from excessive moisture. In Northern Ontario the weather has been quite cool and practically no work has been yet done on the land. Growth of pastures in this part of the province is extremely slow.

Note: Data for Newfoundland not available.

Prepared in the Crops Section, Agriculture Division

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ROGER DUHAMEL, F.R.S.C., Queen's Printer and Controller of Stationery, Ottawa, 1961

Prairie Provinces: Unseasonably low temperatures across the Prairie Provinces for the past three weeks, accompanied by fairly general precipitation, have delayed growth and retarded seeding operations. However, considerable seeding has been done in most southern areas and with warmer, more settled weather, operations, with few exceptions, will be general this week. Surface moisture supplies are now considered to be sufficient for germination, but low subsoil reserves are still a matter for concern in a number of districts. Pastures and hay crops are late but recent moisture has improved prospects considerably.

British Columbia: Continued cool and unsettled weather over most of British Columbia has been a retarding factor on most crops, particularly in the coastal regions. Early potatoes show spotty development. Some grains, peas and potatoes in low-lying lands may need reseeding. Pasture growth has been retarded one to two weeks. Moist weather threatens scab and mildew outbreaks on tree fruits, but at this stage no serious difficulty is being anticipated. All tree fruits with the exception of apples have shown a promising blossom. Early apples are only fair, but the late maturing varieties promise a good crop.

MARITIME PROVINCES

During the past week the weather has been warm in Prince Edward Island, melting nearly all the remaining snow. Some farm work is now being done in Kings, Queens, and eastern Prince counties, but will not be general until later this week. Some early potatoes and a few turnips have been planted. New meadows appear promising although conditions are dry, and cold weather is retarding grass growth; hay and pasture prospects are generally good.

Recent warm weather enabled Nova Scotia farmers to get on the land in the central and eastern parts of the province where considerable preparation for seeding is underway. In the western part and in the Annapolis Valley spraying has started and potato planting is almost half completed; grain seeding is in progress. With favourable weather during the past two weeks conditions have greatly improved in the Truro district where work on the land is progressing rapidly, with most of the early potatoes and 15 per cent of the grain now in the ground. However, low lands are still wet and soil temperatures are below normal. Fields are turning green and grass growth is rapid but, with the exception of some young cattle, livestock are not yet on pasture. Snow is still present in the woods. At Amherst work on the land is just beginning and some oats have been seeded. In this district seeding dates are about average this year. Hay stands have wintered well and should yield a good crop. Pastures are becoming green but growth is slow due to continuing cold weather. In the Annapolis Valley all farm operations are proceeding rapidly under ideal weather and soil conditions. Grasses and clovers wintered well and winter grain is about average. Fruit trees except peaches appear to have wintered well. Blossom buds on peach trees suffered high mortality in colder areas. Delayed dormant sprays are being applied under good conditions and crop prospects are promising except for peaches.

Reports from Fredericton indicate that farm operations in New Brunswick have been delayed by the backward spring and soils remain cold and moist. However, during the past few days warmer weather has brought about a rapid improvement in conditions and some work on higher lands is underway. Some potatoes have been planted in the Grand Lake area and a few acres in Carleton County but none farther north. Farmers in the southern half of the province have just started to seed their grain. It is anticipated that work on the land will become more general this week. Grass is

growing rapidly and winterkilling of legumes was light. Flooding is reported in the St. John River Valley particularly in the Maugerville truck garden area. Livestock are not yet on pasture. In the Perth district warm weather during the last few days has seen farmers start potato planting. No grain has yet been seeded. Grasses have wintered well but growth is slow and no cattle are yet on pasture. More fine weather is needed before work on the land may become general.

Quebec: Seeding of cereals started around May 12 in the L'Assomption area east of Montreal and field work is now general. Most potatoes on light soils have now been planted, and seeding of canning peas is underway. Sowing of carrots for canning is practically completed. Tobacco seed beds are improving with warmer temperatures. New hay and pasture seedings are doing well.

At St. Jean south of Montreal, growth is now catching up following the exceptionally warm weather of last weekend. The season is now only about four days behind last year. Some radishes, onions, peas, lettuce and potatoes have been sown. Two or three sprays have been applied to apple orchards and early varieties are in bloom, with others at the pink stage. Weather conditions have not favoured any serious scab infection, but the European Red Mite is threatening in many orchards, and bud moths and leaf rollers are present in some. Farther east at Lennoxville, hay and pastures are growing rapidly, with no winterkilling in evidence. The soil is in good condition and seeding got underway the first of this week.

East of Quebec City at St. Anne de La Pocatière cool, cloudy, weather has delayed spring operations and growth. Nearly half an inch of rain has been recorded in the last two weeks. Seeding has just begun on the Research Station, but was not expected to get underway in the district until May 18. No winterkilling occurred in clover but there was 25 per cent injury to fall wheat.

Warmer weather and nearly an inch of precipitation have improved soil and vegetation conditions in the Lake St. John area. However, no seeding has been done as yet and livestock are still being stable fed. Seeding should get underway and livestock go on pasture next week, which is earlier than normal.

Our correspondent at Caplan reports that apart from a few warm days over the last weekend, the weather was cool and chilly until the ice disappeared completely from the Baie des Chaleurs on May 11. The season is about two weeks later than normal in this area, but precipitation for April was 66 per cent below normal and only half an inch of rain has been recorded so far in May. Vegetation is still dormant and apart from manure spreading on a few well-drained quick-drying soils no field work has been done as yet.

ONTARIO

In the Barrie district of Simcoe County seeding commenced about ten days ago and is now 50 per cent completed on well-drained land, 30 per cent completed on medium soils and none at all on heavy clay or poorly-drained areas. The weather is now cool again after a brief heat wave. Fall wheat, hay and pastures wintered very well and after a slow start are now growing rapidly. It is expected that grazing conditions will be fair by May 24. The much-awaited warm weather came to Bruce County the weekend of May 12-13 and combined with adequate moisture, growth was very rapid. Seeding varies from about 50 per cent completed to completed in the earlier sections. Early-sown fields are now showing above ground. Most beef cattle are out on grass. In Wellington County, seeding of spring grains is general in most well-drained areas. Growth of hay and pastures has improved during the past week following a delay caused by cool weather

and inadequate moisture supplies. Rain is still required on drier soils but moisture supplies appear to be adequate on heavier land. Approximately 20 per cent of the young stock went out on pasture this past week.

An abrupt change to summer weather in Waterloo County enabled farmers to almost complete seeding operations. Hot weather has already caused dry conditions in lighter soils and rain is needed in these areas. Cattle have gone out to pasture although grass is short for this time of year. Spring seeding operations are now underway in Halton County. Although development was previously retarded, considerable growth occurred in forage and fall-seeded crops during the past week. Forage crops appear to be in good condition with the exception of those seeded last fall. Livestock are now being placed on pasture. Although moisture supplies are adequate more warm weather is required for good growth.

Rainy, cold weather has persisted in Middlesex County and hampered most field work until May 11. However, four days of hot, dry weather have speeded up seeding operations and crop growth. Sixty per cent of spring-sown grains are now planted. Fall-sown wheat and forage crops came through the winter in very good condition. Most early truck crops are later than normal and planting of other field crops has been delayed due to adverse weather. Some field cucumbers have been planted out under paper. Planting of early tomatoes, canning tomatoes, corn and soybeans is just commencing. Tobacco planting will start a week late. Prospects for all fruit crops appear to be good.

On Pelee Island, continued wet weather has delayed planting of soybeans. Fall wheat is making average growth but low-lying fields are showing the effect of continued rains. Wet weather during the first two weeks of May further delayed seeding operations in Kent County. Improved weather conditions during the past week, however, have assisted growth and farm operations generally. Winter wheat appears to be in excellent condition. Some acreage of corn and soybeans has been planted. Early-planted sugar beets in some areas had to be re-planted. Sugar beet planting in general is about 60 per cent completed. Pastures and hay both indicate good prospects. Cool, wet weather still prevails in Norfolk County and as a result, seeding of spring grains is only about one-quarter completed. Hay and pasture have been slow in starting but stands appear excellent. Very few cattle are out on grass. Buds are opening on fruit trees but only early cherries are in blossom. Tobacco seedlings are late but are growing rapidly. Harvesting of asparagus commenced on May 15.

Seeding operations became general in York County about May 10. Planting is now proceeding rapidly under good conditions. The extent of winterkill to fall-sown wheat is about normal with higher well drained areas appearing to be the most seriously affected. Forage seedings have wintered well but growth was very slow until the second week of May. In Peterborough County seeding of spring grains is nearly completed. Planting of silage corn is now proceeding. Moisture supplies are ample. Very rapid growth appeared for several days and wheat, pastures and hay are progressing rapidly.

In Leeds County the general crop outlook is good, and it is estimated at 75 per cent of seeding is completed. Growth has been very rapid since May 10. The apple crop appears promising. Seeding operations are in full swing in Morrisburg County and the soil is in good condition. Pastures are excellent but growth has been slow. Only a few cattle are out on grass. Apples wintered well and regular spray programmes are now underway. Seeding operations in Renfrew County vary considerably. Many farmers are finished while others have not yet started, but on the average, seeding is about 65 per cent completed. Early-sown grain is making rapid growth. Fall-sown wheat is in very poor condition due to poor germination last fall and many fields have been re-seeded to spring grains. All forage crops are making rapid growth since May 1.

A report from Kapuskasing indicates that forage crops have resumed active spring growth. A rainfall totalling two inches on May 13 and 14 is likely to delay the start of field work for another week.

MANITOBA

Work on the land is underway in all districts of Manitoba except for a portion of the Interlake area. Seeding will be general this week in practically all districts. At Altona, in southern Manitoba, 35 per cent of the wheat seeding has been completed, 25 per cent in the Swan River district, while elsewhere the amount varies from none to 15 per cent. Early-sown wheat has emerged at Dauphin. Surface moisture is adequate for the immediate present. Warmer weather is urgently needed to encourage growth of crops and pastures. Most cattle are still on dry feed, although some have been turned out to pasture.

High winds caused heavy and extensive soil drifting in the Vita area early this week. Most farmers have either started or are ready to start seeding. Some are holding back, awaiting the growth of wild oats which are slow to germinate. There has been very little growth on pastures to date. Seeding of all crops is in full swing at Altona and early-sown cereals have emerged. Some farmers are delaying seeding on account of slow wild oat growth. Approximately half the seeding has been completed in Rhineland municipality. Soil drifting occurred on the odd field from high winds early this week. Last week's rain was very beneficial and pastures are good, but alfalfa is slow in growing indicating some winterkilling.

Farther west at Pilot Mound field work is now becoming general with the occurrence of somewhat warmer weather. Pastures and lawns are now showing green and seeding has just commenced to become general. Field work is also underway at Somerset and moisture is adequate in this district. Very little weed growth has occurred to date and hay and pastures are growing slowly. About 10 per cent of the wheat has been seeded but very little other seeding has been done. One-half an inch of rain was received at Melita during the past week and sufficient moisture supplies are now on hand to start the crop. About 20 per cent of the seeding has been completed, but progress has been very slow. Pastures should be green by about May 20.

East of Winnipeg at Beauséjour field work is now general throughout the area and seeding may be general this week. Moisture supplies are adequate for the present. Pasture and weed growth has been quite slow because of cold weather. North of Winnipeg at Stonewall cool weather has also delayed seeding, and field work is still not general. Very little seed is in the ground but operations ought to be general towards the end of this week. Grass is coming along very slowly due to the cool weather. There is evidence of above normal winterkilling especially on seedlings and one year old stands of hay. In the Portage la Prairie district field work is now general and some wheat, barley and flax have been seeded. Pasture growth is very slow and most livestock are still on dry feed. Our correspondent does not anticipate any radical changes in wheat and barley acreages but flax will show an increase.

In western Manitoba at Virden seeding is late but is now general throughout the area. Surface moisture is adequate for cereal crops on both summerfallow and most second-crop land. Pastures have been slow but are now coming along. Prospects for hay crops are satisfactory if normal summer rainfall is received. Water levels in dugouts are quite low.

In the Interlake area at Teulon work on the land is now commencing and some seeding will be done this week. Growth of grass has been very slow. Cool weather is causing further delay in field operations at Arborg. A sudden change to warm weather would result in general seeding. Unless pasture growth improves shortly some farmers may experience considerable feed shortage. Moisture conditions are good in this area.

Our correspondent at Neepawa in west-central Manitoba states that continuing cold weather is delaying growth. Seeding was resumed this week. Pasture growth has been slow and livestock are still on dry feed. Moisture supplies are adequate for germination. Warm, dry weather during the latter part of the past week dried up the land around Minnedosa. A small acreage of wheat has been sown and land work should be general by the end of this week. Pastures are still not ready for grazing. Farther west at Shoal Lake land work was hindered last week due to cool, damp weather. Very little progress has been made with seeding and growth is slow in fields and pastures. Feed supplies are running short on some farms.

North of the Riding Mountains at Dauphin very little work on the land was done last week. Early-sown wheat is emerging but wild oat, weed and pasture growth is slow. Surface moisture is satisfactory in this district. Cattle are still on dry feed and warm, sunny weather is needed. Farther north at Swan River the weather has been cold but moisture conditions improved greatly since last week's rain. About 25 per cent of the wheat has been sown but little other field work has been done. Pastures are poor due to cold weather but there is plenty of hay for the cattle. Gardens are now being worked but no sowing has been done.

The Entomological Laboratory at Winnipeg states that grasshopper eggs are showing advanced development but hatching has been delayed due to the cool weather.

The average precipitation since April 1 has been 26 per cent above normal as compared with 28 per cent above normal a week ago, 31 per cent above normal two weeks ago and in contrast to 16 per cent below normal at the same time a year ago. The mean temperature for the week ending May 15 was 6.1 degrees below normal as compared with 2.5 degrees below normal last week, 8.6 degrees below normal two weeks ago and in contrast to 6.8 degrees above normal for the week ending May 16, 1960.

SASKATCHEWAN

Although cold weather has hampered rapid progress with seeding operations in Saskatchewan, considerable advancement is expected this week. Wheat seeding is most advanced in the southwestern and southeastern areas where about 75 per cent is completed. In other areas, with the exception of the northeast where seeding is just starting, from 10 to 20 per cent of the wheat has been seeded. Recent rains improved the moisture situation in the drier areas. Growth of weeds and grasses has been very slow and backward.

In the Fillmore district in the southeast part of the province, moisture conditions have improved slightly and recent warm weather has stimulated considerable weed growth. Native grasses in pastures are greening slowly while tame grasses are providing some grazing. Some oats have been seeded for forage purposes but little wheat has yet been sown. Wild oats are now appearing above the surface on summerfallow land. The Experimental Farm at Indian Head reports that some 0.34 inches of rain on May 10 gave much needed precipitation to germinate the current crop. Seeding

operations are now in full swing with 40 per cent of the wheat seeded. There has been very little seeding as yet on stubble land. Further rainfall will be needed shortly to maintain good growth. Temperatures remain below normal and weed growth is just beginning. Growth is just starting on hay and pasture fields but good rains will soon be required to maintain development.

In the southwest part of the province, the Experimental Farm at Swift Current reports that the weather remains cool and rainfall, varying from one-quarter to one inch, held up seeding. Surface moisture conditions are now excellent. Seeding is practically completed in the southern part of the area and getting started in the northern part. Fall rye came through the winter in excellent condition and has made fair growth to date. Pastures vary from fair to good. At Big Beaver, in the south-central part of the province, seeding is about 75 per cent completed but warm weather is now needed as weeds are slow in starting. Pasture lands are showing green. About one-quarter of an inch of rain was received early in the morning of May 16.

At Val Marie the weather has been fairly cool and cloudy, with a few sunny periods and only a trace of rain. Surface moisture remains poor and sub-soil reserves are very low. Grass is growing slowly and is still below average for this time of the year. Seeding is 75 per cent completed. At Eastend scattered showers throughout the district have improved moisture conditions. About 70 per cent of the wheat and 60 per cent of the coarse grains are now seeded. Hay and pasture conditions have improved but are still rated as poor. Several areas in the district report numerous army cutworms in summerfallow fields. In the Leader district seeding of coarse grains is complete and some flax has been sown. Recent showers have greatly improved growing conditions and some early seeded fields are turning green and germination appears to be good.

In the Willowbrook area, in the east-central part of the province, spring seeding is progressing very slowly due to unfavourable weather conditions. Wild oats are just starting to grow. A recent two inch rainfall has greatly improved moisture conditions but warm weather is needed to speed growth. Pasture and haylands are just starting to show green. The weather remains cool and windy. At Togo seeding progress is about normal and recent rains have improved moisture conditions. Weed growth is slow and warm weather is needed. Moisture supplies remain the main factor affecting crop development.

In the Drake district, in the central part of the province, seeding was again halted by rain which this season to date has totalled 2.25 inches. Wild oats are now sprouting on summerfallow fields. Seeding is half completed and warmer weather is now essential. In the Saskatoon district little seeding has been done and the weather continues very cool.

The Experimental Farm at Scott in the west-central part of the province, reports that moisture conditions are now excellent for the establishment of crops. Some 0.64 inches of rain was received at Scott since the last report. Approximately 50 per cent of the wheat and 25 per cent of coarse grains are now seeded. Soils are in an excellent state of tilth with no signs of soil drifting. Pastures are improving with the slight increase in average temperatures. Farther north at Meota seeding is general, but the weather remains cool and growth is slow. Moisture conditions are satisfactory with rainfall since April 1 totalling 1.25 inches.

The Experimental Farm at Melfort, in the northeast, reports that cold, wet weather has prevented resumption of field work and surface moisture has been greatly improved by the rain of the past two weeks. If the weather clears, field work should

be general later this week. Reports indicate that erosion by wind and water is greater than first expected. At Nipawin the weather has been cool and wet with 1.58 inches of rain being received this growing season to date. There has been very little growth so far but some seeding is now being done. Low lands are still very wet. Grass crops are making slow growth but with warm weather everything would be ideal. An increase in wheat and flax acreage seedings is anticipated for the district.

Reports received by the Entomological Laboratory in Saskatoon indicate that army cutworms are prevalent in summerfallow fields in southwestern and south-central Saskatchewan, south of the C.P.R. mainline. Unconfirmed reports of cutworms have also been received from the Alameda district in southeastern part of the province. No damage has been reported as very little crop growth has occurred to date.

Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 25 per cent above normal compared with 18 per cent above normal a week ago, 8 per cent above normal two weeks ago and in contrast to 21 per cent below normal a year ago. Mean temperature for the week ending May 15 was 6.7 degrees below normal, compared with 3.0 degrees below normal a week ago, 9.5 degrees below normal two weeks ago and in contrast to 5.0 degrees above normal for the week ending May 16, 1960.

ALBERTA

Little progress was made with seeding operations in Alberta during the past week. However, the moisture situation has improved and is now rated as good in western and northern areas, fair to good in the Peace River area and improved in southern and eastern districts. Surface moisture supplies are now adequate to germinate crops in almost all regions. Seeding of principal and specialty crops is well advanced in the southeast, but progress is spotty in the central part of the province and in the Peace River district. Little has been accomplished in the west and north where farmers are waiting for warmer weather and an opportunity to destroy the first crop of wild oats which is now beginning to show. Livestock are in fair to good condition, but pastures are very slow, and late feeding has been depleting hay reserves. Prospects for grazing this summer will depend on sub-soil moisture reserves which are poor in the south and east.

Seeding is nearing completion in the Manyberries area in the southeast and recent rain has improved grain prospects and range vegetation. Soil moisture is now considered fair to good.

The Research Station at Lethbridge reports that showery weather during the past week in the area south of Calgary, with about one inch at Lethbridge, has improved the moisture situation. This applies particularly in the southeast, where early-sown grain is showing a satisfactory stand. Very little seeding of any kind took place during the past week. Fall crops are progressing favourably in the Cardston area, but only a small amount of spring grain has been sown to date. Fields are saturated and pastures are good. Given favourable weather, field work could commence in a week. Rains during the past week have improved moisture conditions around Claresholm and warm, dry weather is now needed to get seeding underway. Winter wheat, hay and pasture crops are making good growth.

In the south-central part of the province around Vulcan 20 per cent of the seeding is completed. Three-quarters of an inch of rain last week provided ample moisture to start all crops and is maintaining pasture land in a healthy condition. Sunny weather is now facilitating field work and continued warm weather would be welcome.

One and a half inches of rain this past week have greatly improved moisture conditions in the Hanna area east of Calgary. Pasture and hay lands show improvement, but the wet weather has delayed seeding. Two days of dry weather permitted some seeding to be done over the weekend around Calgary, but operations were again halted by rain on Monday. Moisture supplies are adequate to give hay and pastures a good start, but warm, dry weather is needed to promote growth. Farther north at Olds rain is again delaying seeding, with very little being accomplished during the past week. Conditions are generally promising and moisture supplies are sufficient until the end of this month.

The weather has been cool and wet with about an inch of rain during the past week in the Sedgewick area of central Alberta. Seeding of wheat is now general and pastures are doing well. However, two weeks of warm, dry weather are needed to complete seeding. Showers have slowed field work in the Donalda area although some seeding has been done between rains. Percentages seeded are estimated as follows: wheat 30, oats 10 and barley 5. Ample moisture is available to start the crop but regular rains will be needed throughout the season. Pasture growth is beginning. Seeding has also been delayed in the Stettler district by cold, wet weather. Two inches of moisture were received this past week and our correspondent estimates that only two per cent of the seeding has been done in the district. Seeding will likely be further delayed to give wild oats a start.

Rain and snow during the past week in the Red Deer area have improved moisture conditions, but reserves are very limited. Seeding is underway with 10 per cent of the crop now in. Forage crops are improving but growth is extremely slow. Below normal temperatures and frequent showers have retarded field work in the Lacombe area where very little seeding has been done. Hay and pastures are making fair growth, but warmer weather is required. Wet, showery weather has continued the past week in the Eckville area, with some field work being done over the weekend. Our correspondent estimates that crop land in this area will be divided as follows: wheat 2 per cent, rapeseed 3 per cent, oats 15 per cent and barley 80 per cent. Seeding will be general as soon as weather permits.

Cool weather has prevailed this past week in the Edmonton area with approximately 0.2 inches of moisture. Some spring work has been done but it is not general as yet. Northeast of Edmonton around Bonnyville cool weather persists. Seeding is progressing very slowly and will be carried on into June. Due to excellent soil moisture reserves and the lateness of the season many farmers will be replacing wheat acreage by barley and rapeseed. Cool weather also prevails in the Athabasca district. Fifty per cent of the Thatcher wheat, but no coarse grains, have been seeded in this district. The moisture outlook is very good but warmer weather is needed. Seeding is started in the Colinton district. Moisture supplies are good but warm weather is required to start crops.

The weather has settled and seeding is in full swing in the Beaverlodge area of the Peace River District. Surface moisture conditions are favourable and pastures are showing growth. In the far north of the province at Fort Vermilion cool, cloudy weather prevailed over the past week, with 4 inches of snow on the tenth. Fields are still wet and while the odd farmer is working on the land no seeding has been done as yet. Pasture crops are slow and there has been no weed growth except for winter annuals. Moisture supplies are good.

Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 15 per cent above normal compared with 8 per cent above normal a week ago, 17 per cent below normal two weeks ago and 1 per cent below normal a year ago. Mean temperature for the week

ending May 15 was 6.8 degrees below normal compared with 4.4 degrees below normal a week ago, 6.5 degrees below normal two weeks ago and in contrast to 3.2 degrees above normal for the week ending May 16, 1960.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Rains in the latter part of April improved the moisture situation in the West Kootenay district of British Columbia. Fall-seeded wheat looks promising. Cattle have been on pasture and lower ranges for three weeks.

Below normal temperatures and wet weather have retarded spring planting operations in the North Okanagan Valley. However, irrigated pastures are in excellent condition. Throughout the Interior, rivers are rising at a normal rate and no flood hazard is threatening.

Excessive rainfall and cool weather are reported from the lower Fraser Valley. Pastures are generally good and the first cut of grass for silage promises better than average yields. However, wet soil conditions are hampering the use of equipment. Planting of peas, beans and corn is a full two weeks behind schedule. Some grain seeding operations are still to be completed. Early potatoes are growing well, but second plantings are two to three weeks behind schedule.

Warmer weather for the past few days has considerably improved growth of all crops on Vancouver Island. Hay, pasture, strawberry and loganberry crop prospects are good. Early potato planting is well underway on some drained lowlands, but the main potato areas are still too wet for plowing.

General growth has been ten days later than normal in the Central Interior district, on account of cool, wet weather. Field work is now in full progress. Legume crops have wintered very well.

Recent warmer weather and rains improved the crop outlook in the Peace River region. All wheat is seeded now, while 25 per cent of the oats and 75 per cent of the barley remain to be seeded. Forage growth has already started.

Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces 1/

Province and Crop District	Station	Precipitation			Mean Temperature	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	Week ending 8 a.m.	
		8 a.m.	since	since	May 15	
		May 15, 1961	April 1	April 1	1961	Normal
		- inches -	- degrees F. -			
MANITOBA						
1	Pierson	1.84	3.45	1.97	44	51
	Bede	.37	2.20	2.17	43	51
	Waskada	.48	2.39	1.68	45	51
2	Boissevain	.29	2.01	1.94	45	50
	Deerwood	.22	2.15	2.03	44	50
	Ninette	.19	2.43	2.18	44	50
	Pilot Mound	.35	2.07	2.04	44	49
3	Portage la Prairie	.06	2.43	1.92	44	51
	Graysville	NIL	1.56	1.89	45	50
	Morden	.20	1.47	2.33	45	51
	Altona	.18	1.66	1.99	46	52
	Morris	.30	1.73	1.65	45	52
	Roland	.13	1.61	2.01	45	51
	Gretna	.16	1.61	1.94	45	51
	Emerson	.10	1.52	1.94	46	53
	Stonewall	.05	2.71	1.90	43	50
4	Winnipeg	.08	2.09	2.01	44	51
6	Sprague	.06	1.64	2.24	45	49
	Seven Sisters Falls	.12	1.41	1.64	44	48
	Steinbach	.54	2.15	2.03	45	51
7	Virden	.38	1.58	1.56	46	50
	Reston	.34	2.18	1.96	46	50
	Rivers	.22	4.32	1.74	44	50
8	Brandon	.12	4.06	2.14	44	51
	Cypress River	.12	2.79	1.78	45	50
	Neepawa	.04	2.95	1.63	44	49
	Grass River	.11	2.51	1.66	43	50
10	Russell	.48	2.32	1.43	42	48
	Rosburn	.40	3.25	1.46	43	48
	Birtle	.22	2.84	1.51	42	48
11	Dauphin	.46	3.06	1.62	42	50
12	Gimli	.08	2.12	1.55	42	49
13	Swan River	.57	1.45	1.41	42	47
	The Pas	.54	2.37	1.42	38	47
MANITOBA AVERAGE		.29	2.30	1.83	43.9	50.0

SASKATCHEWAN

1A	Estevan	.24	1.67	1.36	46	51
	Carlyle	.35	1.82	1.62	44	49
	Oxbow	.40	1.55	1.71	44	50
	Willmar	.41	1.65	1.46	N.R.	N.R.
1B	Broadview	.14	.84	1.48	43	48
	Moosomin	.15	1.72	1.36	43	50
2A	Yellow Grass	.54	2.02	1.39	44	50

Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces 1/

Province and Crop District	Station	Precipitation			Mean Temperature	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	Week ending 8 a.m.	
		8 a.m. May 15, 1961	since April 1	since April 1	May 15 1961	Normal
		- inches -			- degrees F. -	
<u>SASKATCHEWAN</u> (continued)						
2A	Creelman	.45	1.53	1.36	44	50
	Weyburn	.43	1.41	1.41	46	50
	Midale	.35	1.74	1.54	47	51
	Claybank	N.R.	1.60 2/	1.42	N.R.	51
2B	Moose Jaw	.22	1.41	1.40	43	52
	Regina	.22	1.09	1.38	43	51
	Francis	.31	.60	1.16	44	50
	Qu'Appelle	.26	1.31	1.65	41	50
	Indian Head	.34	1.35	1.45	43	50
	Wilcox	.43	1.63	1.44	43	51
	Assiniboia	.25	1.56	1.33	45	51
3AS	Ormiston	.28	1.48	1.47	42	51
	Readlyn	.23	.92	1.31	44	51
	Minton	.28	1.83	1.80	45	52
	Cardross	.39	1.60	1.44	44	51
3AN	Ceylon	.34	1.99	1.83	43	51
	Chaplin	.40	1.66	1.41	40	50
	Gravelbourg	.47	1.82	1.33	45	52
	Coderre	.45	1.94	1.40	44	51
3BS	Shaunavon	.55	1.26	1.47	45	51
	Cadillac	.29	.69 2/	1.55	47	51
	Pambrun	.50	1.87	1.37	44	51
	Aneroid	.18	.78	1.43	44	51
3BN	Instow	.55	1.16	1.33	44	52
	Pennant	.60	1.92	1.46	44	52
	Swift Current	.52	2.12	1.41	43	52
	Hodgeville	.38	1.60	1.38	44	52
4A	Hughton	.54	2.19	1.36	45	49
	Maple Creek	.54	1.26 2/	1.45	48	52
4B	Consul	.28	1.58	1.21	47	49
	Abbey	.39	1.38	1.32	45	51
5A	Cupar	.59	1.83	1.33	43	50
	Melville	.48	1.37	1.38	42	49
	Yorkton	.65	2.27	1.41	41	50
	Bangor	.49	1.93	1.46	42	49
5B	Dafoe	.28	1.21	1.26	41	49
	Foam Lake	.64	1.38 2/	1.46	40	49
	Lintlaw	.83	2.58	1.53	39	46
	Kamsack	.53	1.53	1.39	42	49
6A	Arran	.68	1.44	1.39	41	47
	Davidson	.67	1.80	1.35	43	51
	Imperial	.49	1.42	1.30	43	50
	Semans	N.R.	1.08 2/	1.32	N.R.	50
	Strasbourg	.47	1.80	1.26	42	50

Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces^{1/}

Province and Crop District	Station	Precipitation			Mean Temperature	
		Week ending 8 a.m.	Total Since	Normal Since	Week ending 8 a.m.	
		May 15, 1961	April 1	April 1	May 15 1961	Normal
		- inches -	- degrees F. -			
<u>SASKATCHEWAN</u> (concluded)						
6 A	Watrous	.70	2.49	1.21	43	50
6 B	Harris	N.R.	2.25 <u>2/</u>	1.16	N.R.	50
	Outlook	.86	1.78	1.02	44	51
	Saskatoon	.47	1.83	1.30	45	51
	Elbow	.60	2.14	1.33	43	51
	Tugaske	.74	2.72	1.27	42	50
	Dundurn	.60	1.80	1.18	43	51
7 A	Alsask	.37	1.27	1.51	45	50
	Kindersley	.33	1.93	1.21	42	50
	Rosetown	.75	2.49	1.46	42	50
7 B	Macklin	.69	1.55	1.52	44	50
	Denzil	.70	2.06	1.52	43	50
	Scott	.54	2.64	1.51	42	49
	Biggar	.87	2.37	1.16	44	51
8 A	Hudson Bay	.63	1.94	1.59	41	47
	Porcupine Plain	1.03	3.03	1.44	39	44
	Prairie River	.62	2.03	1.37	40	44
	Armit	.55	2.08	1.59	40	47
8 B	Humboldt	.29	1.40	1.18	42	47
	Melfort	.30	2.29	1.36	41	50
9 A	North Battleford	.43	1.49	1.34	44	51
	Victoire	.47	2.01	1.31	42	48
	Prince Albert	.26	2.71	1.69	42	49
	Island Falls	.02	1.70	1.43	36	43
9 B	Waseca	.55	2.04	1.60	45	49
	St. Walburg	.16	.44 <u>2/</u>	1.57	41	47
SASKATCHEWAN AVERAGE		.46	1.76	1.41	43.1	49.8

ALBERTA

1	Empress	.27	.32	.90	47	53
	Foremost	.57	1.08	1.85	44	52
	Hanna	.64	1.12	1.30	43	51
	Manyberries	N.R.	.68 ^{2/}	1.27	N.R.	52
	Medicine Hat	.21	1.29	1.58	48	54
	Naco	.40	1.10	1.27	41	51
	Winnifred	N.R.	.52 ^{2/}	1.73	N.R.	54
2	Brooks	.77	2.37	1.47	46	52
	Drumheller	.47	1.44	1.28	44	53
	Gleichen	.37	2.80	1.78	43	51
	Hays	.49	.87	1.47	47	53
	Hussar	.43	1.94	1.70	N.R.	51
	Raymond	.37	2.51	2.45	46	51



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- IV -

Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces^{1/}

Province and Crop District	Station	Precipitation			Mean Temperature	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	Week ending 8 a.m.	
		8 a.m. May 15, 1961	Since April 1	Since April 1	May 15 1961	Normal
		- inches -			- degrees F. -	
ALBERTA (concluded)						
2	Lethbridge	.43	2.54	2.15	47	51
	Strathmore	.38	2.00	1.71	43	48
	Taber	.91	1.82	1.82	48	49
	Three Hills	.65	1.94	1.44	42	49
	Trochu	.70	3.14	1.82	41	50
	Vulcan	.50	2.75	1.80	43	51
3	Calgary	.38	2.59	2.03	42	49
	Cardston	.97	3.35	1.96	45	50
	Pincher Creek	2.05	6.49	2.38	45	48
	Fort MacLeod	.72	2.55	1.88	45	52
	High River	.84	3.68	2.50	41	47
	Jasper	.03	1.29	1.10	45	47
	Magrath	.37	3.04	2.22	44	51
	Olds	.65	1.53	1.92	41	48
	Alliance	.07	1.08 2/	1.46	42	49
	Camrose	.54	1.19	1.75	43	50
4	Coronation	.55	1.84	1.50	43	49
	Hughenden	1.04	1.92	1.35	43	50
	Lloydminster	.44	2.07	1.48	43	50
	Stettler	.61	1.59	1.69	42	49
	Vegreville	.28	.85	1.32	43	48
	Vermilion	.58	1.84	1.34	43	49
	Edmonton	.09	1.08	1.78	42	51
	Lacombe	.43	1.52	2.05	42	49
	Red Deer	.54	1.98	1.65	42	49
	Rocky Mountain House	.72	3.10	2.46	41	48
5	Wetaskiwin	.32	1.20	1.95	42	50
	Athabasca	.20	1.92	1.43	41	48
	Campsie	.14	.69 2/	1.74	42	48
	Edson	.24	3.33	1.70	42	47
	Elk Point	.10	.71	1.35	41	47
	Embarras	trace	.97	1.24	36	46
	Lac la Biche	.16	1.05	1.49	40	49
	Whitecourt	.35	3.05	2.14	42	47
	Beaverlodge	.14	1.04	1.47	44	49
	Fairview	.11	1.23	1.58	42	49
6	Ft. Vermilion	.42	1.43	1.14	39	48
	Grande Prairie	.14	1.36	1.45	45	49
	High Prairie	.10	1.65	1.56	42	49
	Rycroft	.26	.92	1.25	42	49
	Wagner	.02	1.33	1.60	39	48
	ALBERTA AVERAGE	.45	1.91	1.66	42.9	49.7

N.R. - No report.

^{1/} Source: Meteorological Service of Canada.

^{2/} Incomplete; not included in average