

22-002
no. 9
1975
July 17
c. 3

Statistics Canada Statistique Canada

For release
July 17, 1975, 3 p.m.

Price: \$5.60 for series of
20 Crop Reports

Field Crop Reporting Series — No. 11

TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT — CANADA

This is the fourth of the 1975 series of six telegraphic reports issued by Statistics Canada, covering crop conditions throughout Canada. Included in this report is the seventh of a series of eleven 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 Atmospheric Environment Service, Department of the Environment.

Special note. — Due to some changes in survey scheduling within the Agriculture Division of Statistics Canada it is possible to publish only summary reports in the Telegraphic Crop Reporting Series for the month of July. It is anticipated that regular service will be resumed in August.

MARITIME PROVINCES

Throughout the Maritime provinces extremely dry weather is adversely affecting most crops. Strawberry production is down in Prince Edward Island and the hay yield is below average. The potato and tobacco crops are making good growth but need moisture. In Nova Scotia corn, hay and pasture growth is suffering due to the lack of moisture. Early potatoes in New Brunswick are doing well but growth of later varieties is slow. Fruit and vegetable crops are generally doing well.

Agriculture Division
Crops Section

5-3102-508

QUEBEC

In the L'Assomption district, cigarette tobacco growers have been irrigating due to a full six weeks with no rain. However, the recent 0.84 inch of rainfall is expected to benefit all crops. Hail on July 8 caused some damage to tobacco. At La Pocatière some 30 per cent of the hay crop has been harvested with good yields reported. Recent dry weather, however, has adversely affected pastures but grains and potatoes are developing as well as can be expected under these dry conditions. Farmers in the Lake St. John district have finished haylage making and started haying two weeks ago. However, frequent rains have held up operations in this district. It is anticipated that better than average hay yields will be obtained. Pasture conditions on the other hand, have deteriorated and heavy weed infestations are general. Early-sown grain is heading and rapeseed is in flower.

ONTARIO

Rain during the latter part of the week ending July 11 provided much-needed relief to western, southern and central districts of the province. However, conditions in eastern Ontario remain very dry. The overly dry conditions had hindered development of spring-sown crops particularly corn but at the same time facilitated harvesting a hay crop of excellent quality. Harvesting of winter wheat has commenced in southern Ontario and some yields have been recorded as high as 60 to 70 bushels per acre. Spring-seeded cereals are now in reasonably good condition but are still showing the effects of the previous dry weather. Growth of second-crop hay as well as pastures has been retarded. Tobacco is generally good although some of the crops suffered severe hail damage during recent storms. Picking of sweet cherries is generally completed and spot picking of early peaches is now taking place. Early potatoes are being dug and an abundant crop of early sweet corn is moving to market. A severe outbreak of armyworms has been reported in the area surrounding the experimental farm at Kapuskasing. In general, prospects for most crops are good throughout the province provided that adequate moisture is available during the remainder of the growing season.

Prairie Provinces. - A recent period of hot, dry weather has hastened plant growth throughout the Prairie Provinces. Crops are developing well with cereals in the flag leaf stage or heading and oilseeds are in full bloom or even further advanced in some cases. Rain, however, is needed in most districts to ensure continued satisfactory crop development. Stands are heavy and the overall outlook is promising at this stage. Haying is general with good yields and quality reported.

RUST REPORT

Traces to moderate levels of leaf rust have been found in Manitoba and in much of Saskatchewan. Traces of wheat stem rust have also been observed on susceptible wheats in experimental plots at Morden, Manitoba but not in farm fields. Traces to light infections of oat crown rust are general in Manitoba, while a trace of oat stem rust has been observed in a farm field at Carman, Manitoba. Conditions in Manitoba have been favourable for rust development and late-sown crops may incur significant levels of rust infection.

MANITOBA

Crops have advanced rapidly with the hot, dry weather this past week. Rain is now needed in all regions except areas east of the Red River where flooding occurred. In these areas there has been some seeded acreage worked down or yellowed due to excessive moisture. Elsewhere in the province most cereals are starting to head with the outlook better than average. Special crops are in full bloom or podding. Meadow fescue is being swathed for seed. Haying is well advanced throughout the province with quality and yields above average. Insect damage has been minimal, however, there is a large population of forest tent moths reported.

SASKATCHEWAN

Crops are progressing favourably on a heavy stand as a result of warm, sunny weather this past week. Early crops are now headed while the later ones are in the shotblade stage. In the southern areas crops on the lighter soils will begin to deteriorate if additional moisture is not received. Rain is also needed in the central regions to help bring along the excellent stands now in the shotblade to heading stage. In the northern districts early cereals are now headed and early rapeseed is in full bloom. Fall-seeded crops are suffering from the heat and rain would benefit all grains. The grasshopper population has been light in most areas except in the southwest districts around Val Marie where damage was quite extensive. Summerfallows are in good condition. Haying is in progress with excellent yields of good quality hay being harvested. Pastures are excellent and cattle are doing well.

ALBERTA

Hot, dry weather during the last two weeks have resulted in rapid crop growth and development. Moisture reserves are reported as fair to poor across the province as rain is needed in most areas to assure large heads and good filling. Cereal crops are in the flag leaf stage and rapeseed is in full bloom. Haying is general with good yields reported. Spraying has now been completed in practically all districts with only light grasshopper damage reported to date. Grass and pastures are good to excellent, particularly in the southwest area of the province with livestock in very good condition. There has been no hail damage of any significance reported to the Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation since July 8.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Crop lands are dry throughout the province due to a lack of rain. Thunderstorms in some areas have improved moisture conditions but dry haylands and ranges are still apparent. Grain development is only slightly below average in most areas and rain is needed to maintain yields. Clover and fescue acreage is down. The first-cut of hay is over in most areas and yields appear normal. At Fort St. John the rapeseed bloom was short-lived and some barley fields are not filling properly due to the dry weather. The fruit and vegetable crop is progressing well but is one week late. There was a good cherry, pear, peach and apple set. The cherry crop is large and quality appears to be good. Some sun scald and decay problems have been reported in the early cherry crop. Strawberries are nearly all harvested near Victoria and raspberry and loganberry picking has begun. The quality of the early potato and cabbage crops looks good especially in the Terrace area of the Skeena River Valley. Corn is growing rapidly and yield prospects look good.

Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces(1)

Precipitation			
Per cent deviation from normal(2)			
	Man.	Sask.	Alta.
April 1, 1975 - July 14, 1975	+ 17	+ 18	+ 23
April 1, 1975 - July 7, 1975	+ 27	+ 27	+ 30
April 1, 1974 - July 15, 1974	+ 10	+ 14	+ 17

Temperature			
°C. deviation from normal(2)			
	Man.	Sask.	Alta.
For the week ending July 14, 1975	- 2.2	+ 0.1	+ 2.3
For the week ending July 7, 1975	+ 2.5	+ 3.6	+ 3.7
For the week ending July 15, 1974	+ 1.7	+ 0.6	- 1.7

(1) Source: Atmospheric Environment Service.

(2) Positive sign indicates above normal and negative sign indicates below normal.

Erratum note: Data related to temperature deviations from normal and appearing in the table included in the Telegraphic Crop Report - Prairie Provinces, Field Crop Reporting Series - No. 10 were incorrectly presented in terms of format. Temperature data are not cumulative from April 1 as suggested in the table. Rather these figures relate to °C. deviations from normal for the weeks ending July 7, 1975; June 30, 1975; and July 8, 1974, respectively. The correct format of the table is presented below.

Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces(1)

Temperature			
°C. deviations from normal(2)			
	Man.	Sask.	Alta.
For the week ending July 7, 1975	+ 2.5	+ 3.6	+ 3.7
For the week ending June 30, 1975	+ 3.5	+ 0.8	- 2.1
For the week ending July 8, 1974	+ 1.6	- 0.5	- 2.8

(1) Source: Atmospheric Environment Service.

(2) Positive sign indicates above normal and negative sign indicates below normal.