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20 Crop Reports

## Field Crop Reporting Series - No. 9

### TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT - CANADA

This is the third of the 1976 series of six telegraphic reports, issued by Statistics Canada, covering crop conditions throughout Canada. Included in this report is the fifth 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 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

Heavy rains last week benefited all crops throughout the Maritime Provinces after a continued drought of several weeks. Crop conditions are excellent in Prince Edward Island despite heavy rain which slowed harvesting of only a fair crop of hay. The cereal and corn crops are about average for this time of year although corn is spotty in some areas. Pastures are holding well on fertilized fields despite well below-average rainfall in the western sections of the province during June.

Agriculture Division  
Crops Section

5-3102-508

Slight increases in seed and table stock potato acreages are reported and spraying is general. Satisfactory yields are expected for peas for processing and tobacco. A heavy rain last week helped all crops in Nova Scotia. Haying is under way with an average or better crop reported. Early grain is starting to head and corn is growing well. The strawberry crop is nearly all harvested and yields are excellent. In New Brunswick a fair set of fruit is reported in most areas. Reports indicate varying sets of apples in different areas of the province and blueberries have begun to size. Cabbage, beetgreens, peas and head lettuce are being harvested. Haying has started in some areas and grain fields are looking exceptionally good. Some early potatoes will be harvested this week. Insect activity is high and consequently spraying for insect and weed control continues on both potatoes and grain. The strawberry crop is past its peak with both good yield and quality reported.

#### QUEBEC

Farmers have started haying operations. Cereals and potatoes are showing good development and the pasture situation is also generally favourable. In l'Assomption district corn plants have doubled in size within one week's time. A good strawberry crop is still being picked. Heavy precipitation during the last few days has enabled the berries to maintain a good size although the moisture has brought some mould and other problems. Raspberry plantings, on the other hand, sustained considerable frost damage earlier in the season and a short crop is expected. The tobacco crop is showing normal development but growers are experiencing difficulties with cultivating operations due to heavy weed growth. Severe insect damage is reported on several horticultural crops. In La Pocatiere district a small strawberry crop is being picked. Although June was generally dry, recent rains have benefited hay crops and pastures are good.

#### ONTARIO

In all but northern Ontario, weather conditions in the first half of June were ideal for completion of seeding. This was followed by a short period of dry weather at mid-month in much of western Ontario. The last half of June was characterized by frequent and heavy showers, very good growing weather but with most counties receiving more than adequate rainfall by July 4. Pasture and hay growth has been excellent but haying operations in many areas have been delayed because of rains, with subsequent loss of hay quality. Winter wheat cutting will start next week, with crop prospects average to above average. Spring grains as well as corn are looking good, although many fields are a few weeks behind last year's growth. Soybeans are six to ten inches high and stands are even. Cherries, peaches and raspberries are being harvested in southern Ontario as well as early potatoes, sweet corn, tomatoes and cucumbers. Strawberry picking is almost over. Tobacco is growing well.

Prairie Provinces. - Crop conditions are good throughout the Prairie Provinces with moisture supplies adequate in practically all areas. Early-sown cereals are heading and oilseed crops are in blossom. Farmers are haying but yields are comparatively light due to dry weather earlier in the season.

## RUST REPORT

Leaf rust on wheat was first found in Manitoba on June 18 and light infections of leaf rust have been observed in south-central Manitoba and probably occur westward into Saskatchewan. Heavy infections may develop especially on late crops if conditions remain suitable for rust development during the next two to three weeks. A trace of stem rust was found on susceptible wheat in experimental plots but has not been observed in commercial fields. Oat rusts have not been found to date in Manitoba.

## MANITOBA

All crops are in good condition with moisture supplies adequate except in the northern part of the Interlake District. Early-sown cereals are headed while flax, rapeseed, and mustard are in bloom. Fall rye is turning. Corn is up to four feet (1.2 metres) in height and row crop cultivation is well advanced. Farmers have almost completed spraying operations and haying is now general. Hay yields however are below average and the quality of the crop is down where cutting has been delayed. Pastures are good.

## SASKATCHEWAN

With the warmer weather of the past few days crops have continued to make excellent progress and the outlook is favourable. Early-sown cereals are heading and rapeseed is flowering. Many fields are quite weedy because wet weather delayed spraying operations. Moisture conditions are excellent throughout the province. Pastures are improving as a result of the rains this past few weeks but remain only fair to good. Haying is now in progress with some areas reporting average yields.

## ALBERTA

Crop conditions throughout Alberta are good to excellent. Early-seeded barley and wheat fields are starting to head and rapeseed is in bloom. Prospects for an above average crop are very favourable. All areas report good moisture conditions. In the northern and Peace River districts many low-lying fields are showing stress from excessive moisture but with continuing warm weather, crop damage should be minimal. Recent rainfall has interfered with field operations and many summerfallow fields have become weedy. Pastures have improved and are in a generally fair to good condition except where over-grazing has occurred. The hay crop will be light and unless the second cutting is heavy hay could be in very short supply. An increase in the area sown for green feed should help to offset the expected shortages. Reports of damage from crop pests have been very few. Predicted grasshopper outbreaks have not materialized to any great extent and other pests have caused only light damage.



# BRITISH COLUMBIA

Generally the mainland of British Columbia has been receiving excessive moisture and warm, dry weather is needed. However, reports from Victoria on Vancouver Island indicate cool and cloudy weather, but little rain. The apple and pear fruit set is good, but cherries and peaches are poor. Strawberry picking is near its peak and some early potatoes are being harvested. Greenhouse tomatoes and cucumbers are nearly over. The quality has been excellent. In the lower Fraser area June was much cooler and slightly wetter than normal. Rains have hampered both hay curing and weed control. The raspberry and strawberry crops are developing normally but ripening slowly. Both silage and sweet corn crops are progressing slowly. Our crop correspondent in Vernon reports that the first hay crop has been 70 per cent harvested. Yields are above average but weathering has reduced the quality of the pastures and range. In the Smithers area late spring flooding of rivers has caused problems to the vegetable growers on river flats. Grain for winter forage feed has not been seeded in some cases due to the wet conditions. Around Dawson Creek the excessive precipitation has caused some damage to late-seeded barley. Forage crops are good and some of the early-seeded barley has headed.

## Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces(1)

	Unweighted Average Precipitation		
	Per cent variation from normal(2)		
	Man.	Sask.	Alta.
April 1, 1976 - July 5, 1976 .....	- 5	+ 29	+ 3
April 1, 1976 - June 28, 1976 .....	+ 5	+ 33	+ 10
April 1, 1976 - June 21, 1976 .....	- 7	+ 11	- 14
April 1, 1975 - July 7, 1975 .....	+ 27	+ 27	+ 30

## Mean Temperature

	°C. variation from normal(2)		
	Man.	Sask.	Alta.
For the week ending July 5, 1976 .....	- 1.1	- 0.3	- 0.5
For the week ending June 28, 1976 .....	- 1.9	- 4.8	- 4.8
For the week ending June 21, 1976 .....	- 2.9	- 1.0	- 1.5
For the week ending July 7, 1975 .....	+ 2.5	+ 3.6	+ 3.7

(1) Source: Atmospheric Environment Service.

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