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Field Crop Reporting Series - No. 11

TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT - CANADA

This is the fourth of the 1976 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 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

The optimum combination of rain and warm, sunny weather has provided generally good growing conditions throughout the Maritime Provinces. In Prince Edward Island the hay crop is about seventy-five per cent harvested. Potatoes are growing rapidly with about fifty per cent in bloom. Cereal crops are above average but some lodging is reported as a result of the heavy showers. The corn crop is growing rapidly. Pastures are holding up very well. In Nova Scotia the blueberry crop is a week earlier than usual and yields are below normal. The apple crop is

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sizing well and a good quality crop is expected. Very good growth is reported in vegetables, grain, corn and pastures. A good hay harvest is about seventy-five per cent completed but some problems are reported due to frequent, light showers. In New Brunswick potato fields are showing generally good growth with many early plantings in bloom. The strawberry harvest is finished and a good crop is reported. The apple set varies throughout the province but an average crop is expected. Vegetable crops are generally doing very well.

QUEBEC

Cool weather in most regions of Quebec has hampered development of heat-loving crops and warm weather is needed. In La Pocatiere district about two-thirds of the hay crop has been harvested. Yields are good but in many instances quality is poor due to unfavourable weather during July. However, grain crops and potatoes are doing well and pastures are very good. At Normandin recent heavy rains have held up haying operations and only about fifty per cent of the hay is in. Farmers have finished making grass silage with yields varying from average to very good. Some aphid damage on late-sown grain is causing yellowing and will reduce yields. All crops are about two weeks later than normal in the district. A good blueberry crop is in prospect, pollination having been effective. In the tobacco growing district of L'Assomption flue-cured tobacco growers are treating the crop for pest control. Aphid infestations appear to be heavier than last year. The tobacco crop is quite variable with poorly drained fields showing weak development and are therefore more subject to aphid infestations.

ONTARIO

During the past three weeks rainfall in southern and western Ontario has been more than adequate. Rain has lowered the quality of most first-cut hay and has caused many disease outbreaks in late-sown grains. Early-seeded cereals are growing well and harvesting has commenced in some areas. Winter wheat harvesting is in full swing and grain corn has started to tassle. Late-planted corn and soybeans are quite uneven due to water damage. The early potato harvest is completed in the Essex area and yields were average to good. Tobacco and late potatoes are doing well, although tobacco in Norfolk county is yellowing due to wet conditions. In central and eastern Ontario harvesting of winter wheat has started. Most first-cut hay was badly weathered, with some hay chopped and left on the fields. Late-sown spring grains show heavy infestation of Yellow Dwarf Virus on barley and Red Leaf on oats. Corn is very uneven and generally two weeks behind normal. Early-seeded grains as well as pastures are doing well. In northeastern Ontario rainfall in the past three weeks has alleviated the dry conditions. Cereal crops and potatoes are catching up and the hay aftermath is growing well. In north-western Ontario the hay yield is somewhat better than earlier expected, but harvesting has been interrupted by frequent showers.

Prairie Provinces. - Weather conditions are favourable in most of Saskatchewan and Alberta but Manitoba needs rain and there are some dry areas in central and southern Alberta. The crop outlook remains good although reports emphasize the importance of continuing good weather in the immediate future. Some early-sown barley is being swathed and the harvest of winter wheat and rye is well under way. Hay and pastures are not as good as a result of dry weather earlier in the season.

RUST REPORT

Wheat leaf rust occurs throughout Manitoba with the highest infection in the southwestern region of the province. Pockets of heavy infection occur but the total acreage affected is small. Dry conditions during the past few weeks have prevented rapid spread of leaf rust and it is expected that damage to the wheat crop will be light in most of Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Stem rust has not been observed in commercial fields. Oat crown rust is general in Manitoba but spread has been slowed by dry weather and damage is expected to be light. There are traces of oat stem rust in oat fields.

MANITOBA

Crops remain in good condition but rain is needed. Grains are beginning to turn and some early barley is now being swathed. Harvesting of fall rye is general. Sunflower crop prospects are good but prospects for a second cut of hay are poor. Pastures are dry and over-grazed. Insect damage is light although some aphids of wheat stem maggots are reported.

SASKATCHEWAN

Ideal growing conditions continue to prevail throughout the province. Heavy stands of cereals are filling well. Scattered showers this past week have caused some lodging. Much of the fall rye is now swathed and some early rapeseed is also in the swath. Pastures are much improved, but the west-central and south-west could use more rain. Summerfallows have been worked and are in good condition. There have been some hail storms during the past two weeks but damage was limited to small areas. Some districts could use more rain, although generally heat is required to mature the crop. Prospects are for an above average crop.

ALBERTA

Crop prospects for Alberta continue to be favourable. The Peace River District reports very heavy stands and excellent yields are expected. However, frequent showers have delayed haying operations and some crops are lodging. The wheat crop is in the early bloom to early filling stage while oats are generally in the late heading stage. In the Fort Vermilion area some early-seeded barley has been swathed. The northern regions also report good to excellent prospects although additional rain is needed. In the central regions most areas report generally good crop conditions. However, moisture reserves are low and rain is needed. Yield and grade will depend on moisture from now to harvest. The hay crop varies from poor to average. The driest areas are found around Claresholm, Vulcan, Calgary, Strathmore and Beiseker where crops have started to burn from lack of moisture. In the southern part of the province cereals and oilseeds are in good to excellent condition. Winter wheat and fall rye are being swathed with above average yields expected. Very few insect problems are being reported.



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BRITISH COLUMBIA

Conditions have been cool and mostly dry throughout the province. Irrigation is being applied in some areas and most crops are behind schedule for this time of year. Tree fruits are up to ten days late. However, the cherry harvest is almost completed. Strawberries, greenhouse tomatoes and cucumbers are also over. Raspberries, peaches and apricots are reported to be excellent and a large crop of apples and pears is forecast. Hay yields are slightly below average due to variable moisture conditions. Grain crops are generally good but late. Early-seeded cereals are headed and oilseeds are flowering in the Peace River Block. Most crops are slightly better than average but rain is needed for ripening of later seedings. In the north Okanagan Valley spring cereals are heading and fall cereals are ripening. Corn and potatoes are growing well in most areas of the province with early potatoes being dug in the Grand Forks area.

Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces(1)

	Unweighted Average Precipitation		
	Per cent variation from normal(2)		
	Man.	Sask.	Alta.
April 1, 1976 - July 26, 1976	- 15	+ 26	- 2
April 1, 1976 - July 19, 1976	- 13	+ 28	+ 1
April 1, 1976 - July 12, 1976	- 10	+ 29	+ 1
April 1, 1975 - July 28, 1975	+ 14	+ 8	+ 16

	Mean Temperature		
	°C. variation from normal(2)		
	Man.	Sask.	Alta.
For the week ending July 26, 1976	- 0.3	+ 0.3	+ 0.7
For the week ending July 19, 1976	- 1.8	- 1.8	- 1.2
For the week ending July 12, 1976	- 0.2	+ 0.6	+ 0.3
For the week ending July 28, 1975	+ 0.4	+ 1.6	+ 1.5

(1) Source: Atmospheric Environment Service.

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