

22-002  
no. 11  
1951  
June 6  
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C. R. No. 7

1951

Price: \$2.00 for series of 23 Crop Reports

TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT - PRAIRIE PROVINCES

Ottawa, June 6, 1951, 3 p.m. - The fourth of a series of thirteen telegraphic reports covering crop conditions in the Prairie Provinces is issued today by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. A selected list of crop correspondents chosen from the Dominion 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.

SUMMARY

With some exceptions, seeding is now completed in the Prairie Provinces. A small proportion of coarse grains particularly remains to be seeded in scattered areas of all three provinces. Most crops are growing well but development has been somewhat retarded by cold weather during the past week. Rain is now needed in much of Manitoba and in southern and central areas of Saskatchewan. Some soil drifting has occurred in drier districts but damage from pests has been light to date.

Light rains over the week-end in Manitoba have helped temporarily to relieve dry surface soil conditions in some areas. General rains, warm weather and less wind would greatly improve the crop outlook. Late seeded crops are germinating unevenly and hay crops and pastures are showing adverse effects. Conditions of cereal crops, excepting fall rye, still range from fair to satisfactory, especially early seeded fields which are able to draw upon fairly adequate subsoil moisture. Early seeded wheat is well stooled. Grasshoppers are hatching fairly freely with the weather too cool for control measures.

Wheat seeding is practically completed in Saskatchewan while the percentage of coarse grains seeded ranges from 85 in southern and central districts to 70 in the north. About 70 per cent of the flaxseed is also seeded. Subsoil moisture conditions are good but winds are drying the topsoil, causing some drifting. General rains are required to promote germination and growth, particularly in central and southern areas. Damage from frost has been slight and the cool weather has delayed the grasshopper hatch.

Seeding is now completed in most sections of Alberta. The season, however, is still backward in areas near the foothills, in some parts of central and westcentral Alberta and in the Spirit River section of

Data for Newfoundland not available.

the Peace River country. In these districts most of the wheat is seeded with a portion of the coarse grain crop still to go in the ground. Moisture conditions are generally excellent but warmer weather is needed in most areas to promote growth. Minor frost damage has been reported in the Calgary-Claresholm area.

Manitoba - Apart from light rains over the week-end the weather continues to be dry in Manitoba and cool this past week. Surface soil has become very dry and late-seeded crops are germinating unevenly. Hay crops and pastures are beginning to be adversely affected by the dry weather. Cereal crops, with the exception of fall rye, continue to show fair to satisfactory progress, especially early-seeded fields. General rains and warm weather are needed soon to improve the crop outlook. Grasshoppers are hatching fairly freely but the weather has been too cold for control measures. Scattered cutworm damage has occurred. Recent frost appears to have caused no damage except to gardens in the South Riding Mountain area.

The Experimental Farm at Morden reports that the one-half inch of rain which fell over the week-end benefited the crop outlook temporarily. All crops will require more moisture soon. The grass is backward and hay meadow growth thin. Grasshoppers are hatching in this area. Weed growth has been heavy to date and the crop outlook at the present time is only about 70 per cent of normal. In the southwest at Melita early grain crops are making good progress despite dry, cool weather. Germination of late-sown crops is very uneven and rain is needed soon to bring all crops along.

In the Portage la Prairie area seeding of cereals is almost completed but flax seeding is not yet finished. There is some frost damage to early-sown potatoes but grain has not been harmed. Serious soil drifting has occurred in the Bagot district and some crop damage has occurred from this cause. Most wheat throughout the Portage district shows an excellent stand but the germination of late-sown coarse grains is uneven. Pea and sugar beet crops are now above ground. Soaking rains would be welcome. At Brandon only one-third of an inch of rain has fallen within the last two weeks and all crops badly need rain. Seeding is 90 per cent completed but cool weather coupled with drought is retarding growth and germination of late seedings. The damage by clover weevil has been severe this year. At Woodnorth seeding is almost completed and crop growth has been generally satisfactory. Forage crop growth has been good but rain would benefit these crops as well as pasture, late-sown grains and gardens.

In the northeastern part of the province at Teulon fairly adequate rains were received over the week-end. All seeding is completed with 80 per cent of the crops above ground. Pastures are in fair condition but the hay outlook is rather poor although considerable improvement is expected due to the recent rain. In the western part of the province at Shoal Lake general rains have occurred. Frosts during the past week have browned grain crops but permanent damage apparently is slight. Some gardens and wild fruit crops have been damaged. Conditions are generally good in this district. In the northwest part of the province at Swan River wheat seeding is 95 per cent completed and coarse grain seeding is well started. Moisture conditions are good. The fall rye crop is approaching the shot-blade stage. Pastures and gardens are doing well.



The Dominion Entomological Laboratory at Brandon reports that cold weather during the past week has kept grasshopper activity at a minimum. Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 39 per cent below normal as compared with 38 per cent below normal last week and 37 per cent above normal at the same time last year. Mean temperature for the week ending June 4 was 6.8 degrees below normal compared with 6.6 degrees above normal last week and 3.4 degrees below normal a year ago.

Saskatchewan -

Wheat seeding is now practically completed in the province and favourable progress has been made in seeding of coarse grains and flaxseed. From 70 to 85 per cent of the coarse grains and about 70 per cent of the flaxseed has now been seeded. Subsoil moisture conditions are good but surface moisture has been depleted by winds. General rains are required to promote germination and growth, particularly in southern and central districts. Damage from frost and soil drifting has been reported but to date has not been serious. Cool weather has retarded the grasshopper hatch.

In the southeastern part of the province around Parkman, wheat seeding has been completed and about 75 per cent of the coarse grains is in the ground. The weather has been cool and cloudy but no rain has been received recently. Damage from frost has been slight. Pastures are in excellent condition. A report from Indian Head indicates that early-sown crops are growing well but late-seeded fields are patchy due to uneven germination. Pastures in this district are suffering from lack of moisture. There has been some soil drifting and also slight damage from frost. In the Yellow Grass district most wheat is up one to two inches. Germination has been somewhat uneven and rains are needed to promote growth. Some coarse grains still are to be seeded.

A report from Val Marie in the southwestern part of the province states that seeding has been completed. Wheat acreage in the district has been reduced by about 10 per cent while barley acreage has been increased by 50 per cent. Germination has been generally good although topsoil moisture is being depleted. Cold, windy weather prevails in the district around Swift Current where no effective rainfall has been received for three weeks. Frost caused some damage to gardens and possibly to fall rye. Growth has been poor during the past two weeks and late-sown crops are not germinating evenly. Wireworm damage is evident in some fields. Around Leader moisture conditions are fair but growth was poor last week. Early-sown wheat is about three to four inches high while later wheat is just emerging. Some wireworm and cutworm damage has occurred. Work on summer-fallows is about half completed.

At Willowbrook in the eastcentral section of the province seeding is about 95 per cent completed. The weather was very cool last week and some frost damage was reported. Moisture reserves appear to be ample and pastures are in good condition. Around Togo seeding is practically completed and growing conditions are generally good although some damage was done by frosts. There has been very little soil drifting to date. Rain will soon be needed to maintain current prospects. A report from Drake indicates that grain seeding has been completed except in low spots. Cool weather during the past week retarded growth. Rye fields are patchy and pastures are getting dry. Work is progressing on summerfallows.

In the Rosetown district in the westcentral section of the province wheat is approximately 3 inches above ground but some coarse grains are still to be sown. Moisture conditions are good but the season is about 20 days later than average. The Experimental Station at Scott reports seeding of coarse grains was completed last week except in low areas. Frost occurred on several nights during the last week but no appreciable damage has been reported although growth has been retarded. No grasshopper hatching has been reported to date.

A report from Melfort in the northeastern part of the province states that seeding of wheat is completed and that about 80 per cent of the coarse grains is in the ground. Frost and low temperatures during the past week retarded plant growth although the damage appears to be confined chiefly to gardens. Isolated cases of wireworm damage are also reported but damage has been slight. Moisture reserves appear to be ample to assure steady growth of crops for the present.

A report from the Dominion Entomological Laboratory at Saskatoon states that cold weather has retarded grasshopper hatching and activity. Red-backed cutworms are common in gardens in the Saskatoon area and damage by both cutworms and wireworms is reported.

Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 22 per cent below normal as compared with 15 per cent below normal a week ago and 23 per cent below normal at the same time last year. Mean temperature for the week ending June 4 was 8.8 degrees below normal as compared with 6.2 degrees above normal a week ago and 1.7 degrees below normal at the same time a year ago.

Alberta - Seeding is practically completed with the exception of scattered areas in western, westcentral and northern Alberta where some of the coarse grains and a small proportion of the wheat crop still remain to go into the ground. Moisture conditions are generally excellent over most of the province but extremely cool weather has hampered growth during the last week. Frost damaged gardens, alfalfa and flax in some districts.

At Manyberries in the extreme southeast of the province seeding is completed with about 80 per cent showing above ground. The range is in excellent condition with both surface and subsoil moisture reserves good. The fall rye crop is headed in the Medicine Hat area and spring-seeded grains are in good condition except for some wireworm damage. The season is still backward at Brooks where considerable coarse grains remain to be seeded. Some frost damage occurred during the week to gardens, alfalfa and flax.

General rains, with some snow fell in the Calgary, Claresholm and Cardston districts. However, seeding of all crops is practically completed in these areas with the exception of some coarse grains around Cardston. Recent frost caused limited damage to tender crops and some flax fields in the southwest. Early sown grains are growing well and hay and pastures are making excellent progress.



At Hanna in eastcentral Alberta seeding is completed with early fields up two to three inches. Germination is even. In the Stettler-Donalda-Sedgewick sector of central Alberta wheat is now all seeded with from 60 to 80 per cent of the coarse grains in the ground. Pasture and hay crops are very good in this area, but warm weather is now needed to promote crop growth.\* Some threshing of last year's crop still remains to be done here.

Crop conditions are generally good along the Calgary-Edmonton line although cold weather during the past week has retarded growth and completion of field work. East of Edmonton at Vermilion about half of the coarse grain crop is still to be seeded. Growth has been very slow with cold weather and night frosts reported during the past week. Farther north at Bonnyville excessively cool weather is also delaying normal growth of crops. Most of the wheat and oats are seeded here but only about 75 per cent of the barley.

Beaverlodge in the Peace River area reports wheat 85 per cent seeded with oats and barley 70 per cent. Frost is reported but no damage to cereals is indicated. Some early alfalfa and flax crops, however, were damaged. At Falher 90 per cent of the crop is seeded with about 25 per cent up. Frost has caused some damage to flax.

Grasshopper activity has been somewhat curtailed by rain and snow although our Claresholm correspondent states that hoppers are hatching in profusion and extensive poisoning will be necessary. Cutworms are reported from several southern areas but damage has been nil due to late seeding. Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 44 per cent above normal as compared with 59 per cent above normal a week ago and 44 per cent below normal a year ago. Mean temperature for the week ending June 4 was 9.6 degrees below normal compared with 2.8 degrees above normal a week ago and 0.4 degrees below normal a year ago.

Weekly Precipitation and Temperature in the Prairie Provinces, 1951 1/

Crop District and Province	Station	Precipitation			Temperature	
		Week Ending	Total	Normal	Week ending 8 a.m.	
		8 a.m. June 4/51	since April 1	since April 1	June 4/51 Mean	Normal
<u>MANITOBA</u>						
1	Pierson	.18	3.14	3.51	48	56
	Melita	.22	2.32	3.82	50	56
	Waskada	.14	1.71	2.89	50	57
2	Boissevain	.18	1.61	3.61	47	57
	Ninette	.14	1.75	3.88	50	56
3	Portage la Frairie	.40	2.10	3.36	53	57
	Graysville	.08	1.52	3.48	51	56
	Morden	.48	2.01	3.50	51	57
	Altona	N.R.	.84 <u>2/</u>	3.53	N.R.	57
	Morris	.36	1.81	3.23	51	57
	Emerson	.50	2.24	2.97	51	57
4	Winnipeg	.30	2.25	3.81	51	58
6	Sprague	.32	2.63	3.73	49	55
	Pinawa	N.R.	1.96 <u>2/</u>	2.50	50	55
7	Virden	.30	2.17	2.69	48	56
	Rivers	.73	1.82	3.16	48	56
8	Brandon	.32	1.29	3.18	47	56
	Cypress River	.12	1.00	3.33	49	56
9	Neepawa	.58	2.12	3.21	49	56
10	Russell	nil	1.14	2.88	47	54
11	Dauphin	.04	1.67	2.59	48	55
12	Gimli	.31	2.04	3.95	50	55
13	Swan River	.42	2.49	2.62	47	53
	The Pas	.48	2.66	2.25	46	55
Manitoba Average		.30	1.98	3.24	49.2	56.0
<u>SASKATCHEWAN</u>						
1A	Estevan	.01	2.85	3.22	49	55
	Carlyle	.14	2.60	3.47	47	54
	Oxbow	.20	2.20	3.38	48	55
1B	Broadview	trace	1.36	3.02	45	55
	Kipling	N.R.	N.R.	2.83	N.R.	55
	Moosomin	.26	2.65	2.79	47	55
2A	Yellow Grass	.04	1.99	3.06	48	55
	Midale	nil	.86	3.55	48	54
2B	Moose Jaw	.53	2.71	3.02	N.R.	58
	Regina	.38	1.87	2.78	47	55
	Qu'Appelle	.32	1.74	3.56	47	55
	Indian Head	.24	1.30	3.18	46	55
3AS	Assiniboia	.04	2.09	2.40	47	57
	Ceylon	.05	2.11	3.94	44	55
3AN	Chaplin	.24	1.51	3.42	48	56
	Gravelbourg	.02	.84	2.38	52	55
	Coderre	.04	1.02	2.65	52	55
	Bishopric	nil	1.91	2.58	49	54
3BS	Shaunavon	.01	2.11	2.52	46	54
	Cadillac	trace	1.97	4.04	45	53
	Val Marie	N.R.	N.R.	2.91	N.R.	54
	Aneroid	nil	.55	2.91	46	54
3BN	Pennant	.34	2.29	3.20	46	55
	Swift Current	.04	1.41	3.00	46	55
	Hughton	N.R.	1.75 <u>2/</u>	3.36	N.R.	55

Weekly Precipitation and Temperature in the Prairie Provinces, 1951 1/ (cont'd.)

Crop District and Province	Station	Precipitation			Temperature	
		Week Ending	Total	Normal	Week ending 8 a.m.	
		8 a.m. June 4/51	since April 1	since April 1	June 4/51 Mean	Normal
<u>SASKATCHEWAN</u>						
4A	Maple Creek	.12	2.09	2.92	46	56
	Consul	nil	1.61	2.86	43	54
	Roadene	.44	2.22	3.35	47	55
5A	Leross	.10	1.61	2.81	42	53
	Lipton	nil	1.43	2.57	46	54
	Yorkton	.09	3.09	2.93	46	54
5B	Dafoe	.37	1.74	2.42	44	54
	Foam Lake	.10	2.59	2.81	N.R.	53
	Lintlaw	.48	2.34	3.16	44	52
6A	Kamsack	.01	1.97	2.17	46	53
	Davidson	.26	2.35	2.64	46	54
	Dilke	nil	1.84	2.84	N.R.	N.R.
6B	Semans	trace	2.22	2.06	44	53
	Strasbourg	.16	3.38	2.99	44	54
	Harris	.20	2.83	2.03	44	54
7A	Outlook	.22	2.84	2.17	47	55
	Saskatoon	.51	1.85	2.39	44	55
	Elbow	.18	2.21	2.52	45	55
7B	Dundurn	.40	2.53	2.69	46	55
	Kindersley	.20	2.49	2.39	45	52
	Rosetown	.18	2.66	2.86	45	53
8A	Macklin	.82	2.12	3.36	45	52
	Scott	.46	3.65	2.50	42	54
	Ruthilda	.44	.44 2/	2.67	N.R.	N.R.
8B	Biggar	.54	2.92	2.55	45	54
	Mistatim	N.R.	1.31 2/	2.64	N.R.	55
	Hudson Bay	.32	2.98	2.56	45	55
9A	Humboldt	.56	3.04	2.40	44	55
	Melfort	1.04	2.29	2.80	43	55
	North Battleford	.55	3.01	2.49	45	58
9B	Rabbit Lake	N.R.	2.61 2/	2.31	N.R.	54
	Prince Albert	1.57	3.12	2.60	N.R.	55
	Island Falls	2.02	4.42	2.55	39	54
	Waseca	N.R.	3.95 2/	2.55	N.R.	54
Saskatchewan Average		2.88	2.22	2.83	45.7	54.5
<u>ALBERTA</u>						
1	Taber	.24	4.10	2.95	48	56
	Foremost	.08	3.18	4.34	46	58
	Winnifred	.42	3.99	3.14	N.R.	N.R.
2	Medicine Hat	.10	1.86	2.60	49	58
	Manyberries	nil	1.79	3.10	46	58
	Cowley	.22	4.69	3.65	41	53
3	Macleod	.48	6.32	2.89	46	56
	Cardston	.76	10.04	5.28	41	53
	Lethbridge	.29	5.19	3.21	45	56
4	Magrath	.04	5.02	4.07	46	56
	Vauxhall	.48	3.61	2.64	47	56
	Brooks	.32	3.44	2.76	47	56
5	Bindloss	.02	2.51	2.75	43	57
	Empress	.36	1.83	2.75	46	57
	High River	1.02	5.69	4.07	40	54
	Vulcan	1.32	6.37	2.95	N.R.	N.R.



Weekly Precipitation and Temperature in the Prairie Provinces, 1951 <sup>1/</sup> (cont'd.)

Crop District and Province	Station	Precipitation			Temperature	
		Week Ending	Total	Normal	Week ending 8 a.m.	
		8 a.m. June 4/51	since April 1	since April 1	June 4/51	Normal
<u>ALBERTA</u>						
5	Drumheller	.48	5.07	2.96	46	57
	Hanna	.30	2.98	3.30	44	54
	Naco	.96	3.01	3.48	44	54
6	Oyen	.66	3.82	1.98	N.R.	N.R.
	Olds	.84	5.91	3.58	42	53
	Calgary	.98	5.10	3.41	41	54
	Three Hills	.44	5.22	2.63	44	52
	Strathmore	.50	5.71 2/	3.08	47	52
7	Gleichen	1.00	6.08	2.88	45	54
	Hussar	.56	4.81 2/	3.16	N.R.	N.R.
	Sedgewick	.34	3.65	2.18	44	53
	Hardisty	N.R.	2.95 2/	2.23	N.R.	N.R.
	Coronation	.89	4.63	2.65	43	52
8	Hughenden	N.R.	2.42 2/	2.79	N.R.	52
	Red Deer	N.R.	4.70 2/	3.91	N.R.	53
	Lacombe	N.R.	4.62 2/	3.09	N.R.	53
	Wetaskiwin	.94	7.02	2.71	44	53
	Camrose	.44	4.76	3.22	44	52
9	Stettler	.60	4.87	3.94	45	53
	Jasper	.26	2.05	1.86	42	54
	Rocky Mountain House	.46	5.79	3.65	41	50
	Springdale	N.R.	3.15 2/	3.74	N.R.	52
	Vegreville	.78	3.66	3.34	44	53
10	Vermilion	.61	4.71	2.88	42	52
	Lloydminster	.60	4.32	2.37	44	52
	Edmonton	.24	4.52	2.87	49	55
11	Edson	.44	3.78	2.61	42	53
12	Whitecourt	.68	4.02	3.26	42	53
	Elk Point	.36	4.65	2.56	44	52
	Campsie	.16	3.95	2.86	44	53
13	Athabaska	trace	3.20	2.93	44	53
	Lac la Biche	.02	4.58	2.93	44	53
	High Prairie	.16	4.13	2.44	46	55
14	Wagner	.23	4.79	2.90	42	53
	Beaverlodge	.34	3.13	2.45	44	53
	Rycroft	N.R.	3.44 2/	1.64	N.R.	53
15	Grand Prairie	.04	2.66	2.78	44	53
	Fairview	.09	4.56	1.90	45	54
	Fort St. John	.10	3.37	2.56	45	54
Alberta Average		.44	4.33	3.00	44.3	53.9

N.R. - No report.

<sup>1/</sup> Source: Meteorological Service of Canada.

<sup>2/</sup> Incomplete; not included in average.