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TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT - PRAIRIE PROVINCES

This is the second of the 1952 series of thirteen telegraphic reports, issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, covering 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.

SUMMARY

Generally favourable weather during the past week has permitted rapid progress of spring seeding and threshing throughout the Prairie Provinces. In the southern sections of all three provinces wheat seeding is practically completed and a large proportion of the coarse grains has been sown. Progress in northern areas is variable but in general seeding is well advanced for this time of year. Spring threshing is nearing completion with the exception of the Swan River Valley of Manitoba, scattered areas in Saskatchewan, in the Peace River area and southwestern and west-central Alberta. In these areas some 10 to 20 per cent of the over-wintered crop remains to be harvested. Spring precipitation remains considerably below normal throughout the three provinces and rain is now urgently needed in southern parts of Manitoba. Elsewhere in the Prairies rain would be welcome to replenish surface moisture supplies.

Seeding is well advanced in Manitoba except in the northwest section where wet soil and spring harvesting have hampered operations. Surface soil is very dry north to the Riding Mountains and some damage has occurred to crops due to soil drifting. Growth is well advanced but rain is urgently needed over wide areas. Many farmers are awaiting wild oat growth before finishing seeding. Hay and pastures which started well are now suffering from drought as are gardens. North of the Riding Mountains no soil drifting has occurred and moisture is adequate. Wet weather has delayed threshing in the Swan River Valley where 20 per cent remains to be done.

Good progress has been made in Saskatchewan with both seeding and harvesting operations. For the province as a whole approximately 60 per cent of the wheat and 35 per cent of the coarse grains are now seeded. Seeding is furthest advanced in southeastern and south-central sections of the province where 70 to 90 per cent of the wheat has been sown and many fields are showing green. An estimated 50 to 70 per cent of the wheat is seeded in most other areas except in the northeast. In this region less than 20 per cent is completed due to the large amount of spring harvesting and delays caused by recent rains. Rains have also caused some delays in spring harvesting but operations are now nearing completion. Less than 10 per cent remains to be done in west-central and northeastern areas and from 20 to 25 per cent in other localities where threshing was not completed last fall. Over most of the province growing conditions are good but rains are required in the southeast and will soon be

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necessary in most areas to replenish surface moisture and to ensure even germination.

Continued favourable weather throughout Alberta has permitted rapid progress in seeding and spring work is nearing completion in southern and east-central sections of the province. In some central districts up to 75 per cent of the seed is in. In northern areas (Crop Districts 10 to 15) seeding averages perhaps 20 to 35 per cent with some points well above this level. Progress of seeding in the Peace River area varies from 20 to 50 per cent completed. Wheat is up to 4 inches high in the south but is just beginning to show above ground from Stettler north. Germination in all areas is fairly good. Satisfactory progress has been made in the planting of special crops in the Lethbridge and Brooks areas. Surface soils are drying rapidly in all areas although reserves are still adequate on fallows. Rains would ensure uniform germination and greatly benefit grasslands and gardens. Spring threshing is practically completed except in southwestern and west-central areas where 10 to 15 per cent remains. No serious insect infestations are indicated as yet.

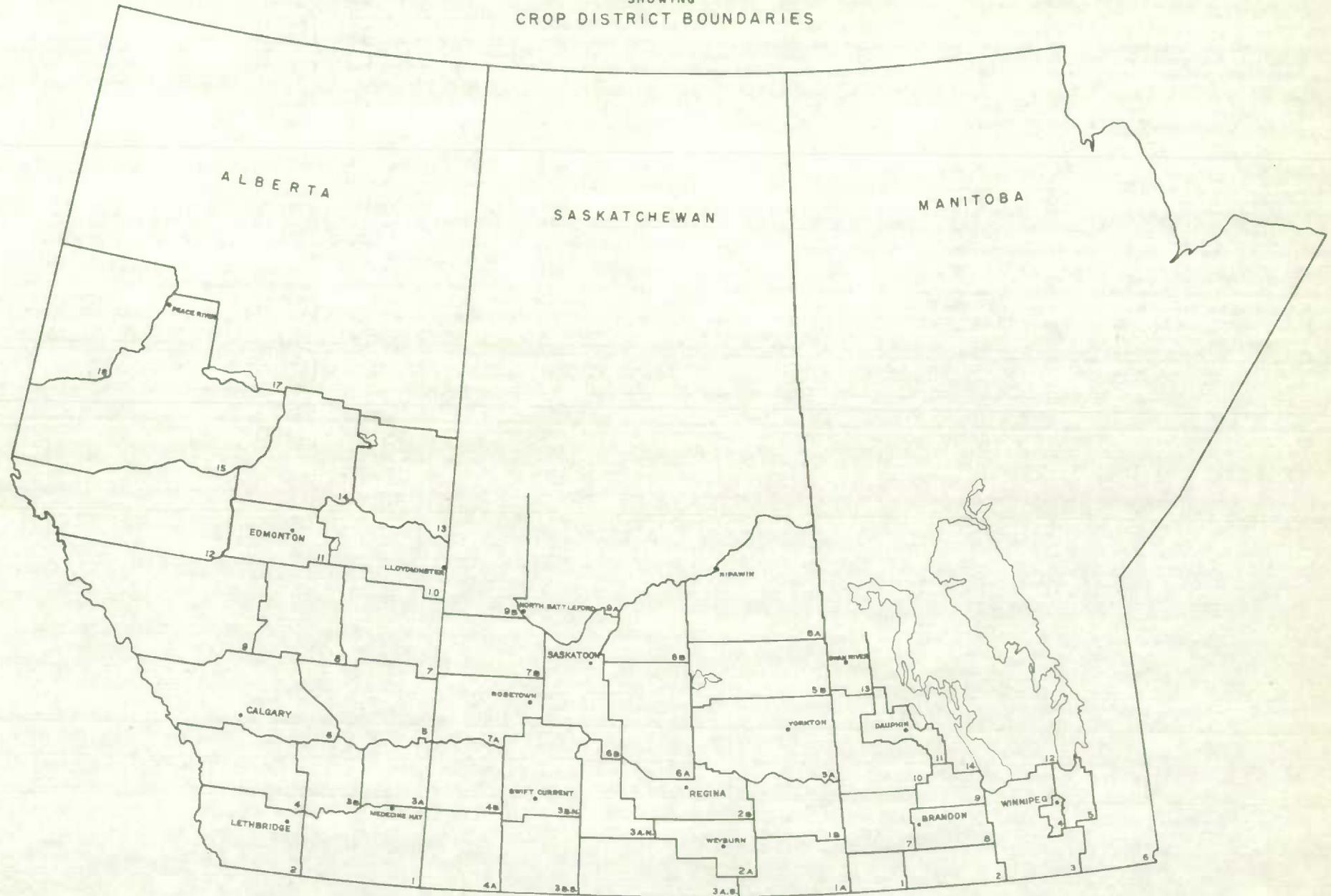
Manitoba In southern Manitoba seeding of wheat and most of the oats and barley has been completed in the Morden area. About 40 per cent of the flaxseed has also been seeded and a start made on sunflowers and corn. Wheat growth has been slow as topsoil moisture is depleted and pastures are backward. Some reseeding has been necessary due to heavy wild oat growth and strong winds during the past week damaged some crops. Rains are overdue. At Altona farmers are waiting for wild oats to grow before completing seeding. Considerable reseeding has been necessary due to wild oats and soil drifting. In the southwest at Melita seeding is completed except for flaxseed. Some farmers are holding back because of wild oats. Rain is needed here but no damage by wind or frost has been reported.

North of Winnipeg at Selkirk growing conditions are poor due to lack of moisture. Some frost damage is apparent to oats and barley but wheat escaped injury. Some reseeding will be necessary because of frost and wild oats which are becoming a serious problem. Pastures are at a standstill. Around Winnipeg wheat seeding is completed and coarse grains 40 per cent seeded. Many farmers are waiting for wild oat growth before completing operations. Some wheat fields have been damaged by wind and soil drifting but in general conditions are satisfactory owing to fair sub-surface moisture supplies. In the Portage la Prairie area surface soil is extremely dry and some damage has resulted to growing crops from wind erosion. Germination has been poor and many farmers are delaying further seeding in the hope of rain. Pastures are poor but early-seeded wheat is doing well.

A report from the Brandon Experimental Farm states that wheat seeding is practically completed, coarse grains 60 per cent finished and 25 per cent of the flaxseed is done. Rain is urgently needed here as germination is uneven and pastures are short. At Woodnorth the weather also continues dry and seeding is well advanced. There has been some delay in sowing due to additional spring cultivation.

In the Interlake area conditions remain very dry. Wheat seeding is almost completed and about 60 per cent of the coarse grains is done. There is considerable wild oat growth in early-seeded wheat. Pasture growth has been very poor to date.

OUTLINE MAP OF THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES
SHOWING
CROP DISTRICT BOUNDARIES



In the west-central part of the province at Neepawa all the wheat has been sown and 70 to 80 per cent of the coarse grains completed. About 5 per cent of flaxseed has also been sown. Subsoil moisture is below average in this district and although crops are good moisture is needed. Wind damage has been slight. Ninety per cent of the wheat is showing above ground with average height 3 1/2 inches. Early wheat is 6 inches in height. At Minnedosa weather conditions are also dry. Wheat is up 5 inches in height and growing rapidly. About 10 per cent of the wheat and 70 per cent of the coarse grains remains to be seeded. A report from Shoal Lake states that wheat seeding is completed and about half the coarse grains. Farmers are delaying seeding in order to obtain a kill of wild oats. There is no soil-drifting in this area but conditions are dry and rain will be needed soon.

In the northern part of the province at Dauphin wheat seeding is almost completed as are spring harvesting operations. Some farmers are waiting for wild oat growth before sowing coarse grains. Land is in good working condition in this area with subsoil moisture supplies satisfactory. Topsoil is dry but rains yesterday helped pastures. Crop growth has been good to date and there has been no damage from soil drifting. Clear weather in the Swan River Valley permitted farmers to resume harvesting during the past week but there is still about 20 per cent to be done. Grain is mildewed especially oats and much of the flax is unfit to harvest. Seeding is progressing slowly with 25 per cent of the wheat done and about 10 per cent of the coarse grains. There is plenty of moisture in this area and growth has been abundant. Some frost has occurred but there is no known damage. Soil drifting is not a factor here but wild oat infestation is heavy in crop land.

A report from the Entomological Laboratory at Brandon states that cooler weather has slowed the grasshopper hatch in the Red River Valley. It is estimated about only 1 per cent has hatched to date. Some damage by wireworms has been reported in the Elgin-Fairfax district. Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 80 per cent below normal in comparison with 86 per cent below normal last week and in contrast to 17 per cent below normal at the same time last year. Mean temperature for the week ending May 12 was 1.1 degrees below normal in contrast to 20.3 degrees above normal last week and 3.4 degrees above normal a year ago.

Saskatchewan Rapid progress in seeding has been made in practically all sections of the southeastern part of the province. In the area around Yellow Grass about 90 per cent of the wheat and 70 per cent of the coarse grains are now seeded. Some fields had to be reseeded due to wild oat growth. Pastures are generally good but rain is needed to ensure even germination of spring-sown grains. Around Fillmore seeding is almost completed. There have been practically no spring rains in this area and warm weather and heavy weed growth have dried the top soil. Early-sown crops are now showing green but rains are needed to overcome spotty germination of other fields. Weather conditions have been excellent for seeding operations in the Indian Head district. About 95 per cent of the wheat and 75 to 80 per cent of the oats have been sown. Some farmers are delaying seeding in order to kill wild oats. Crop conditions are generally good, with early-sown grain well above ground.

In the Gravelbourg district in the southwestern part of the province about 90 per cent of the wheat has been seeded under favourable conditions. There has been no rain in the district this spring and the top soil is drying out. However, to date there have been no damaging winds to cause soil drifting. Around Swift Current seeding has advanced rapidly and many farmers have practically completed operations. Early-sown fields are showing green. Moisture conditions are excellent. The Dominion Experimental Station reports that growth of all crops is exceptionally well advanced for this time of year. Fields of fall rye are

showing very thick stands. Weed growth will make early work on summerfallows necessary.

Around Val Marie seeding is well advanced with about 80 per cent of the wheat and 70 per cent of the barley completed. Germination has been good. Fall rye and hay in the district are rather poor but pastures are doing well. Moisture conditions are generally good. In the Eastend district about 75 per cent of the crop has been seeded in the southern part. In the north about 50 per cent of the seeding has been completed and nearly 50 per cent of the over-wintered crop remains to be threshed. An increased acreage has been seeded to spring grains in the district around Leader due to the unusually good moisture conditions.

In the east-central part of the province wheat seeding is completed around Togo and about 25 per cent of the coarse grains has also been sown. Growth has been generally good although rain would aid germination of late-sown grains. Combining of the crop remaining over winter has been practically completed. Around Yorkton about 75 per cent of the seeding has been completed. With suitable weather, seeding should be finished by the 20th of the month. Some wheat is well above ground and pastures are very good.

A report from Scott in the west-central part of the province states that seeding became general at the middle of last week. About 70 per cent of the wheat and 40 per cent of the coarse grains in the area have been seeded. Early-sown grain emerged rapidly. There has been no soil drifting to date and surface moisture supplies are good. Pastures are well above normal and early prospects for hay and grass seed crops are good.

In the Melfort area in northeastern Saskatchewan about 60 per cent of the wheat and 40 per cent of the coarse grains have been seeded. The land is in excellent condition and moisture supplies are ample for good germination. Early-seeded grain is now showing above ground. Rapid growth of wild oats in some early-seeded wheat fields is causing concern. Hay and pastures are good but there was considerable winterkilling of alfalfa. In the Kinistino and Birch Hills districts seeding is about 40 per cent completed. Early-seeded fields have germinated evenly and are beginning to cover the ground. Harvesting of last year's crop is practically completed. Moisture conditions are excellent and forage crops are making rapid growth.

A report from Prince in the northwestern part of the province indicates that seeding should be completed this week. About 10 per cent less wheat and 10 per cent more barley were seeded in the area this year. Combining of last year's crop has now been completed. Seeding operations are about two or three weeks earlier this year and some grain is already up three to four inches. Surface moisture supplies are adequate.

The Dominion Entomological Laboratory at Saskatoon reports that no infestations or damage by any major spring crop pest has been observed to date. A little damage by sweet clover weevil is occurring where this crop is grown.

Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 36 per cent below normal in contrast to 8 per cent above normal at this time last year. Mean temperature for the week ending May 12 was 1.1 degrees above normal in comparison with 12.1 degrees above normal a week ago and 6.8 degrees above normal a year ago.

Alberta In the Lethbridge-Medicine Hat area spring harvesting is almost finished and seeding of cereal crops nearly completed. Germination is good and has been assisted by scattered showers in many districts. Sugar beet seeding is practically finished and seeding of canning peas and corn well advanced. Flax seeding has started with many farmers showing an interest in this crop. In the southwest at Cardston 50 per cent of the spring crop is now seeded with early seedings showing above ground. Pastures are very good. At Claresholm 50 per cent of the wheat and 25 per cent of the coarse grains have been seeded. The weather has been cool, dry and windy with topsoil drying in many places although low ground is still very wet.

In south-central Alberta at Vulcan 60 per cent of the crops has been seeded and growth is good. Spring threshing is nearly completed. Our Brooks correspondent reports seeding well under way. It is anticipated that 3,500 acres of peas for seed, 600 acres of canning peas and 400 acres of canning corn will be seeded in this area this year.

At Hanna in east-central Alberta 95 per cent of the wheat and 50 per cent of the coarse grains are seeded. Topsoil is getting dry and rain is needed for even germination. Early wheat is showing above ground and pastures are good. Farther west at Olds crop prospects are good with 70 per cent of the wheat and 20 per cent of the coarse grains seeded. Spring-threshed wheat in this area is averaging 15 bushels per acre and coarse grains 10 bushels per acre.

In the Stettler-Donalda sector of central Alberta spring harvesting is completed with seeding very well advanced for this date. Subsoil moisture is good but topsoil is becoming very dry and rain would be welcome. Winter wheat in this area was badly winterkilled but fall rye wintered well.

Our Red Deer correspondent states that soil moisture is satisfactory but with dry weather continuing pastures are slow. Harvesting is now completed. All the wheat and 40 per cent of the oats and flax crops are seeded. Little changes in acreages are indicated although wheat and potatoes may be up 10 per cent from last year. At Lacombe 70 per cent of the wheat, 50 per cent of the oats and 10 per cent of the barley have been seeded to date. Surface moisture has been depleted and unless a general rain occurs during the coming week germination will lack uniformity. Considerable winterkilling of winter wheat and forage crops is evident throughout this district. Conditions farther west at Eckville are similar although grades and yields from spring threshing were disappointing. Mildew was heavy in swathed oats.

Seeding is general in the Edmonton area with wheat about 35 per cent completed. Subsoil moisture conditions are good to excellent but general rains would be welcome to improve surface moisture conditions. Farther west at Evansburg both surface and subsoil moisture conditions are good. Wheat is 90 per cent seeded with oats 80 per cent and barley 75 per cent completed. Spring threshing has been finished with little damage to over-winter crops indicated. In the northeast at Bonnyville seeding is general but will not be completed for some time if early rains do not occur. Soil moisture is rapidly being depleted and some concern is being shown for the seeding of forage crops.

At Falher in the Peace River area seeding is 25 per cent completed and spring threshing is almost finished. Rain will be required soon. Our Beaverlodge correspondent reports seeding well under way with wheat 40 per cent, oats 30 and barley 10 per cent completed. Some spring threshing and combining remains to be done. Moisture conditions are fair to excellent. Considerable winterkilling has occurred in old alsike clover stands in some districts.

The Field Crop Insect Laboratory at Lethbridge has received some reports of sweet clover weevil injury from southern and central parts of the province. Some wireworm damage to winter wheat was also reported last week but infestation is apparently not serious. Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 66 per cent below normal compared with 61 per cent below normal last week and in contrast to 94 per cent above normal last year. Mean temperature for the week ending May 12 was 2.3 degrees above normal compared with 1.8 degrees above normal last week and 6.3 degrees above normal a year ago.

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Weekly Precipitation and Temperature in the Prairie Provinces, 1952

Crop District and Province	Station	Precipitation			Temperature	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	Week ending	8 a.m.
		8 a.m. May 12/52	since April 1	since April 1	May 12/52 Mean	Normal
MANITOBA						
1	Pierson	.04	.04	1.98	47	49
	Melita	.07	.09	1.91	49	49
	Waskada	.10	.12	1.48	47	49
2	Boissevain	.10	.10	2.13	48	48
	Deerwood	.07	.26	1.76	46	48
	Ninette	Trace	Trace	2.17	46	48
3	Portage la Prairie	Trace	.07	1.87	46	49
	Graysville	.03	.05	1.47	45	48
	Morden	.15	.15	1.90	48	49
	Altona	.45	.62	1.88	48	49
	Morris	Nil	.01	1.68	49	49
	Roland	.09	.25	1.64	48	49
	Emerson	.30	.30	1.06	48	49
4	Winnipeg	.03	.33	1.99	46	50
6	Sprague	.27	.64	1.91	45	47
	Seven Sisters Falls	.19	.27	1.24	45	47
7	Virden	Nil	.20	1.18	48	47
	Rivers	Trace	.06	1.70	47	48
8	Brandon	.04	.23	1.70	46	49
	Cypress River	Nil	Nil	1.61	47	48
9	Neepawa	Nil	.11	1.70	45	48
	Plumas	.07	.10	1.75	47	48
10	Russell	.15	.45	1.42	49	46
11	Dauphin	.40	.83	1.06	46	47
12	Gimli	.05	.68	1.76	44	46
13	Swan River	.18	1.01	1.20	49	45
	The Pas	.05	1.65	1.08	48	46
MANITOBA AVERAGE		.10	.32	1.64	46.9	48.0
SASKATCHEWAN						
1A	Estevan	.03	.53	1.50	48	48
	Carlyle	Nil	.20	1.98	45	47
	Oxbow	.03	.23	1.79	47	48
	Redvers	Nil	.44	1.52	49	47
	Willmar	Nil	.50	1.76	N.R.	N.R.
1B	Broadview	Nil	.58	1.50	45	47
	Moosomin	Trace	.30	1.20	48	48
2A	Yellow Grass	Trace	.52	1.51	47	47
2B	Moose Jaw	Nil	.09	1.28	48	50
	Regina	Trace	.07	1.30	46	48
	Qu'Appelle	.01	.26	1.77	48	48
	Indian Head	Nil	.50	1.44	48	48
	Francis	Nil	.22	.92	46	47
3AS	Assiniboia	.16	.46	1.16	50	49
	Ormiston	.10	.46	1.29	49	49
	Ceylon	.12	.59	2.26	47	48
3AN	Chaplin	.12	.66	1.60	50	49
	Gravelbourg	.15	.41	1.16	49	48
	Coderre	.10	.36	1.16	48	48
	Bishopric	.11	.11	1.20	48	48
3BS	Shaunavon	.50	1.24	1.28	N.R.	45
	Cadillac	.35	1.12	1.83	47	46
	Aneroid	.35	.50	1.35	47	46
3BN	Pennant	.18	1.90	1.72	50	50

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		8 a.m. May 12/52	since April 1	since April 1	May 12/52 Mean	Normal
<u>SASKATCHEWAN</u> (concluded)						
3BN	Swift Current	.32	1.49	1.35	49	49
	Hughton	.09	1.64	1.80	50	47
4A	Maple Creek	.07	.07 2/	1.36	52	49
	Consul	1.00	1.52	1.48	48	47
5A	Roadene	.23	1.83	1.81	50	47
	Leross	.03	.44	1.44	45	46
	Lipton	.03	.41	1.24	44	47
5B	Yorkton	.03	.45	1.23	48	46
	Dafoe	.02	.97	1.03	47	45
	Foam Lake	.04	.59	1.24	47	43
	Lintlaw	.14	.86	1.43	46	43
6A	Kamsack	.36	1.20	1.06	48	45
	Pelly	N.R.	.93 2/	1.15	N.R.	45
	Davidson	.03	1.41	1.15	47	47
	Dilke	Nil	.13	1.24	N.R.	N.R.
	Imperial	N.R.	.62 2/	1.12	N.R.	47
	Semans	Trace	.27	.96	48	46
	Strasbourg	.07	.47	1.22	47	47
6B	Harris	Nil	1.27	1.03	48	47
	Outlook	Trace	1.15	.95	50	48
	Saskatoon	Trace	1.05	1.08	49	48
	Elbow	N.R.	1.37 2/	.97	N.R.	48
	Tugaske	N.R.	.96 2/	.94	N.R.	48
	Dundurn	N.R.	1.12 2/	1.25	N.R.	47
	Eston	.23	1.80	1.24	49	47
7A	Kindersley	.43	1.81	1.14	49	46
	Rosetown	.15	1.27	1.47	50	46
7B	Macklin	.11	.51	2.12	51	45
	Scott	.10	1.31	1.40	46	47
8A	Biggar	.12	1.25	1.00	50	47
	Mistatim	.15	1.97	1.25	46	46
	Hudson Bay	.08	1.34	1.31	49	46
8B	Humboldt	Trace	.95	1.06	51	47
	Melfort	.47	1.93	1.26	50	47
9A	North Battleford	.21	1.37	1.03	48	50
	Rabbit Lake	N.R.	Trace 2/	1.14	N.R.	47
	Prince Albert	.30	2.14	1.33	49	48
	Island Falls	.23	.66	1.28	47	42
9B	Waseca	.24	.24	1.33	49	47
<u>SASKATCHEWAN AVERAGE</u>		.13	.86	1.34	48.1	47.0
<u>ALBERTA</u>						
1	Taber	Nil	.59	1.65	52	49
	Foremost	.06	1.02	2.61	53	53
	Winnifred	.12	1.29	1.92	N.R.	N.R.
	Medicine Hat	.05	1.29	1.21	55	52
	Manyberries	.19	1.31	1.70	49	51
2	Cowley	Nil	.24	2.17	47	48
	Macleod	Nil	.09	1.26	51	50
	Cardston	Nil	1.08	2.46	49	49
	Lethbridge	Nil	.46	1.64	52	50
	Del Bonita	.21	1.32	2.05	53	50
3	Vauxhall	Nil	.27	1.37	52	50

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		Week ending	Total	Normal	Week ending 8 a.m.	
		8 a.m. May 12/52	since April 1	since April 1	May 12/52 Mean	Normal
<u>ALBERTA (concluded)</u>						
3	Brooks	Nil	.37	1.52	50	51
	Bindloss	.07	.89	1.54	51	51
	Empress	Nil	1.05	1.44	N.R.	51
4	High River	Nil	1.13	2.28	47	48
	Vulcan	Trace	.15	1.70	N.R.	N.R.
5	Drumheller	Trace	Trace	1.41	52	48
	Naco	.01	.49	1.90	50	48
	Oyen	.12	.54	1.16	N.R.	N.R.
6	Olds	Nil	.24	1.96	50	47
	Calgary	Nil	.85	1.55	49	48
	Three Hills	Nil	.25	1.07	50	47
	Strathmore	Nil	Nil	1.43	50	46
	Gleichen	Nil	.25	1.44	52	48
	Hussar	Nil	.17	1.82	N.R.	N.R.
7	Sedgewick	.06	.06	1.42	54	46
	Hardisty	.15	.49	1.04	N.R.	N.R.
	Coronation	.30	.49	1.61	52	48
	Hughenden	Nil	.58	1.58	52	48
8	Red Deer	Trace	.14	1.83	48	46
	Lacombe	Nil	.27	1.44	48	48
	Wetaskiwin	.13	.25	1.22	51	47
	Camrose	Nil	.30	1.80	51	46
	Stettler	Trace	Trace	2.29	53	47
9	Jasper	Trace	1.75	1.04	46	45
	Rocky Mountain House	Nil	.32	2.21	48	45
	Springdale	Trace	.68	1.96	44	45
10	Vegreville	.06	.06	1.64	N.R.	47
	Vermilion	.02	.19	1.31	49	46
	Lloydminster	.15	.34	1.04	48	45
11	Edmonton	.53	.76	1.39	53	50
12	Edson	.09	.20	1.28	47	47
	Whitecourt	Trace	.22	1.70	47	46
13	Elk Point	Trace	.25	1.21	48	45
	Lac La Biche	.13	.78	1.49	52	47
14	Campsie	.10	.35	1.17	50	47
	Athabaska	.01	.40	1.23	51	47
15	High Prairie	Nil	.80	1.02	49	48
	Wagner	Trace	.18	1.36	48	46
16	Beaverlodge	Nil	.36	1.02	50	47
	Rycroft	Trace	.52	.90	48	47
	Grand Prairie	Trace	.57	1.26	51	47
	Fairview	Nil	.62	.77	51	47
	Berwyn	Nil	.16	1.19	52	45
17	Fort St. John	Trace	.93	1.12	52	48
<u>ALBERTA AVERAGE</u>		.05	.51	1.52	50.1	47.8

N.R. - No report

1/ - Source: Meteorological Service of Canada

2/ - Incomplete; not included in average

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