

22-002
no. 11
1953
July 8
c. 2



DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

Agriculture Division

OTTAWA

DOMINION BUREAU
OF STATISTICS

For Release

July 8, 1953, 3 p.m. (E.D.S.T.)

Published by Authority of the Rt. Hon. C. D. Howe, Minister of Trade and Commerce

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C. R. No. 11, 1953

Price: \$2.00 for series of 23 reports.

TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT - PRAIRIE PROVINCES

This is the eighth of the 1953 series of fourteen 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

Crop development over the greater part of the Prairie Provinces, although still uneven, has improved somewhat during the past week. Temperatures have ranged slightly higher and, with only minor exceptions, moisture supplies remain adequate to excessive. Early-seeded crops are beginning to head in most parts of Manitoba and Alberta and in some sections of Saskatchewan. Above-average yields of fall rye are in prospect. Hay stands are generally excellent but haying, as well as summerfallowing and weed spraying, has been seriously retarded by excessive moisture. Sweeping hail storms have caused considerable damage over wide areas of southern Saskatchewan and Alberta. Weeds constitute a serious problem in most districts but insect damage is at a minimum. Much of the crop is still considered to be ten days to three weeks late and accordingly faces a greater than usual potential threat from rust and frost.

The stand and maturity of Manitoba crops are extremely variable. Crops are generally heavy, however, on light, well-drained soil. Heading of cereal crops is becoming general, particularly in southern areas. There is much late crop with growth in the wetter areas retarded, and warm weather urgently needed to speed development. Recent rains have extended the area of flooded crops which is now estimated as high as 5 per cent of the seeded acreage. Seedlings of corn, sunflowers and beets are down due to unfavourable planting weather. Considerable difficulty is being experienced in completing the thinning of sugar beets. Excess moisture is causing difficulties in market gardens. Some traces of rust have been noted but development has been very slow due to cool weather. Harvesting of an excellent hay crop has commenced but many areas are too wet to permit full scale operations. Pastures have never been better. Only scattered hail damage has been reported and there is no insect activity of any importance. Grasshoppers will not be a threat this year, many of their eggs still being unhatched.

Although development of grain crops in Saskatchewan is later than usual, growth has been fairly good. The weather continues to be cool and showery, with most areas requiring a warm, dry period to hasten crop development. The height of spring grain crops varies considerably, with wheat averaging about 12 inches compared with 19 inches a year ago. Oats and barley average about nine inches in height. Only about 40 per cent of the wheat is in the shot blade stage.

Crops in the Saskatoon—Landis—Macklin area have been retarded by lack of sufficient moisture but week-end rains greatly improved the situation in all other districts. Frequent rains continued to cause flood damage in the Moose Jaw—Regina—Weyburn district. Light to heavy hail losses occurred at numerous points in the southern part of the province on July 3, with the most severe damage occurring in the Moose Jaw region. Wireworm and cutworm activity has decreased in most infested areas. The fall rye crop is maturing rapidly, with above-average yields indicated. The hay crop is also expected to yield well although sources of supply have been reduced by the high water level in sloughs.

Somewhat warmer weather in most sections of the province has considerably improved development of Alberta crops. A number of districts, however, particularly along the foothills and in the Peace River area, report crop damage in low-lying areas from excessive moisture. Early-seeded crops are starting to head. Sweeping hail storms have caused widespread damage in southern areas during the past week. No insect damage of any consequence has been reported. The principal requirement now is continued favourable weather to speed growth of cereal crops and to facilitate haying, summerfallowing and weed spraying operations.

Manitoba Early-seeded grains and fall rye are heading in the Altona and Morden areas of southern Manitoba. Our Altona correspondent states that late-seeded crops are uneven and have been severely damaged by excess moisture. Thinning of an excellent beet crop is nearly completed in this area. Some drowning of sunflowers has occurred. Potatoes are in excellent condition and although corn is growing slowly the stand is fair. Harvesting of a heavy hay crop is being interrupted by rains. Crops in the Morden district are making good progress although growth of corn, sunflowers and sugar beets has been retarded by damp, cool weather. Hay crops are heavy and pastures are good. Warm weather is needed for the development of all crops. Farther west at Pilot Mound 10 per cent of the wheat is in head and all crops are reported to be in good condition. Harvest of an excellent hay crop has commenced. Some hail damage has occurred in this area. In the extreme southwest at Melita all crops are in good condition, with moisture supplies plentiful. Early wheat has headed and fall rye is turning. Pastures and gardens are in good condition.

Rye is fully headed in the Portage la Prairie district, with early wheat starting to head. Late-seeded crops are now making satisfactory progress. Hay and pasture crops are in excellent condition but continued rains have delayed haying and have interfered with weed spraying and work in the sugar beet fields. Hail damage has been severe at Oakville, with moderate losses reported in the Macdonald and Westbourne districts. Weather in the Brandon region continues to be cooler than normal for this time of year. Considerable rain has fallen in adjacent regions but only light showers at Brandon. Growth of grain crops is heavy with colour improving. Early-sown wheat is heading with prospects of a heavy yield. No stem rust is in evidence.

In the Interlake area at Teulon early-seeded barley is just starting to head. Sweet clover is in bloom and haying has started. Little weed spraying has been done due to wet conditions. At Neepawa, in west-central Manitoba, crops are in good condition although moisture supplies are somewhat excessive. Early crops are in the shot blade with some fields heading. An excellent hay crop is in prospect but meadows have been too wet to permit harvesting.

In the Dauphin area of the northwest no work has been done on the land since the last report due to continued wet conditions. Weed growth is heavy in both seeded crops and in fallow fields. Little haying has been done and much

will not be completed because of flooding. Clover and fall rye are up to a good stand but farm gardens are poor. In the Swan River area early-sown wheat and barley have entered the shot blade stage. Excess moisture has caused much yellowing in low areas. Fields are saturated and it has been impossible to do any chemical weed control work. Hay crops are good but waterlogging has prevented commencement of haying.

Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 51 per cent above normal compared with 54 per cent above normal a week ago and in contrast to 13 per cent below normal a year ago. Mean temperatures for the week ending July 2 was 1.3 degrees below normal compared with 2.6 degrees below normal a week ago and in contrast to 3.6 degrees above normal a year ago.

Saskatchewan The weather continues cool and showery in the district around Manor in the southeastern part of the province. Warm, dry weather is needed to promote development of late crops in this area. Excessive moisture has prevented haying and weed spraying operations, and only a limited amount of work has been done on summerfallows. Weeds, particularly mustard and thistles, are proving to be a problem in many crops.

Moisture and growing conditions continue to be excellent in the Swift Current area in the southwestern part of the province. Hail storms on July 3 caused permanent damage to some of the fall rye crop but damage to other grains will be lighter due to the possibilities of recovery. In the Val Marie district crops are generally late and prospects for spring grains only fair. The fall rye crop, however, is good. Early-seeded wheat development is being retarded by undetermined causes. The weather has been clear and warm and rain would be welcome. Growth of crops in the Leader district has been good despite cool, cloudy, rainy weather. About half the crop is in the shot blade stage and fall rye is filling. Some hail damage occurred in the district.

Excessive rains have retarded crop development in the Togo district in the east-central part of the province where all crops are two to three weeks later than normal. Much weed spraying has been discontinued due to excessively wet fields. Warm, dry weather is urgently needed to promote crop development. Prospects for hay on low-lying land are negligible.

Moisture conditions continue to be good around Drake in the central part of the province. Slight hail damage occurred during the past week. Weed spraying operations have been completed but haying has been slow due to frequent showers. In the Saskatoon district moisture conditions are considerably improved. Early-seeded wheat is beginning to head. The Dominion Entomological Laboratory at Saskatoon reports no further cases of insect damage.

Light to heavy scattered showers were fairly general during the past week in west-central Saskatchewan. Early-seeded wheat is heading in the drier areas but crops are generally somewhat later than normal. Rain and warm weather are needed to produce an above-average crop in this area.

Heavy showers were received in the Melfort area in the north-eastern part of the province during the past week. Some hail damage occurred but was confined to relatively small areas. Much of the wheat is in the shot blade stage, with some of it heading. Oats and barley are well advanced and there are many good stands of fall rye in the area northeast of Melfort. Although acreages of flax and rapeseed are relatively small, they are greater

than last year's. Weed spraying and summerfallow operations have been hampered by rain in the Crooked River—Arborsfield area. Some flooding of crops has occurred on low-lying land. An excellent stand of fall rye in the Carrot River district is now in the late bloom stage and a yield of as much as 40 bushels per acre is indicated. Hay and pasture crops are making excellent growth throughout the district.

The Saskatchewan Municipal Hail Association reported that hail was unusually frequent and widespread during June. Damage was heavy on fall rye crops in areas affected but was relatively light on spring crops. Widespread hail storms occurred on July 3 in the Regina—Moose Jaw area, where damage was heaviest, and at other points in the southern part of the province. Scattered damage was also reported on July 4 and 5.

Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 49 per cent above normal compared with 53 per cent above normal a week ago and in contrast to 16 per cent below normal a year ago. Mean temperature for the week ending July 2 was 1.8 degrees below normal compared with 3.1 degrees below normal for the preceding week and 0.2 degrees below normal for the corresponding week a year ago.

Alberta Moisture supplies are adequate in the Manyberries district of south-eastern Alberta. The range is in good condition and live stock are doing well. Wheat is 8 to 10 inches in height, with coarse grains varying up to 6 inches.

Recent warm, bright weather has promoted good growth of all crops in the Lethbridge area. Winter wheat and fall rye are very promising. All spring crops are still quite late but early-sown barley is starting to head. Summerfallowing is generally well advanced although some fields have not yet been worked due to wet conditions. Haying is general with an average crop being harvested. Continued warm weather has promoted growth of all crops in the Cardston area.

At Claresholm early-sown wheat is now in the shot blade and averaging 12 to 14 inches in height. Hot, dry weather is needed as grain crops are now two to three weeks late. Water is standing on the fields in many parts of this district and much grain has a poor colour due to excessive moisture. Growth in some fields is thin. At Brooks on July 3 a heavy hail storm with strong winds damaged from 75,000 to 100,000 acres of crop in this area, with losses ranging from 20 to 100 per cent. This was one of the most devastating storms ever to occur in this district. Farmers are now haying their damaged alfalfa fields. Crop conditions are fair at Vulcan but from 20 to 100 per cent hail losses have been experienced in three townships.

At Hanna in east-central Alberta early wheat is starting to head with 60 per cent of the crop in the shot blade. Good growing weather, combined with one and a half inches of rain last week, has maintained excellent prospects in this area. In the Calgary district crops have advanced to some extent following a few warm days this past week. More warm weather is needed, however, as the crops are about two weeks late. Some wheat fields are entering the shot blade stage with the odd crop headed. Farther north at Olds moisture conditions are excellent and growth has been good. Grains range from 6 to 18 inches in height and no damage of any kind is indicated.

All crops are good in the Sedgewick area of central Alberta although warm, dry weather is needed to speed development. Light hail damage has occurred in parts of this district. Moisture supplies are satisfactory at Red Deer in west-central Alberta. The weather has been warmer and all crops are thriving although 10 days late. Only winter rye has headed to date. Severe hail damage occurred last week over an area of 100 square miles but late-seeded crops are expected to make some recovery. Hay crops are heavy and pastures excellent. Continued good weather is now required to facilitate haying, summerfallowing and weed spraying and to speed growth of cereal crops. Farther west at Eckville continued rains have retarded growth which is now two weeks behind normal. About 20 per cent of the summerfallow area remains to be worked and very little weed spraying has been done. Heavy hail damage occurred over a four mile strip 30 miles long south of Eckville. Hay crops are excellent. Some crops are suffering from excessive moisture.

In the Vermilion area of east-central Alberta wheat is about 10 days late and just beginning to head. All crops, however, appear to be in very good condition with ample moisture available for another 10 days. Pastures are very good. Weather in the Edmonton-Evansburg district has been showery and moisture supplies are considered to be adequate for some time to come. While crops are generally later than normal, growth is now rapid and prospects are excellent in all respects. Pastures and live stock are in good condition, with summerfallow about 50 per cent completed.

At Falher in the Peace River District moisture is plentiful, with warmer weather needed to speed crop development. Wheat and oats are up about 12 inches and in the shot blade. Barley is 12 inches in height and heading, while flax is up 8 inches. Waterlogging has caused some slight damage. Grasses and legumes are showing heavy stands. About 25 per cent of the summerfallow land has been worked once. No insect damage is reported. Our Beaverlodge correspondent reports that cereal crops are progressing very well. Most crops are in the shot blade, with wheat and barley 5 per cent headed. Excessive moisture has caused some damage to crops in low-lying areas. Fall rye has passed the flowering stage. Weed growth is heavy, and chemical and cultural control has been delayed by rainy weather. Forage crops are developing very well, with alfalfa 30 per cent in bloom. Grasses for seed production are promising.

Hail storms on July 3 and 4, starting at Midnapore, High River and Cayley, caused light to very heavy damage across the province from west to east. An area bounded by a line from Cayley to Rolling Hills through Tilley, Jenner, Duchess and Blackie back to Cayley shows many claims, with Buffalo, Hilda and Medicine Hat also reporting damage.

Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 47 per cent above normal compared with 50 per cent above normal a week ago and in contrast to 1 per cent below normal a year ago. Mean temperature for the week ending July 2 was 3.5 degrees below normal compared with 5.1 degrees below normal a week ago and 3.4 degrees below normal a year ago.

Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces 1/

Province and Crop District	Station	Precipitation			Mean Temperature	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	Week ending 8 a.m.	
		8 a.m.	since	since	July 6	
		July 6	April 1	April 1	1953	Normal
		- inches -			- degrees F. -	
<u>MANITOBA</u>						
1	Pierson	.06	6.57	6.22	63	64
	Melita	.98	8.06	7.96	64	65
	Waskada	N.R.	7.80 2/	6.95	N.R.	64
	Deloraine	N.R.	5.93 2/	6.60	N.R.	64
2	Boissevain	.44	8.91	6.25	62	65
	Ninette	.99	11.08	6.86	64	65
3	Portage la Prairie	1.13	9.06	6.41	65	65
	Graysville	1.10	11.71	7.06	61	65
	Morden	.19	9.77	6.81	66	66
	Altona	.90	11.92	6.70	66	66
	Morris	1.49	13.53	6.42	66	66
	Roland	.78	9.79	6.35	64	66
	Emerson	.64	11.35	5.95	65	66
4	Winnipeg	2.01	12.47	7.12	64	66
6	Sprague	.57	7.70	7.06	63	64
	Seven Sisters Falls	1.88	9.64	5.07	62	64
7	Virden	.36	8.19	5.72	62	63
	Reston	.19	8.09	6.84	62	64
	Rivers	.44	8.69	6.45	62	64
8	Brandon	.16	12.23	6.46	63	64
	Cypress River	.47	9.54	6.32	63	65
9	Neepawa	1.25	8.33	6.37	62	64
	Plumas	N.R.	9.49 2/	6.41	N.R.	64
10	Russell	.75	8.79	6.10	60	62
	Birtle	.50	8.45	6.18	61	62
11	Dauphin	.84	13.92	5.29	62	63
12	Gimli	.56	9.67	7.02	62	65
13	Swan River	.39	8.13	6.23	N.R.	61
	The Pas	1.53	6.11	4.67	60	63
MANITOBA AVERAGE		.79	9.68	6.41	63.0	64.3

SASKATCHEWAN

1A	Estevan	.03	11.85	6.38	63	64
	Carlyle	.46	10.45	6.61	59	61
	Oxbow	.09	11.41	6.39	62	64
	Redvers	N.R.	8.44 2/	5.88	N.R.	61
	Willmar	.18	12.73	6.10	N.R.	N.R.
1B	Broadview	.27	11.69	5.62	61	63
	Moosomin	.53	11.69	5.68	61	63
2A	Yellow Grass	.28	14.41	6.15	62	63
	Weyburn	.02	10.59	6.41	64	63
	Midale	.04	13.32	6.62	64	64

Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces 1/

Province and Crop District	Station	Precipitation			Mean Temperature	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	Week ending 8 a.m.	
		8 a.m. July 6	since April 1	since April 1	July 6 1953	Normal
			inches -			degrees F.-
<u>SASKATCHEWAN</u> (continued)						
2B	Moose Jaw	1.66	10.71	6.20	63	65
	Regina	.83	9.01	6.10	62	63
	Rowatt	1.07	7.12 2/	6.01	N.R.	63
	Qu'Appelle	.92	10.71 2/	7.23	61	63
	Indian Head	.73	10.46	7.06	62	62
	Wilcox	.76	10.27 2/	6.12	63	63
3AS	Assiniboia	.74	10.43	5.35	62	65
	Ormiston	.18	10.98	5.58	62	65
	Ceylon	.11	12.09	7.63	62	64
3AN	Chaplin	1.19	9.82	6.54	61	64
	Gravelbourg	.38	8.62	5.73	62	63
	Coderre	.56	8.54	5.61	62	63
3BS	Shaunavon	1.09	8.50	5.19	60	63
	Cadillac	.81	10.27	7.65	61	63
	Aneroid	.56	7.65	6.45	61	63
3BN	Pennant	.48	11.31	6.83	60	63
	Swift Current	.44	8.76	6.14	59	63
	Hughton	N.R.	5.64 2/	5.69	N.R.	62
4A	Maple Creek	.28	7.00	5.95	62	63
	Consul	.38	7.26	5.19	58	61
4B	Roadene	.33	9.84	5.70	60	62
5A	Leross	N.R.	10.44 2/	6.24	N.R.	61
	Lipton	.69	8.84	5.40	60	61
	Yorkton	.59	11.24	5.80	61	62
5B	Bangor	.68	10.66	5.71	61	62
	Dafoe	.48	7.03	5.51	60	60
	Foam Lake	.61	9.37 2/	5.82	62	60
	Lintlaw	1.79	10.57	5.81	59	60
	Kamsack	.75	10.59	5.06	60	62
	Pelly	.79	6.38 2/	5.81	58	62
6A	Davidson	1.00	7.16	5.07	60	63
	Dilke	1.09	9.55	5.52	N.R.	N.R.
	Imperial	.50	6.74	5.21	62	62
	Semans	.86	8.30	3.97	60	60
	Strasbourg	.07	10.40	5.81	60	62
	Harris	1.52	6.96	5.47	59	62
6B	Outlook	1.06	6.34	3.91	62	63
	Saskatoon	1.48	4.82	5.11	59	62
	Elbow	.85	6.20	5.16	61	63
	Tugaske	N.R.	7.32 2/	5.14	N.R.	62
	Dundurn	1.35	6.63	6.22	60	62
	Eston	N.R.	4.82 2/	4.89	N.R.	62
7A	Kindersley	1.27	6.54	4.64	58	60
	Rosetown	.98	5.48	5.68	59	61

Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces 1/

Province and Crop District	Station	Precipitation			Mean Temperature	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	Week ending 8 a.m.	
		8 a.m. July 6	since April 1	since April 1	July 6 1953	Normal
		- inches -			- degrees F. -	
<u>SASKATCHEWAN</u> (concluded)						
7B	Macklin	.47	3.74	5.78	59	59
	Scott	.46	4.56	5.01	57	61
	Biggar	.85	5.21	5.61	58	62
8A	Mistatim	1.49	8.22	5.59	59	62
	Hudson Bay	1.66	9.10	5.70	60	62
8B	Humboldt	.40	4.19	4.81	60	61
	Melfort	.51	5.49	5.20	60	61
9A	North Battleford	.66	4.23	5.53	59	63
	Rabbit Lake	.72	7.31	5.44	57	61
	Prince Albert	.54	4.31	5.54	59	63
	Island Falls	.44	4.17	5.45	59	62
9B	Waseca	.45	5.94	5.52	55	60
SASKATCHEWAN AVERAGE		.70	8.57	5.76	60.4	62.2

ALBERTA

1	Taber	.04	9.85	5.17	61	64
	Foremost	.08	8.57	7.22	60	67
	Winnifred	.63	9.45 2/	4.90	N.R.	N.R.
	Medicine Hat	.34	9.94	5.18	62	65
	Manyberries	.66	7.40	5.37	60	66
2	Cowley	Nil	13.55	6.98	54	59
	Macleod	.10	15.87	5.84	59	64
	Cardston	.05	15.73	9.15	56	63
	Lethbridge	.09	9.60	6.14	60	63
	Del Bonita	.48	12.28	6.72	55	64
3	Magrath	.01	10.68	7.91	58	63
	Vauxhall	.12	8.49	4.78	61	65
	Hays	.03	9.14	4.69	61	65
	Brooks	.37	11.09	4.89	58	66
	Bindloss	.55	10.82	5.01	58	65
4	Empress	.45	4.69	5.57	62	66
	High River	.81	12.62	7.53	58	59
	Vulcan	.81	11.89	6.30	N.R.	N.R.
5	Drumheller	1.06	8.34	6.29	59	65
	Hanna	1.20	8.91	6.74	58	64
	Naco	1.21	8.04	5.90	57	63
	Oyen	N.R.	6.32 2/	4.50	N.R.	N.R.
6	Olds	1.20	10.17	6.43	55	59
	Calgary	1.48	12.06	6.79	56	60
	Three Hills	1.41	10.21	5.87	56	59
	Strathmore	1.20	11.48	6.21	54	60
	Gleichen	.72	10.22	5.45	57	60
	Hussar	N.R.	12.00 2/	5.69	N.R.	N.R.

Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces 1/

Province and Crop District	Station	Precipitation			Mean Temperature	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	Week ending 8 a.m.	
		8 a.m.	since	since	July 6	
		July 6	April 1	April 1	1953	Normal
			- inches -	- degrees F. -		
<u>ALBERTA</u> (concluded)						
7	Sedgewick	N.R.	5.17 <u>2/</u>	5.48	N.R.	58
	Hardisty	N.R.	2.45 <u>2/</u>	5.43	N.R.	N.R.
	Coronation	.87	4.59	4.99	57	60
	Hughenden	.25	6.60	5.39	58	64
8	Red Deer	1.08	7.93	7.89	55	58
	Lacombe	.84	9.48	6.75	57	59
	Wetaskiwin	.48	7.95	6.19	57	60
	Camrose	.24	6.92	5.98	58	60
	Stettler	.53	6.96	6.88	58	59
9	Jasper	.79	5.37	3.21	N.R.	57
	Rocky Mountain House	1.20	13.27	7.13	55	57
	Springdale	.46	10.58	7.65	55	57
10	Vegreville	.60	5.52	6.78	56	59
	Vermilion	.38	5.87	6.22	57	59
	Lloydminster	.28	4.93	4.97	57	59
11	Edmonton	1.05	8.04	6.25	58	60
12	Edson	.59	7.37	5.88	54	58
	Whitecourt	.77	8.10	6.15	55	59
13	Elk Point	.49	4.86	5.50	56	59
	Lac La Biche	.05	3.34	5.69	59	59
14	Campsie	1.42	7.98	6.24	55	59
	Athabaska	.59	6.62	5.53	53	59
15	High Prairie	.41	9.00	5.46	N.R.	59
	Wagner	.19	4.66	5.64	57	59
16	Beaverlodge	.31	5.76	4.62	55	58
	Rycroft	N.R.	5.62 <u>2/</u>	3.94	N.R.	58
	Grand Prairie	.30	7.42	5.49	58	59
	Fairview	.33	7.84	4.22	58	58
	Berwyn	.02	6.30	5.06	56	59
	Fort St. John	.54	6.12	5.52	57	60
ALBERTA AVERAGE		.57	8.67	5.89	57.3	60.8

N.R. No report

1/ Source: Meteorological Service of Canada

2/ Incomplete; not included in average

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