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TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT - PRAIRIE PROVINCES

This is the sixth of the 1954 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

Rains during the past week have continued to delay completion of seeding in several regions of the Prairie Provinces. The most seriously affected areas are northwestern Manitoba, northeastern Saskatchewan and western and north-central Alberta. In these areas, particularly, there will be a decline in wheat acreage. Coarse grains are still being seeded but, due to the lateness of the season, the acreage left for fallow will be greater than usual. Moisture supplies are generally adequate, with excesses causing surface flooding and waterlogging in many areas. Weed growth has been heavy, necessitating reseeding in some instances. Warm, dry weather is urgently required to permit completion of field work and to speed crop growth.

Heavy rains in Manitoba during the past ten days have prevented work on the land, with little prospect of much more planting. The estimated reduction in area sown to crops is 10 to 15 per cent, with the greatest reduction occurring in the Swan River Valley. Twenty-five per cent of the planted land is flooded on heavier soils in the Red River Valley. Crops are from two to three weeks late and growth has been slow. Excessive moisture is preventing thinning of sugar beets, cultivation of row crops, chemical treatment of weeds, and summerfallow operations. Hay and pastures are doing well.

Crop development in Saskatchewan continues to be later than usual. Recent improvement in the weather, however, should promote rapid advancement of all spring-seeded crops. Wheat averages about four inches in height while 60 per cent of the coarse grains is showing green, ranging up to two inches in height. Heavy rains and floods have continued to interfere with seeding, particularly in sections of east-central and northeastern Saskatchewan, and any further seeding in the most seriously affected areas will be largely for green feed. Weed growth has been very heavy in most areas, necessitating some reseeding of early-sown fields. About 10 per cent of the first summerfallowing operation is completed. There has been evidence of wireworms at scattered points but damage to date has been negligible.

Prepared in the Crops Section, Agriculture Division

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Seeding is practically completed in the southeastern, east-central and Peace River areas of Alberta. Despite local showers, seeding is slowly becoming general in western and north-central areas. However, progress is still negligible in some districts. About two weeks ago farmers generally abandoned their efforts to seed wheat and turned to early varieties of oats and barley. The demand for early barley seed is now heavy. Most early-seeded crops are weedy with wild oats predominating and some crops have been ploughed up and reseeded. Moisture supplies are generally adequate to excessive and warm, dry weather is needed in most parts of the province to promote rapid crop development.

Manitoba

In southeastern Manitoba at Sprague not all the intended area has been seeded and there is little prospect for further seeding this year. Crop growth is patchy due to excessive moisture but grasses are doing well. Little change has occurred at Altona during the past week. Intermittent rains continue to delay completion of spring work. The weather is promoting an active growth of all crops except where temporary flooding has occurred. Beet thinning has not started and in some fields the delay is becoming serious. The weed growth is heavy in all crops. Heavy rains during the past week have caused considerable surface flooding around Morden. The soil is soaked and crops are backward. Warm weather is urgently needed. Some early-seeded corn is rotting in the ground. Pasture and hay crops, however, are excellent but row crops are late and, in general, the season is two weeks behind normal.

In south-central Manitoba at Pilot Mound no seeding has been done since June 1. Our correspondent estimates that 35 per cent of the coarse grains remain to be seeded. A hay shortage is predicted because of flooding in the low-lying hay areas. There is a heavy infestation of wild oats in crops. Otherwise, crop growth has been good except where local flooding has occurred. In the southwestern part of the province at Melita conditions are now satisfactory for completion of seeding and if the weather holds operations will be over this week. A rapid growth of all seeded crops and pastures has now commenced.

No seeding was done in the Winnipeg area last week but may be resumed towards the end of this week if the rain stops. Water is standing in the fields in low areas but on higher ground crops look healthy but growth has been slow. Pasture and hay crops are doing well. The Experimental Farm at Brandon reports that heavy rain followed by warm weather has promoted ideal growing conditions. Rains have caused delay in completion of barley and flax seeding. An estimated 10 per cent of the coarse grains and flax is yet to be sown in the Virden area. Cereal crops which have been seeded are progressing favourably despite some localized flooding. The fall rye crop is very patchy.

At Neepawa in the west-central part of the province crop conditions are improving rapidly with warmer weather. Some late seeding is still to be completed in this district. Weed growth is becoming quite general with a heavy infestation of wild oats. Moisture supplies are adequate for two weeks. Completion of seeding was held up last week at Minnedosa but will be finished this week if the weather remains dry. Growth has been slow up until a few days ago. Some early crops are heavily infested with wild oats. Hay and pasture crops are excellent. At Shoal Lake seeding operations were also delayed last week due to rain but hot, dry weather for the past two days has enabled seeding to be almost completed. Crop conditions are very good in this district with excellent growth in both cereals and pastures.

Our correspondent from Dauphin estimates that 80 per cent of the intended wheat acreage has been sown in this district. However, 50 per cent of the coarse grains and flax remain to be seeded. Continuous wet weather is delaying operations and wild oat growth is heavy, necessitating some reseed-ing. Crop growth has been very slow due to the excessive moisture. Heavy rains in the Swan River area brought seeding operations to a halt last week. All the wheat is now sown but barley and oats are only 30 per cent completed. Seeded wheat is two or three inches in height but damage has been occurring due to flooding. Wild oat growth is particularly heavy in this area.

The Entomological Laboratory at Brandon reports that no insect activity of importance has occurred to date. Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 61 per cent above normal as compared with 24 per cent above normal last week and 43 per cent above normal for the same week a year ago. Mean temperature for the week ending June 14 was 1.3 degrees below normal as compared with 5 degrees below normal last week and in contrast to 9.1 degrees above normal at this time a year ago.

Saskatchewan Seeding was further delayed in the Manor district of south-eastern Saskatchewan during the past week when nearly four inches of rain fell. Although most fields are too wet to work yet, the weather is warm and field work should begin within a day or two. Indications are that there will be a slight decrease from last year in seeded acreage. Wheat seeding has been completed in the Yellow Grass district but some coarse grains and flax have yet to be sown. There has been some flooding due to heavy rains and it is expected that acreage seeded to coarse grains and flaxseed will be reduced owing to the excessive rainfall. Hot, dry weather is required to promote plant growth in the district. Over four inches of rain during last week brought all field work to a stop around Fillmore. However, seeding was practically completed except for a small acreage intended for flaxseed. Wild oats have been troublesome and some fields have been reseeded. Early-sown crops are covering the ground.

No work has been done on the land since June 5 around Indian Head due to cool, wet weather, with over three inches of rain having fallen during the period. Crop growth has been very slow although hay growth has been excellent. Wild oats continue to be a serious problem in the district. Two good drying days will be required before summerfallowing operations can get under way.

Although cool weather has prevailed for most of June, the crop is progressing very favourably around Gravelbourg in the southwestern part of the province. Wheat is about eight inches high and moisture conditions are excellent, with 2.25 inches of rain since June 1. Summer-fallowing operations are well under way in the district. Continued cool weather is retarding crop growth around Swift Current where crops are about two weeks later than normal. There has been some reduction from the intended acreage of coarse grains and flaxseed in the district. A fair crop of hay is in prospect. Seeding has been completed around Val Marie and prospects are generally very good. Three inches of rain fell during the past week and moisture supplies are adequate. Early-sown wheat is about five inches high and fall rye is in the shot blade. Germination of all spring-sown grains was generally good. Some fields are weedy but preparations are being made to spray them. Pastures are in excellent condition. Heavy rains were also received last week in the Leader district where some grain began to turn yellow due to lack of sunshine. Return of sunny weather during the last two days, however, has speeded growth which is very luxuriant. Moisture reserves are good. No insect or other damage

to crops has occurred to date and prospects on the whole are very good.

No seeding was done during the past week around Willowbrook in the east-central part of the province where from 25 to 30 per cent is still to be done. If the weather improves sufficiently any further seeding will probably be largely for green feed. The area in fallow will likely be greater than usual as there is currently a considerable amount of land lying under water.

Wet, cool weather during the past week has prevented further field work around Drake in the central part of the province. A small percentage of the oats still remains to be seeded. All spring-sown grains are showing green and fall rye is in the shot blade. Pastures are in good condition but growth in gardens has been slow. Summerfallows are green with weeds. Moisture reserves are excellent but warm weather is essential to promote normal crop development. Rains totalling 2.6 inches fell during the past week in the Saskatoon area, further delaying the remainder of seeding. The Dominion Entomological Laboratory at Saskatoon reports no serious insect damage to date.

Although the weather has been dull and very wet in west-central Saskatchewan, crop growth has been good and there should be rapid development when warmer weather is received. Seeded fields in the Rosetown district average four inches in height and stooling has been heavy. Farmers are considering the need of additional storage space for this year's harvest.

Two inches of rain during the past week have further delayed seeding in the Star City and Tisdale areas in the northeastern part of the province. All streams are running full and low-lying land is flooded. About 70 per cent of the wheat and 20 per cent of the coarse grains have been seeded. Early-seeded fields are covering the ground but many are infested with wild oats.

Growth has been slow around Meota in the northwestern part of the province and warm weather is urgently needed to ensure normal development. Rainfall since April 1 in the district has been four inches. Very little summerfallowing has been done to date. Pastures are in fair condition.

Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 62 per cent above normal compared with 31 per cent above normal a week ago and 48 per cent above normal a year ago. Mean temperature for the week ending June 14 was 3.7 degrees below normal compared with 4.1 degrees below normal during the preceding week and 7.9 degrees above normal for the corresponding week last year.

Alberta

In the Manyberries area of southeastern Alberta recent rains have promoted good crop growth. Summerfallow operations are just getting under way. Range grasses are growing well and early wheat is up 8 inches, with coarse grains up from 4 to 6 inches. Stock watering dams are overflowing and soil moisture reserves are excellent. The Medicine Hat area received from one-half to one inch of rain last week and crops are coming along well, with early-seeded grains up 6 inches. Fall rye is headed and summerfallow operations are 60 per cent completed. Warm weather, however, is needed to aid crop development.

Seeding is not yet completed in the area around High River and north to Calgary. Elsewhere, south of Calgary prospects are satisfactory

although all crops are late. Spring wheat is up about 5 inches. Streak mosaic is still causing damage to winter wheat, with some crops having to be ploughed under. In the extreme southwest of the province at Cardston crops are advancing rapidly under ideal weather conditions. In the Claresholm area early-sown wheat is up 6 inches, with other grain showing above ground. Cool, showery weather is retarding growth, and hot, dry weather is needed. Very little summerfallowing has been done. Crop conditions are generally good although the season is two to three weeks late. Winter wheat is in the shot blade.

At Brooks in south-central Alberta growing conditions are good and most crops are doing well. About half an inch of rain fell over the district in the last few days. At Vulcan 3.23 inches of rain since the first of May along with cloudy weather have retarded growth. Sunny weather is needed to advance all crops. The weather has turned warmer in the Hanna district and early-seeded wheat is now up from 5 to 6 inches. One and a half inches of rain fell during the past week and the ground is too wet for summerfallow operations.

Wet weather has prevented further seeding during the past week in the Calgary district where our correspondent estimates a 10 per cent reduction in the wheat, oats and barley acreages. It is not expected that the land will dry early enough to permit carrying out of earlier seeding intentions. Wheat is up only 3 inches in this area and oats and barley are just showing above ground. An extended period of warm, dry weather is needed to improve prospects. Farther north at Olds the weather has improved since June 11 and about 60 per cent of the coarse grains has now been seeded. Given favourable weather, seeding will probably continue through the middle of next week.

In the Stettler area of central Alberta wheat seeding has been completed, with about 70 per cent of the intended acreage being sown. Some fields of early-sown wheat will be tilled down due to wild oats and resown to oats. Our correspondent at this point anticipates a 20 per cent increase in barley acreage. However, only about half of the coarse grain acreage has been seeded to date. Seeded pastures are excellent but warmer weather is needed. Farther north at Sedgewick all of the wheat and 80 per cent of the coarse grains are in the ground. Pastures are good but warmer weather is also needed here to promote crop development.

At Lacombe in west-central Alberta some field work has been accomplished in the past few days and seeding of barley is general. A few early-seeded fields are being reseeded because of wild oat infestation. Hay and pasture crops are making excellent growth but dandelions are heavily infesting alfalfa fields. Farther west at Eckville rains have continued to delay field operations. Only 35 per cent of the intended acreage has been seeded in this district but seeding may continue here for another week to 10 days. Low-lying lands, however, will not be seeded this year due to excess moisture. Seeded hay and pasture crops are doing well and early-seeded crops appear to be in good condition.

Heavy rains in the area west of Edmonton have stopped field work during the past week. Some early barley and oats for green feed may still be seeded but a large increase in summerfallow acreage may be expected. Forage crops and pastures are making good growth. The Dominion Experimental Station at Beaverlodge reports seeding mostly completed in the Peace River area, with early crops doing well. Moisture supplies are very good but some sections will soon require further moisture.

Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 39 per cent above normal as compared with 43 per cent above normal a week ago and 58 per cent above normal a year ago. Mean temperature for the week ended June 14 was 3.3 degrees below normal as compared with 4.1 degrees below normal a week ago and in contrast to 4.1 degrees above 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. June 14	since April 1	since April 1	June 14 1954	Normal
		- inches -			- degrees F. -	
MANITOBA						
1	Pierson	3.42	9.05	4.38	56	59
	Melita	3.98	8.79	5.07	58	60
	Waskada	4.03	4.03 2/	3.99	56	59
	Deloraine	5.06	9.52	4.24	57	59
2	Boissevain	5.18	8.05	4.45	56	59
	Deerwood	2.25	8.65	4.27	58	59
	Ninette	3.02	9.27	4.85	58	59
3	Portage la Prairie	.83	4.59	4.26	60	60
	Graysville	1.68	6.25	4.64	58	59
	Morden	3.04	8.41	4.55	60	60
	Altona	1.49	6.47	4.50	60	60
	Morris	2.91	2.91 2/	4.26	60	60
	Roland	1.97	7.07	4.15	59	60
	Emerson	2.66	7.05	3.90	61	61
	Winnipeg	2.04	7.11	4.85	58	61
6	Vita	1.43	7.91	4.52	60	59
	Sprague	1.58	6.30	4.78	N.R.	58
	Seven Sisters Falls	N.R.	3.43 2/	3.31	N.R.	59
	Virden	3.43	7.53	3.66	56	59
7	Reston	2.90	7.97	4.41	57	59
	Rivers	2.48	6.11	4.11	56	59
	Brandon	2.20	6.58	4.21	58	59
8	Cypress River	1.79	6.25	4.27	58	60
	Neepawa	1.76	6.82	4.21	58	59
9	Flumas	1.13	5.40	4.18	60	59
	Russell	1.85	4.75	3.92	57	57
	St. Lazare	1.47	4.77	3.94	57	57
10	Birtle	2.13	5.87	3.94	56	57
	Dauphin	1.92	5.51	3.43	56	58
11	Gimli	1.18	5.02	4.98	58	59
12	Swan River	2.53	4.79	3.78	56	57
	The Pas	1.32	5.00	2.95	53	58
MANITOBA AVERAGE		2.41	6.79	4.22	57.7	59.0

SASKATCHEWAN

1A	Estevan	2.31	7.34	4.24	55	58
	Carlyle	2.41	6.25	4.46	55	57
	Oxbow	N.R.	3.35 2/	4.27	N.R.	58
	Willmar	2.49	7.31	4.08	N.R.	N.R.
1B	Broadview	3.81	9.53	3.78	55	57
	Moosomin	2.80	6.97	3.74	56	58

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. June 14	since April 1	since April 1	June 14 1954	Normal
		- inches -			- degrees F. -	
SASKATCHEWAN (continued)						
2A	Yellow Grass	1.38	6.45	4.06	54	58
	Weyburn	1.71	1.71 2/	4.31	56	59
	Midale	1.76	6.58	4.54	55	58
2B	Moose Jaw	1.86	6.10	4.04	54	59
	Regina	1.82	6.81	3.84	55	58
	Rowatt	1.29	5.93	3.85	N.R.	58
	Francis	2.18	6.87	3.04	54	58
	Qu'Appelle	2.46	2.46 2/	4.73	54	59
	Indian Head	2.55	6.97	4.44	54	58
	Wilcox	1.62	6.78	3.96	54	58
3AS	Assiniboia	1.92	6.37	3.36	54	60
	Ormiston	1.67	6.16	3.58	55	60
	Ceylon	N.R.	N.R.	5.08	N.R.	59
3AN	Chaplin	1.43	4.42	4.42	54	59
	Gravelbourg	2.01	2.01 2/	3.37	56	57
	Coderre	2.22	5.36	3.64	54	58
3LS	Shaunavon	1.62	4.11	3.37	53	57
	Cadillac	3.17	7.29	5.32	54	57
	Aneroid	1.59	4.22	4.09	54	57
	Instow	1.65	5.38	3.49	51	58
3BN	Pennant	2.64	5.89	4.38	53	58
	Swift Current	3.00	7.70	4.01	53	58
	Hughton	2.10	5.39	4.09	54	57
4A	Maple Creek	1.17	5.13	3.90	55	58
	Consul	1.66	5.31	3.62	52	57
4B	Roadene	2.21	5.41	4.10	55	57
	Leader	N.R.	N.R.	3.43	N.R.	59
5A	Leross	2.48	7.66	3.87	52	55
	Yorkton	2.80	7.24	3.83	54	57
	Bangor	2.77	8.07	3.79	55	57
5B	Dafoe	1.96	6.35	3.36	53	55
	Lintlaw	2.11	5.69	3.94	50	55
	Kamsack	2.24	5.09	3.01	56	56
	Buchanan	2.70	6.79	3.71	54	56
	Pelly	1.85	6.09	3.45	54	56
6A	Davidson	2.19	6.11	3.41	54	58
	Dilke	1.59	4.90	3.72	N.R.	N.R.
	Imperial	2.07	6.00	3.24	54	56
	Semans	2.40	7.95	2.60	52	55
	Strasbourg	2.09	7.52	3.89	54	57
6B	Watrous	2.08	6.79	2.79	53	58
	Harris	2.02	4.82	2.89	53	57
	Outlook	2.01	5.07	2.70	53	58
	Saskatoon	2.47	6.46	3.20	53	57

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. June 14	since April 1	since April 1	June 14 1954	Normal
		- inches -			- degrees F. -	
<u>SASKATCHEWAN (concluded)</u>						
6B	Elbow	1.81	5.22	3.37	54	58
	Tugaske	1.68	5.63	3.36	53	58
	Dundurn	2.47	6.59	3.83	54	57
7A	Eston	1.64	1.64 <u>2/</u>	3.05	53	56
	Kindersley	1.48	4.30	3.04	54	54
	Rosetown	1.82	5.35	3.75	52	55
7B	Macklin	.77	3.86	4.08	53	55
	Scott	1.19	4.08	3.26	53	57
	Biggar	1.79	5.36	3.51	52	57
	Ruthilda	1.32	1.32 <u>2/</u>	3.61	N.R.	N.R.
8A	Hudson Bay	2.12	6.17	3.51	54	57
8B	Humboldt	1.24	5.79	3.15	52	57
	Melfort	2.11	6.33	3.47	52	58
9A	North Battleford	1.46	4.56	3.45	53	59
	Rabbit Lake	.92	.92 <u>2/</u>	3.30	51	58
	Leask	1.29	6.11	3.31	52	58
	Prince Albert	1.56	6.24	3.53	53	58
	Island Falls	.25	2.89	3.40	55	56
9B	Waseca	.60	4.61	3.49	52	56
SASKATCHEWAN AVERAGE		1.94	6.00	3.70	53.6	57.3

ALBERTA

1	Taber	.48	2.64	4.22	54	58
	Foremost	.85	3.17	5.28	52	63
	Winnifred	1.05	5.10	3.73	N.R.	N.R.
	Medicine Hat	.97	5.88	3.43	56	60
	Manyberries	1.28	5.78	3.82	53	60
2	Cowley	.42	4.88	4.85	51	54
	Macleod	.48	4.12	3.84	53	60
	Cardston	.27	4.43	6.56	52	59
	Lethbridge	.55	2.92	4.16	54	58
	Del Bonita	.42	4.65	4.76	49	59
3	Magrath	.73	.73 2/	5.21	50	59
	Vauxhall	.76	3.26	3.31	53	59
	Hays	N.R.	2.89 2/	3.22	N.R.	59
	Brooks	.82	4.07	3.42	53	60
	Bindloss	1.48	5.26	3.46	54	61
4	Empress	1.03	3.58	3.64	55	61
	High River	.32	7.26	5.23	49	55
	Vulcan	.31	3.48	3.91	52	58
5	Drumheller	.87	4.19	4.03	N.R.	59
	Hanna	1.38	5.23	4.39	52	59



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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. June 14	since April 1	since April 1	June 14 1954	Normal
			- inches -	- degrees F. -		
<u>ALBERTA (concluded)</u>						
5	Naco	1.47	4.79	4.24	53	58
	Oyen	N.R.	N.R.	2.69	N.R.	N.R.
6	Olds	1.99	7.16	4.50	50	54
	Calgary	1.39	6.06	4.48	52	56
	Three Hills	.49	5.22	3.71	52	53
	Strathmore	.95	4.87	4.12	51	54
	Gleichen	.52	3.62	3.68	54	56
	Hussar	1.09	6.19	3.96	N.R.	N.R.
	Trochu	.37	6.27	3.87	52	53
7	Hardisty	.76	4.72	3.03	N.R.	N.R.
	Coronation	1.07	3.96	3.39	53	56
	Hughenden	.92	4.31	3.60	53	59
	Alliance	.85	5.48	3.21	52	56
8	Red Deer	.63	6.79	5.19	53	54
	Lacombe	.32	7.41	4.24	55	56
	Wetaskiwin	.29	8.65	3.81	54	55
	Camrose	.14	7.17	3.97	54	54
	Stettler	.37	4.91	4.86	52	55
9	Jasper	.07	6.55	2.26	52	54
	Rocky Mountain House	.74	8.75	4.67	52	53
	Springdale	.49	8.88	4.79	50	53
10	Vegreville	.60	5.70	4.41	49	55
	Vermilion	1.17	5.91	3.81	53	55
	Lloydminster	.67	3.54	3.18	53	55
11	Edmonton	.40	6.76	3.86	56	56
12	Edson	.57	10.45	3.55	53	54
	Whitecourt	.37	10.67	4.12	54	55
	Sanguo	.47	.47 2/	4.23	51	55
13	Elk Point	.66	5.98	3.49	52	55
	Lac la Biche	1.21	6.80	3.56	55	55
14	Campsie	.31	7.47	3.90	55	55
	Athabaska	.85	6.98	3.69	55	55
15	High Prairie	.03	4.33	3.36	56	54
	Wagner	.13	4.59	3.69	55	56
16	Beaverlodge	Trace	3.74	3.13	55	54
	Grande Prairie	.01	3.78	3.62	57	56
	Fairview	.10	2.52	2.64	58	55
	Berwyn	N.R.	N.R.	3.15	N.R.	55
	Fort St. John	.02	2.08	3.38	59	56
ALBERTA AVERAGE		.66	5.43	3.92	53.1	56.4

N.R. - No report.

1/ - Source: Meteorological Service of Canada.

2/ - Incomplete; not included in average.