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



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TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT - PRAIRIE PROVINCES

This is the second of the 1955 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

High winds have been beneficial in drying land over wide areas of the Prairie Provinces during the past week. Seeding is well under way in most southern and central western parts of Manitoba, in southwestern and west-central Saskatchewan, and in the Peace River District and most southern and central regions of Alberta. It will be some time, however, before much spring work can be accomplished in those areas which are waterlogged and flooded as a result of last week's torrential rains. Most seriously affected districts are in east-central and northeastern Saskatchewan. In much of the latter area seeding may not be general before June 1. Seeding will also be abnormally late in the Red River Valley and northern areas of Manitoba, over much of the Regina Plains, and in western and northeastern parts of Alberta.

Good progress is now being made with seeding in most southern and central western parts of Manitoba. About one-third to one-half of the wheat is in the ground in most of these districts with a start made on oats and barley. A good weed kill is generally being obtained previous to seeding. In other parts of the province poor drying weather during the past week has permitted little headway on spring operations. The current outlook, however, is more promising and seeding should be fairly general within the next few days except in low-lying areas and especially in much of the Red River Valley where another ten days of favourable weather will be required. Pastures and hay crops are promising. Last week-end's frost did little damage.

Strong winds are slowly drying the fields in many areas in Saskatchewan affected by last week's torrential rains. Practically all farms on Regina heavy soils and in the area south of the main line of the C.P.R. were affected to some extent by flooding. Excessive rainfall has also been particularly damaging to much of northeastern Saskatchewan where, even with ideal weather conditions, seeding is not expected to be general before June 1. Flooding has been serious along the Qu'Appelle Valley.

Prepared in the Crops Section, Agriculture Division

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Seeding is now under way in many districts of the southwestern and west-central parts of the province where flooding was not so severe as elsewhere. However, regardless of how favourable future weather conditions may be, it will likely be impossible in many parts of the province to seed as much acreage as was intended.

High winds last week brought rain to some areas of Alberta but were generally very beneficial in drying land. Seeding is now quite general in most southern and central regions of the province, with many other localities reporting a start being made. With continued fair weather, operations will expand rapidly this week except in western areas as far north as Leduc where excessive moisture may delay field work for several more days. Although some work has been done in the northeastern part of the province, the land is still generally too wet to permit full-scale operations. Full sloughs and flooded low areas will be a problem in seeding over much of the province.

Manitoba

At Altona, south of Winnipeg, seeding is now in full swing.

Wild oats and other weeds are growing rapidly and a good kill is anticipated when land is prepared for seeding. A reduction in sugar beet acreage is anticipated in this district. Pastures and forage crops are in excellent condition although frost set back alfalfa to some extent. Nearby at Morden about 50 per cent of the wheat is in the ground and about 20 per cent of the barley is seeded. Temperatures, as low as 18 degrees over the week-end, cut back some grain and wild oat growth. Pastures are growing well but high winds have sapped surface moisture and the topsoil is now dry. Farther west at Pilot Mound wheat seeding is 40 per cent completed and coarse grains 6 per cent. Many farmers are waiting for weed growth before seeding. Weather has been cool and very windy and higher temperatures are needed to bring pastures and sown grain ahead. Moisture conditions are excellent.

At Selkirk, northeast of Winnipeg, intermittent rain during the past week has held seeding operations to a standstill. Practically no cereals have been seeded to date. With optimum weather conditions, operations should be well under way by the end of the week. Ten per cent of the potato crop has been planted. Seeding will not be general in the Winnipeg area for a few more days. Rain has been falling every second or third day. Pastures are in good condition. Eight degrees of frost on May 8 killed radishes and corn.

Our correspondent at the Experimental Farm at Brandon states that the weather has been characterized by cold high winds which have caused some soil drifting. Seeding is under way with 10 per cent sown and is expected to be general by May 12. Wheat acreage is estimated to be down by 10 per cent, barley up 6 per cent, oats up 3 per cent and flax up 5 per cent. Winter survival of fall rye and legumes has been good.

A report from Arborg in the Interlake area states that the weather continues wet and cold. Seeding has not started and a week of hot, dry weather will be needed before spring work can become general. Pastures are growing well.

In the west-central part of the province at Neepawa extreme wet conditions have delayed spring work and only a small acreage has been cultivated to date. Stinkweed and wild oat growth is showing up in fields. Pasture conditions are fair. Farther west at Minnedosa seeding is just becoming general with about 10 per cent of the crop in the ground. Some fields are still too wet to work but high winds are aiding drying. Hay and pasture crops are coming well.

At Shoal Lake spring is very late and no seeding has been done. First work on the land commenced this week and under favourable weather conditions seeding should be general later this week. Wild oat growth has been prolific.

No land work has been done to date in the Dauphin area but if the weather remains dry and sunny some seeding will be done this week. It is not expected that seeding will be general until next week, however. Live stock are now out on pasture. There is an abundance of surface and subsoil moisture throughout the district. In the Swan River area wet, cold weather prevails preventing full-scale spring work. A few farmers on lighter soils have seeded some wheat. The fall rye crop is coming along quickly but warmer weather is needed.

Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 40 per cent above normal as compared with 21 per cent above normal a week ago and 25 per cent above normal at the same time a year ago. The mean temperature for the week ending May 9 was 1.5 degrees above normal as compared with 9.4 degrees above normal last week and in contrast to 9.3 degrees below normal for the corresponding week a year ago.

Saskatchewan No field work of any account is expected to be done for a week or more in the Manor district of southeastern Saskatchewan. Moisture reserves are the highest on record and seeded acreage will undoubtedly be reduced. Pastures are showing green but growth has been slow because of cool weather. Growth of stinkweed has been rank. Live stock are in fair condition. Around Yellow Grass seeding will be general by next week if no further rain is received. There has been considerable flooding in the area and an increase in acreage seeded to coarse grains and flaxseed is expected. Some flooded acreage in the district will not be seeded. In the Fillmore district high winds during the past week have helped dry waterlogged fields. Some field work has been done but seeding will not be general until the week-end at least. Many low-lying areas will not likely be seeded. Growth has been retarded by cool weather.

Cool weather and numerous showers have prevented drying of fields in the Indian Head area. High winds up to 50 miles an hour during the past three days have been accompanied by low temperatures. No land work was accomplished in the district during the past week. With favourable weather, work could start by May 16 except in low flooded areas. Pastures are making good growth but are too wet and soft to permit grazing.

Seeding operations around Gravelbourg in the southwestern part of the province have been delayed due to heavy rains and snowstorms. A considerable amount of land is under water. Warm, drying weather is needed to permit continuance of seeding operations. In the Swift Current district seeding started late last week and is expected to be general during the current week. Fall rye and grass are making excellent growth.

Seeding is in full swing around Val Marie, with thousands of acres being seeded every day. Wheat seeding is about 60 per cent completed in the district but no other grains have been sown yet. Moisture supplies are good and the seed bed is in excellent condition. Early-seeded wheat is now coming through the ground. Weed growth has been very heavy. Much of the seed grain received treatment for wire worms. Moderate winds and dry weather since May 3 have permitted seeding to get under way around Eastend where about 30 per cent of the wheat is now sown. Very little coarse grain has been seeded yet. Indications are that wheat seeding will be increased by about 10 per cent in those areas where moisture reserves are abnormally high. The soil is in good condition.

Seeding operations are now general around Leader where about 25 per cent of the intended area has been sown. Both surface and subsoil moisture supplies are excellent but more warm weather is required.

Frequent showers have prevented the soil drying in the Willowbrook district in the east-central part of the province. Moisture since April 1 has been 4.6 inches. Only two farmers have seeded some wheat on light land in the district to date. However, if fine weather is received, field work is expected to become general by the end of the week.

Work on the land is now general around Rosetown in the west-central part of the province. Some reduction in wheat acreage is anticipated, with a corresponding increase in coarse grains. Generally clear drying weather in the Scott district has permitted field work to get under way this week. Seeding has started and will rapidly become general. Many low spots are flooded. Good moisture supplies on higher land will ensure even stands of grain.

Northeastern Saskatchewan has suffered from very heavy precipitation over the past few weeks. Flooding of low-lying land is evident everywhere. Dry, warm weather is urgently needed if seeding is to become general by June 1. Growth has been very slow and feed is becoming scarce in many districts. Around Melfort abnormal moisture during April and the first week in May has caused flooding and heavy erosion. All fields are in a waterlogged condition and no land has been worked yet. Two weeks or more of good drying weather will be required before any field work can be done. The wheat acreage is likely to be severely reduced and the general outlook is very poor.

Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 221 per cent above normal compared with 183 per cent above normal a week ago and 8 per cent above normal a year ago. Mean temperature for the week ending May 9 was 2.0 degrees below normal compared with 0.4 degrees above normal for preceding week and 4.0 degrees below normal for the corresponding week last year.

Alberta Seeding resumed this week in the Medicine Hat area of south-eastern Alberta and is 75 per cent completed in the Burdett, Bow Island and Foremost areas. Forty per cent of the seeding has been done in the area immediately around Medicine Hat. The Cypress Hills area will be late. Calving and lambing are progressing favourably although there have been a few losses due to snow and rain. Grass growth has been slow due to cold, wet weather. Fall grains are in good condition.

The Lethbridge Experimental Station reports that seeding is general in most of the area south of Calgary. Early-sown sugar beets are showing above ground at Taber, and canning peas are being seeded on schedule. Hay and pasture growth is slow. At Cardston in the southwest the weather has been cool but seeding is general. Farther north at Claresholm field operations are getting under way but no grain has been seeded to date. Some fields are too wet to work but seeding is expected to be general by May 15. Seeding is slow in the Vulcan district due to too much moisture.

Field work and seeding should be general this week in the Hanna district of east-central Alberta. Warmer weather is needed. Pastures are in good condition. Our Calgary correspondent reports that showers along the Foothills have delayed seeding north and west of the city. About 10 per cent

of the seeding is finished northeast and east of Calgary and it is considered that about five good drying days will be required before seeding can become general. Weather has improved in the Olds district and, with continued warm weather, seeding will commence about May 16 and should be general by the 20th. Little change in wheat acreage from last season is expected but some increase in coarse grains is anticipated.

Seeding is now general in the Sedgewick area of central Alberta but warm, dry weather is needed to speed operations. Pastures are in good condition. Farther south at Donalda most farmers are on the land and some were starting to seed wheat on May 10. Although the weather remains unsettled and cold, seeding is expected to be general by the end of the week.

At Eckville in west-central Alberta no field work has been done as yet but it should start in three or four days and could become general in a week's time, providing weather conditions improve. Live stock wintered well but feed supplies are getting low. It will be at least another two weeks before low-lying fields can be worked.

No seeding has been accomplished as yet in the Vermilion area of northeast-central Alberta. The weather has been wet and cold and grass is very slow in starting. Seeding is expected to be general in the districts surrounding Edmonton by May 17 or 18. Some field work has already begun on higher land.

In the Bonnyville area of northeastern Alberta strong cool winds have resulted in rapid drying of higher lands but have delayed growth of grasses. Some field work should be started by this week-end and seeding should get under way next week. North of Edmonton at Athabasca recent snow storms and cool showery weather are holding back spring operations. Practically no grain has been seeded as yet and field work is not likely to be general until May 14. Forage crops show little evidence of winterkilling. Some farmers may switch from wheat to coarse grains due to the late spring.

The Dominion Experimental Station at Beaverlodge in the Peace River District reports that further unsettled weather has delayed field work although moisture conditions have improved. Surface moisture is now rated as mostly good, with subsoil moisture fair. Seeding was general by May 10.

Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 72 per cent above normal as compared with 98 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 May 9 was 2.1 degrees below normal as compared with 5.6 degrees below normal a week ago and 0.6 degrees below normal for the corresponding week 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. May 9, 1955	since April 1	since April 1	May 9 1955	Normal
		- inches -			- degrees F -	
MANITOBA						
1	Pierson	1.47	2.94	1.81	50	48
	Melita	2.13	3.74	1.71	50	48
	Waskada	.25	1.19	1.32	49	48
	Deloraine	N.R.	1.25 ^{2/}	1.66	N.R.	48
2	Boissevain	.32	1.34	1.98	49	48
	Deerwood	1.31	2.32 ^{2/}	1.61	49	48
	Ninette	.39	1.76	1.99	51	47
3	Portage la Prairie	.71	1.64	1.72	51	48
	Graysville	.37	1.00	1.28	50	47
	Morden	.26	1.19	1.71	52	48
	Altona	.26	1.75	1.69	51	48
	Morris	.50	2.08	1.53	52	48
	Roland	.50	1.50	1.48	51	48
	Emerson	.38	1.72	.85	52	49
4	Winnipeg	.73	1.72	1.81	51	49
6	Vita	.44	2.30	1.62	51	47
	Sprague	.55	2.30	1.72	48	46
	Seven Sisters Falls	.31	1.01	1.13	49	46
7	Virden	.69	2.12	1.06	48	47
	Rivers	1.09	2.55	1.55	48	48
8	Brandon	.73	2.29	1.55	49	49
	Cypress River	.28	1.08	1.42	48	47
9	Neepawa	.50	2.11	1.55	48	48
	Plumas	.33	1.25	1.59	46	48
10	Russell	.90	3.07	1.28	44	46
	St. Lazare	N.R.	1.48 ^{2/}	1.34	N.R.	45
	Birtle	.90	2.67	1.34	46	45
11	Dauphin	.98	3.43	.91	45	46
12	Gimli	.62	1.62	1.52	49	45
13	Swan River	.73	2.18	1.08	43	43
	The Pas	1.71	4.29	.96	40	44
MANITOBA AVERAGE		.70	2.07	1.48	48.6	47.1
SASKATCHEWAN						
1A	Estevan	.32	2.36	1.32	49	47
	Carlyle	2.05	3.33	1.83	44	46
	Oxbow	.37	1.16	1.62	47	46
	Willmar	1.17	2.61	1.60	N.R.	N.R.
1B	Broadview	2.28	3.85	1.35	44	47
	Moosomin	1.80	4.27	1.06	44	47
2A	Yellow Grass	1.15	3.48	1.36	45	46
	Creelman	1.93	4.07	1.17	45	46
	Weyburn	1.64	3.31	1.52	N.R.	47
	Midale	1.36	3.10	1.65	47	46
2B	Moose Jaw	1.58	3.93	1.12	45	49
	Regina	1.61	4.17 ^{2/}	1.15	44	47
	Rowatt	N.R.	2.47 ^{2/}	1.14	N.R.	47
	Francis	1.14	3.82 ^{2/}	.82	42	46
	Qu'Appelle	1.94	1.94 ^{2/}	1.59	43	47
	Indian Head	1.91	3.92	1.29	43	47
	Wilcox	1.73	4.03	1.24	44	46

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. May 9, 1955	since April 1	since April 1	May 9	
			- inches -		1955	Normal
SASKATCHEWAN (Continued)						
3AS	Assiniboia	2.67	4.71	1.07	46	47
	Ormaiston	1.44	3.71	1.16	44	47
	Readlyn	2.25	4.97	1.07	45	47
	Minton	1.21	3.82	1.71	46	47
	Ceylon	1.63	4.41	2.08	45	47
3AN	Chaplin	2.15	4.33	1.41	44	48
	Gravelbourg	2.63	4.75	1.04	44	46
	Coderre	2.06	4.06	1.04	44	47
3BS	Shaunavon	.71	2.95	1.16	45	45
	Cadillac	1.37	4.00	1.61	46	45
	Aneroid	2.01	4.68	1.20	47	46
	Instow	1.32	3.64	1.04	44	47
3BN	Pennant	.94	3.16	1.57	45	48
	Swift Current	1.69	3.89	1.19	43	49
	Hughton	.68	3.62	1.53	45	46
4A	Maple Creek	.45	3.89	1.22	47	48
	Consul	.15	2.05	1.34	44	46
4B	Roadene	.41	3.16	1.64	46	46
5A	Leross	2.51	6.06	1.30	41	45
	Yorkton	1.54	4.15	1.07	42	46
	Bangor	1.81	3.60	1.21	44	46
5B	Dafoe	1.81	6.08	.89	44	42
	Lintlaw	N.R.	2.42 ^{2/}	1.25	N.R.	43
	Wamsack	.61	1.88	.97	44	43
	Buchanan	1.40	4.03	1.10	43	43
	Felly	N.R.	1.19 ^{2/}	1.03	N.R.	43
6A	Davidson	1.65	4.44	1.03	44	47
	Dilke	1.98	4.44	1.07	N.R.	N.R.
	Imperial	2.38	5.06	.98	43	46
	Semans	1.80	4.65	.85	43	45
	Strasbourg	2.21	5.37	1.04	44	46
	Watrous	2.66	6.34	.93	44	47
	Harris	.49	3.14	.93	42	46
6B	Outlook	1.00	3.49	.80	46	47
	Saskatoon	1.15	4.39	.96	45	47
	Elbow	2.06	4.54	.82	N.R.	43
	Tugaske	3.33	5.93	.79	44	47
	Dundurn	1.69	5.10	1.14	43	45
	Rosthern	1.08	4.47	1.25	44	47
	Eston	.08	2.10	1.12	47	45
	Kindersley	.08	1.73	1.02	45	46
7A	Rostown	.05	2.55	1.33	42	45

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	May 9	
		May 9, 1955	April 1	April 1	1955	Normal
		- inches -			- degrees F -	
<u>SASKATCHEWAN</u> (Continued)						
7B	Macklin	.11	2.73	2.00	45	44
	Scott	.20	3.64	1.27	44	46
	Biggar	.40	2.91	.87	45	46
	Ruthilda	.19	2.48	1.06	N.R.	N.R.
8A	Hudson Bay	1.07	3.86	1.16	42	45
	Porcupine Plain	1.85	5.26	1.12	39	45
8B	Cudworth	N.R.	N.R.	1.25	N.R.	47
	Humboldt	.98	3.78	.95	43	46
	Melfort	1.72	5.79	1.10	45	46
9A	North Battleford	.40	3.28	.90	46	50
	Rabbit Lake	N.R.	3.27 ^{2/}	1.03	N.R.	46
	Leask	1.00	5.61	1.18	43	48
	Prince Albert	.92	3.75	1.22	44	47
	Island Falls	.85	2.23	1.13	39	41
9B	Waseca	.06	3.87	1.21	45	46
<u>SASKATCHEWAN AVERAGE</u>		1.35	3.88	1.21	44.2	46.2
<u>ALBERTA</u>						
1	Taber	.66	2.44	1.50	48	48
	Foremost	.73	2.64	2.40	46	52
	Winnifred	.98	3.59	1.75	N.R.	N.R.
	Medicine Hat	.59	2.29	1.07	48	51
	Manyberries	N.R.	4.24 ^{2/}	1.54	N.R.	50
2	Cowley	.26	.91	2.00	43	48
	Macleod	.58	2.26	1.09	45	49
	Cardston	.43	1.69	2.12	42	48
	Lethbridge	.57	2.94	1.49	46	49
	Del Bonita	.59	3.23	1.86	41	49
	Magrath	1.11	2.49	2.14	47	49
	Vauxhall	.54	2.22	1.24	47	49
3	Hays	.44	2.00	1.18	47	49
	Brooks	.21	1.49	1.37	46	50
	Bindloss	N.R.	1.47 ^{2/}	1.39	N.R.	51
	Empress	.02	1.64	1.32	48	50
	High River	.27	2.27	2.10	41	46
4	Vulcan	.45	2.72	1.58	45	48
	Drumheller	.07	.83	1.27	N.R.	47
5	Hanna	.13	2.00	1.62	46	49
	Naco	.13	1.60	1.72	44	48
	Cyen	.09	1.62	1.06	N.R.	N.R.
6						

Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces^{1/}

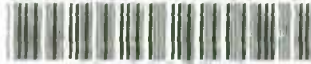
Province and Crop District	Station	Precipitation			Mean Temperature		
		Week ending	Total	Normal	Week ending 8 a.m.		
		8 a.m.	since	since	May 9		
		May 9, 1955	April 1	April 1	1955	Normal	
			- inches -				- degrees F -
<u>ALBERTA</u> (Continued)							
6	Olds	.22	2.37	1.78	44	46	
	Calgary	.19	2.69	1.37	43	47	
	Three Hills	.38	2.43	.94	44	46	
	Strathmore	N.R.	2.30 ^{2/}	1.30	N.R.	45	
	Gleichen	.20	2.39	1.29	46	47	
	Hussar	.34	2.05	1.65	N.R.	N.R.	
	Trochu	.40	2.04	1.11	43	46	
7	Alliance	.59	3.29	1.20	45	47	
	Hardisty	.26	2.59	.93	N.R.	N.R.	
	Coronation	.36	2.97	1.49	45	47	
	Hughenden	.90	4.91	1.46	48	47	
8	Red Deer	.34	2.24	1.63	44	45	
	Lacombe	.05	2.78	1.29	44	47	
	Wetaskiwin	.18	2.98	1.10	45	46	
	Camrose	NIL	1.97	1.65	47	45	
	Stettler	.20	2.06	2.11	N.R.	46	
	Rocky Mountain House	.10	2.98	2.04	45	44	
9	Springdale	.24	2.24 ^{2/}	1.78	43	44	
	Vegreville	.02	1.17	1.49	43	46	
10	Vermilion	.16	2.81	1.16	47	45	
	Lloydminster	.40	5.51	.92	44	44	
	Edmonton	.03	3.55	1.25	47	48	
11	Edson	.12	1.30	1.17	42	46	
	Whitecourt	.04	2.23	1.53	42	45	
12	Sanguo	.10	.95 ^{2/}	1.21	46	45	
	Elk Point	.09	3.28	1.09	44	45	
	Lac la Biche	.02	2.87	1.36	46	46	
13	Campsie	N.R.	2.11 ^{2/}	1.02	N.R.	46	
	Athabaska	.26	2.05	1.05	46	45	
14	High Prairie	.30	1.88	.90	45	45	
	Wagner	.29	2.08	1.20	44	45	
15	Beaverlodge	.33	1.06	.88	44	46	
	Grande Prairie	.32	1.36	1.14	45	47	
	Fairview	.28	2.17	.67	44	46	
	Berwyn	N.R.	N.R.	1.08	N.R.	46	
	Fort St. John	.29	3.85	.99	44	47	
ALBERTA AVERAGE		.32	2.41	1.40	44.9	47.0	

N.R. - No report.

^{1/} - Source: Meteorological Service of Canada.

^{2/} - Incomplete; not included in average.

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