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TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT -- PRAIRIE PROVINCES

This is the second of the 1965 series of eleven 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.

S U M M A R Y

Prairie Provinces With warmer temperatures now prevailing it is expected that seeding will be general in most districts of the Prairie Provinces by the latter part of this week. Rain last week in Manitoba, eastern Saskatchewan and at scattered points elsewhere delayed operations. Weed growth is now becoming vigorous and this should permit farmers to obtain a kill before seeding. Moisture supplies are quite favourable and crop germination should be good. Pastures are now showing marked improvement.

Manitoba Manitoba received from three quarters to two inches of rain last week, the heaviest falls occurring in southern districts. Moisture supplies are now favourable throughout the province. Dry, windy weather has returned the soil to workable condition in some areas and with warm temperatures, seeding is expected to be general soon. Less than four per cent has been seeded so far, mainly to wheat, rapeseed, oats and potatoes. The most progress has been in the south where early-seeded fields have emerged. Grass and weed growth is now rapid.

Saskatchewan Seeding is slowly but gradually gaining momentum in Saskatchewan and the tempo is expected to increase towards the week end. Recent rains in the southeastern areas have restricted spring work but operations will probably get underway towards the end of this week. Operations are also expected to commence in the northern areas by mid-month. Higher temperatures will promote weed growth and thus enable farmers to obtain a satisfactory kill before planting their crops.

Alberta In many areas of Alberta, field operations are about two weeks late and this may result in some change in cropping plans. It is expected that by the end of the week field operations will have become general in all areas. In the southeast and east-central regions, from 5 to 15 per cent of the wheat had been sown.

Prepared in the Crops Section, Agriculture Division

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In the Taber district most of the early potatoes and about 50 per cent of the sugar beets have been planted. Reports from many points in the south of the province mention damage to winter wheat. Fall rye is in good condition but due to the cool weather, growth has so far been slow. Legumes appear to have wintered fairly well. Many reporters state that the condition of livestock is only fair to poor for this time of year. Soil moisture supplies are generally good.

Manitoba

About 25 per cent of the farmers commenced seeding the latter part of April at Vita, Manitoba, but rain on May 4 halted operations. Rainfall during the past week amounted to 2.5 inches. Seeding should recommence by the end of this week weather permitting. Heavy rain, cool weather and occasional showers occurred during the past week at Altona and stopped all work on the land. About 15 per cent of the seeding has been completed. Warm, dry weather since Saturday has enabled some farmers to recommence operations. Seeding should be in full swing by the week end. Cereals are emerging. Wild oat growth is heavy and weed killers are in popular demand.

Farther west at Somerset good rains were received last week improving the moisture conditions greatly. Pastures are starting to grow but weed growth is slow. If the warm, dry weather continues, seeding will be general by May 11 or 12. No field work was done at Pilot Mound last week due to two to four inches of rain. It is expected that field work will be general again by this week end. Considerable wild oat and weed growth is now beginning and pastures are coming on fast.

In the Winnipeg district at Selkirk rain averaging 1.3 inches was received last week. Field work will also be starting soon if the drying weather continues. It is estimated that only one per cent of the seeding has been done. Our correspondent from Portage La Prairie states that recent rains have provided adequate to excessive moisture. Water is lying in low areas. Seeding on higher ground began today and with warm weather it should be general by May 15. Pasture growth is late.

The Brandon Experimental Farm reports that work on the land is underway again, following the interruption last week by rain. Seeding is well started and pastures are commencing to green up. Moisture supplies are good but dry, warm weather is now needed. Indications are that there will be a modest increase in barley and rapeseed acreage and a slight increase in wheat acreage. Oats and flax will remain the same. In west-central Manitoba at Virden tillage got under way at the beginning of last week but was halted by rainfall at midweek. Seeding will be general some time this week. Rain has encouraged a vigorous growth of vegetation with pasture and haylands looking very well. Most fall rye crops are also progressing well.

In the Interlake district at Teulon no seeding has been done to date and last week's rain has stopped all field work. Work on the land will commence this week if no more rain occurs. Pastures and haylands are growing very well.

A report from Minnedosa in west-central Manitoba states that cool, wet weather during the latter part of last week also stopped field operations. Only small acreages had been sown by then. There is an increased use of fertilizer and wild oat chemicals in this district. Farther west at Shoal Lake seeding started in scattered parts early last week but was also halted on the 5th and 6th due to two inches of rain. Pastures are beginning to grow but require warm weather. Wild oats and weeds are germinating well in most fields. The livestock feed situation is

improving due to new grass growth. A good rain was received last week end at Russell but warm weather has dried fields and land work and seeding is in progress. Ten per cent of the crop has been sown. Cattle have been on pasture for two to three weeks. There has been no abnormal loss in the calf crop.

In northern Manitoba at Swan River, 1.25 inches of rain fell during last week. If warm weather continues, field work should be general by the 13th or 14th. Crop acreages are expected to remain about the same as last year. Feed supplies are short in some areas of the valley but in general livestock are in good condition.

The Entomological Laboratory at Winnipeg reports that due to cool, wet weather no insect activity has occurred. Field activities have been interrupted by the weather but should become general this week. Recent rains should improve pasture conditions.

The unweighted average precipitation since April 1 has been 95 per cent above normal as compared with 42 per cent above normal a week ago, 82 per cent above normal two weeks ago and 104 per cent above normal a year ago. Mean temperature for the week ending May 10 was 1.0 degree above normal as compared with 4.8 degrees above normal a week ago, and in contrast to 5.5 degrees below normal two weeks ago, and compared to 3.9 degrees above normal for the week ending May 11, 1964.

Saskatchewan

At Indian Head, in the southeast part of the province, 1.91 inches of rain last Wednesday and Thursday halted land work, but bright weather during the past three days has enabled farmers on the lighter soils to start again. On the heavier land, the soil is still too wet to work well. Given drier weather, land work and seeding will become general in two or three days. Soil moisture will be better than average to start the new crop. Good growth has started on hay and pasture fields. There is very little weed growth as yet on cultivated fields and no serious nor widespread soil drifting has occurred in the area. With 2.02 inches of rain since April 1, 1.71 inches of which was received last week, crop conditions in the Willmar district are good. About five per cent of the seeding has been done. Fall rye looks good with very little winterkill. Pastures and forage crops are turning green. Cattle wintered well but there were some calf losses.

Seeding has started and will be general by May 14 in the Togo district in east-central Saskatchewan. Moisture reserves are good on summerfallow but stubble fields will require regular rains to properly advance the crops. Wild oats are now germinating and grass is making good growth. General prospects are good at this time. Wheat seeding has also just started at Sturgis although most farmers are now working the land. Weed growth is fair. Moisture conditions are very good.

Seeding has resumed around Gravelbourg in the south-central part of the province after being held up last week because of heavy rains amounting to 1.25 inches. Weed growth is now vigorous so a good kill will be obtained before the crops are planted. Pastures are showing marked improvement since the rain.

The Experimental Farm at Swift Current in the southwest part of the province reports that over one inch of rain a week ago held up farming operations for the remainder of the week. However, sunny, warm weather during the past few days has left the land in excellent condition and field work is now progressing rapidly. Seeded grass has made good growth and native grasses are turning green and providing

good pasture. Warm spring weather prevails at Leader and about half the seeding has been done. Moisture supplies are good and the seedbed is excellent.

In the west-central part of the province at Rosetown seeding is expected to be general in a few days. Moisture conditions are very good at present. Temperatures have been in the 60's this past week but winds have been strong. Our correspondent expects an increase in the area seeded to flax in this district. Farther north at Meota seeding is now general. The moisture situation is favourable although strong winds have absorbed some of the surface supply. Rainfall in this district since April 1 has totalled .40 inches compared with a long-time average of 1.05 inches.

Seeding is now general in the Drake district of Central Saskatchewan and a normal acreage is planned for the grain crops. Rye wintered well and wild oats are now germinating. Cattle are now on pastures and the half inch of rain last Thursday stimulated forage growth. Land work is underway at Saskatoon but little seeding has been done. Moisture reserves are good in summerfallow fields but only fair in stubble lands. Strong winds during the past week caused severe drifting on some fields and dried surface soil. Higher temperatures now prevailing have started weed growth. A fair growth of grass is now evident on pastures.

The recent warmer weather, coupled with one-third of an inch of rain, has promoted growth of forages in the Melfort district. Field work is now general throughout the region and seeding is nicely underway. Soil moisture supplies in the top two feet of stubble and summerfallow fields are good, but it gets progressively drier to the four foot level. In general, moisture reserves are as good as those existing for the past three years. Some seeding has started in the Nipawin district but operations will not be general until the end of this week or the beginning of next. Fields are drying well except for a few potholes. Grass and pasture lands are now making good growth and moisture conditions are good for this time of the year.

The unweighted average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 25 per cent above normal in contrast to 27 per cent below normal a week ago, 12 per cent below normal two weeks ago and 102 per cent above normal a year ago. Mean temperature for the week ending May 10 was 1.6 degrees above normal compared with 4.3 degrees above normal a week ago, 5.4 degrees below normal two weeks ago and 1.4 degrees above normal for the week ending May 11, 1964.

ALBERTA

In the southeast part of the province, around Medicine Hat, seeding is general and many farmers in the dry land areas have completed their operations. Some early-seeded wheat is already above the ground and looks very promising. Fall-seeded crops generally appear to have wintered well though winter wheat has suffered a little. Pastures are improving and livestock generally are in good condition. Surface moisture is fairly low and a good rain would be welcome. Around Manyberries moisture reserves to the four foot level are 100 per cent of normal on summerfallow and 95 per cent on stubble. Seeding is about 60 per cent completed. Cattle and sheep are on pasture which is in good condition.

Warmer weather around Lethbridge accompanied by drying winds has created favourable conditions for seeding of cereals. Winter wheat is now in very good condition except in the northern fringe of the winter wheat area around Vulcan. Seeding of irrigated crops is progressing well. Sugar beets are 75 per cent

completed with peas from 70 to 85 per cent finished. Although there is little growth on the native range in the foothills it is expected that irrigated pastures will be stocked later this week. Reports from Cardston indicate that spring work is progressing well with seeding about 75 per cent completed. There is ample moisture in the area and winter wheat and pastures appear to be in good condition. To the north, around Claresholm, the spring was late and cold. As a result seeding has only just started. About one-quarter of the winter wheat has been killed and will be replaced by other crops. The oats and flax acreage show little change from last year although it is anticipated that barley will increase by about 10 per cent.

In the south-central part of the province, around Brooks, spring cultivation and seeding are general with pastures showing some growth. It is expected that over two hundred acres of vegetables, including carrots, sweet corn, turnips, onions and parsnips, will be seeded in this area. Following the strong, dry winds of last week rain would be very welcome. This dry weather, which also prevailed for the past week around Vulcan, enabled farmers in that area to start seeding. About 90 per cent of the winter wheat has been ploughed down in this area and hay and pasture show only slow growth. The moisture reserve in summerfallow is the best for many years.

Although work around Hanna has been delayed by the cool spring, seeding will become general later this week with the acreages of the various crops being similar to last year. In the district around Calgary seeding should be general by this coming week end. Most of the winter wheat has been ploughed under. Soil moisture conditions are good but rain is needed to improve hayland and pastures. To the north, at Olds, conditions are rather similar with the growth of hay and pastures reported as slow. At Sedgewick it is reported that seeding has started and that a 50 per cent increase in rapeseed is expected. No seeding is reported to have been carried out around Vermilion but it is expected to become general by the weekend. The forage crops have come through the winter well but so far have shown little growth. The cool weather has helped to retard the growth of wild oats and other weeds. Warm weather experienced around Edmonton has allowed spring work to progress rapidly. Moisture conditions remain good and wheat seeding should be general within the next week. Around Stony Plain wheat seeding has commenced on well-drained land and it is reported that forage crops appear to be in very good condition.

Cultivation is general throughout the district around Red Deer and seeding will become general by the end of the week. Pastures are showing good growth and there are good prospects for an above average hay crop. The Experimental Farm at Lacombe reports that the ideal weather during the past week has allowed field work to become general although so far very little seeding has been carried out. Field work is also reported to be general in the Eckville area. Warm weather is required around Bonnyville to help improve pasture growth. Field work should become general later in the week. Some wheat has been seeded but progress is generally slow. From Colinton it is reported that pastures have only just started to grow. Although seedbed preparations are general little seeding has been done. Sub-soil moisture is adequate but due to strong, dry winds surface moisture is quickly evaporating.

Land cultivation is general and seeding has just begun around Beaverlodge. As yet there is no evidence of winterkilling of grasses and legumes. To the north, in the Berwyn area, spring work became general around the sixth of this month. Seeding is just commencing. Wheat acreage will probably decline from last year and a number of farmers are growing considerably larger acreages of rapeseed. Around Fort Vermilion field work is becoming general and some wheat has already been seeded. Soil moisture is adequate and pastures are growing well.

The unweighted average precipitation since April 1 has been 42 per cent below normal compared with 31 per cent below normal a week ago, 19 per cent below normal two weeks ago and in contrast to 123 per cent above normal a year ago. Mean temperature for the week ending May 10, 1965 was 0.4 degree below normal compared with 3.4 degrees above normal a week ago, 4.2 degrees below normal two weeks ago and 1.3 degrees below normal for the week ending May 11, 1964.

OUTLINE MAP OF THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES
SHOWING
CROP DISTRICT BOUNDARIES





Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces(1)

Province and crop district	Station	Precipitation			Mean tem- perature week ending	
		Week ending 8 a.m.	Total since April 1	Normal since April 1	8 a.m. May 10	
		May 10, 1965			1965	Normal
			inches			degrees F.
MANITOBA						
1	Boissevain	.91	3.45	1.63	48	48
	Pierson	1.24	2.10	1.68	50	49
	Waskada	1.34	2.73	1.43	50	49
2	Ninette	1.28	1.38	1.84	50	48
	Baldur	1.67	2.07	1.80	49	48
	Pilot Mound	1.72	3.12	1.75	48	47
3	Altona	2.15	4.40	1.69	52	51
	Deerwood	2.17	4.36	1.71	49	48
	Graysville	1.94	4.01(2)	1.62	48	49
	Gretna	.98	3.42	1.66	47	50
	Morden	2.07	4.13	1.97	49	50
	Morris	2.31	4.89	1.41	49	51
	Portage la Prairie	1.53	3.58	1.62	50	49
	Roland	2.08	4.26	1.69	50	49
4	Stonewall	1.08	3.55	1.49	47	48
5	Emerson	1.35	3.58	1.67	51	51
	Steinbach	1.18	3.13	1.69	50	49
	Winnipeg	1.75	4.33	1.69	50	49
	Starbuck	1.55	3.02	1.69	50	49
6	Seven Sisters Falls	.96	2.56	1.37	48	47
	Great Falls	N.R.	1.78(2)	1.13	N.R.	47
	Sprague	2.85	5.36	1.94	N.R.	47
7	Reston	.78	1.95	1.70	50	48
	Rivers	.52	1.35	1.43	50	48
	Virden	.66	1.25	1.33	49	48
8	Brandon	.66	2.13	1.83	50	49
	Cypress River	1.28	2.94	1.50	50	48
9	Gladstone	1.10	2.55	1.38	N.R.	48
10	Birtle	.77	1.46	1.31	50	46
	Rosburn	1.34	2.57	1.26	49	46
	Russell	.66	1.48	1.23	47	47
11	Dauphin	1.56	3.18	1.35	49	48
12	Arborg	1.22	4.31	1.36	50	47
	Gimli	1.46	4.43	1.29	48	47
	Steep Rock	N.R.	1.37(2)	1.39	N.R.	45
13	Swan River	1.40	2.11	1.22	48	45
	The Pas	.76	.88	1.24	46	45
14	Grass River	N.R.	2.10(2)	1.39	N.R.	48
MANITOBA AVERAGE		1.38	3.00	1.54	49.1	48.1

Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces(1)

Province and crop district	Station	Precipitation			Mean tem- perature	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	week ending	
		8 a.m. May 10, 1965	since April 1	since April 1	8 a.m. May 10	
			inches		1965	Normal
SASKATCHEWAN						
1A	Carlyle	1.55	2.14	1.40	48	47
	Estevan	2.66	3.46	1.16	49	50
	Oxbow	1.55	2.44	1.46	49	48
	Willmar	1.74	2.32	1.28	N.R.	49
1B	Broadview	.99	2.20	1.27	48	47
	Moosomin	1.25	1.50	1.15	51	48
2A	Yellow Grass	2.28	3.20	1.17	48	49
	Weyburn	2.48	3.50	1.18	49	49
	Midale	2.57	3.05	1.28	49	50
2B	Moose Jaw	1.33	2.02	1.15	51	50
	Regina	1.02	1.75	1.16	50	49
	Francis	1.80	2.52	.96	46	48
	Qu'Appelle	1.36	2.33	1.43	49	48
3AS	Indian Head	1.91	2.83	1.23	48	48
	Ormiston	1.83	2.55	1.21	51	49
	Ceylon	2.71	3.89	1.55	45	49
3AN	Chaplin	1.55	2.33	1.19	N.R.	49
	Gravelbourg	.21	.45	1.11	48	51
	Coderre	1.40	1.46	N.R.	50	N.R.
3BS	Shaunavon	.99	1.77	1.23	48	50
	Pambrun	1.85	2.41	1.16	48	50
	Climax	N.R.	.65(2)	1.11	N.R.	N.R.
	Aneroid	N.R.	.56(2)	1.23	N.R.	50
3BN	Instow	1.08	1.46	1.11	45	51
	Swift Current	1.07	1.62	1.20	49	50
	Pennant	1.25	1.65	N.R.	48	N.R.
	Hodgeville	1.10	1.51	1.16	49	51
	Hughton	.27	1.41	1.14	51	48
4A	Maple Creek	.28	1.68	1.23	50	51
	Consul	.04	1.09	1.03	46	48
4B	Abbey	.46	.58	1.12	50	50
	Leader	nil	.40	1.13	50	50
5A	Cupar	1.33	2.07	1.13	50	48
	Balcarres	1.06	1.66	1.05	N.R.	N.R.
	Lipton	.80	1.92	1.05	51	48
	Melville	.77	1.46	1.16	49	48
	Yorkton	.38	1.52	1.20	49	48
	Bangor	.74	1.73	1.26	49	47
5B	Dafoe	.58	1.33	1.06	51	46
	Foam Lake	.94	1.22	1.27	50	47
	Kuroki	.36	.82	1.29	48	46
	Lintlaw	.46	.95	1.31	50	44
	Kamsack	.31	1.31	1.22	49	48
6A	Davidson	.93	1.93	1.12	50	49
	Imperial	1.17	1.47	1.06	51	48
	Strasbourg	1.23	1.83	1.04	50	48

Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces(1)

Province and crop district	Station	Precipitation			Mean tem- perature	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	week ending	
		8 a.m.	since	since	8 a.m.	
		May 10, 1965	April 1	April 1	May 10	
					1965	Normal
			inches		degrees F.	
<u>SASKATCHEWAN</u> - Concluded						
6A	Watrous	.34	.85	1.01	52	49
6B	Harris	nil	.60	.99	51	49
	Outlook	.09	.71	.82	52	50
	Rosthern	.02	.13	N.R.	52	N.R.
	Saskatoon	trace	.35	1.09	52	49
	Elbow	.43	1.34	1.11	51	49
	Tugaske	.64	1.44	1.05	49	49
	Dundurn	.08	.66	1.01	51	49
7A	Alsask	N.R.	.32(2)	1.31	N.R.	47
	Kindersley	.02	.43	1.03	50	49
	Rosetown	.19	1.49	1.26	50	48
7B	Macklin	nil	.24	1.32	50	48
	Denzil	nil	.56	1.32	51	48
	Scott	nil	.93	1.29	50	48
	Biggar	.21	.68	.95	51	49
8A	Hudson Bay	.52	.84	1.34	50	45
	Prairie River	.25	1.38	1.16	47	42
8B	Humboldt	.25	.57	1.01	52	45
	Melfort	.38	.92	1.17	51	48
9A	North Battleford	trace	.64	1.17	53	49
	Victoire	.01	.29	1.15	53	46
	Prince Albert	trace	.38	1.45	52	48
	Island Falls	.34	1.05	1.23	50	41
9B	Waseca	nil	.36	1.40	58	47
	St. Walburg	.11	.21	1.35	47	45
SASKATCHEWAN AVERAGE		.82	1.47	1.18	49.8	48.2

ALBERTA

1	Empress	nil	.38	.76	50	52
	Foremost	nil	1.33	1.61	48	51
	Hanna	nil	.18	1.11	47	49
	Medicine Hat	trace	.84	1.36	50	53
	Winnifred	nil	.93	1.49	N.R.	N.R.
2	Brooks	nil	.44	1.22	48	51
	Drumheller	nil	.20	1.10	48	52
	Gleichen	nil	.88	1.53	47	50
	Hays	.01	.19	1.21	50	52
	Rainier	nil	.74	1.22	50	52
	Vauxhall	.02	1.34	1.23	47	50
	Warner	nil	.50	1.80	49	49
	Raymond	trace	.89	2.17	46	49
	Lethbridge	.01	1.44	1.85	47	50
	Trochu	.15	.64	1.56	49	47



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Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces(1)

Province and crop district	Station	Precipitation			Mean tem- perature	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	week ending	
		8 a.m. May 10, 1965	since April 1	since April 1	8 a.m. May 10	
			inches		1965	Normal
						degrees F.
ALBERTA - Concluded						
2	Vulcan	trace	.86	1.54	47	47
3	Calgary	trace	.53	1.73	45	48
	Cardston	nil	1.29	1.63	44	49
	Pincher Creek	.02	2.67	2.04	44	47
	Fort MacLeod	.10	1.32	1.54	46	51
	High River	.27	1.38	2.24	43	46
	Magrath	nil	1.72	1.86	46	49
	Olds	.17	.81	1.65	47	47
4	Alliance	nil	.12	1.26	48	47
	Coronation	nil	.35	1.33	49	47
	Hughenden	nil	.26	1.16	50	48
	Lloydminster	N.R.	.50(2)	1.30	N.R.	48
	Stettler	.06	.44	1.46	49	47
	Vegreville	.05	.11	1.10	50	46
	Ranfurly	.15	.43	1.35	50	47
	Vermilion	trace	.25	1.17	50	47
5	Edmonton	.02	.70	1.50	48	49
	Lacombe	.17	.66	1.79	47	48
	Red Deer	.29	.80	1.39	47	46
	Rocky Mountain House	.06	.85	2.10	46	47
	Wetaskiwin	.08	.61	1.70	48	49
6	Athabasca	N.R.	.61(2)	1.16	N.R.	46
	Campsie	.05	.38(2)	1.46	47	47
	Edson	.31	1.93	1.45	45	46
	Elk Point	.16	.35	1.17	50	45
	Lac la Biche	.01	.36	1.24	49	46
	Smith	nil	.60	1.26	47	46
	Whitecourt	nil	.88	1.82	46	45
7	Beaverlodge	.01	1.81	1.25	45	47
	Fairview	trace	.96	1.36	49	47
	Ft. Vermilion	.02	.74	.93	50	45
	Grande Prairie	.12	1.34	1.22	47	47
	High Prairie	trace	.85	1.36	48	48
	Peace River	nil	.69	.94	47	47
	Rycroft	nil	.87	1.04	46	46
	Wagner	.01	1.25	1.36	47	46
ALBERTA AVERAGE		.05	.83	1.43	47.6	48.0

N.R. - No report.

(1) Source: Meteorological Service of Canada.

(2) Incomplete; not included in average.