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## Field Crop Reporting Series — No. 5

### TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT — PRAIRIE PROVINCES

This is the second of the 1972 series of eleven telegraphic reports, issued by Statistics Canada, 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

Prairie Provinces. — Dry weather and high temperatures during the last few days have enabled Saskatchewan farmers to proceed with seeding operations in practically all parts of the province. In Alberta, however, activity has been delayed by unfavourable weather and progress is behind normal for this time of year. In Manitoba, seeding varies from 5 to 40 per cent completed except in the northwest where the land is still too wet to permit field work. Moisture conditions are satisfactory in most areas with the exception of the southwest corner of Saskatchewan and southeastern Alberta where conditions are dry and those northern districts which report excessive moisture. In the earlier-seeded districts some crops are emerging.

Manitoba. — Throughout the province of Manitoba on the average approximately 10 per cent of seeding operations has been completed. In southern districts about 20 to 40 per cent has been done, in central districts about 5 to 20 per cent and in the northwest and Interlake Region about 5 to 10 per cent has been seeded. In northwestern districts the land is still too wet. However, seeding operations are expected to be general by next week. Moisture conditions vary from adequate to excessive in all districts except the Interlake Region. Growth of both grass and weeds is under way due to plentiful moisture and high temperatures. A heavy grasshopper infestation is expected in the Red River Valley.

Agriculture Division,  
Crops Section

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Saskatchewan. — Hot, dry weather since May 12, has speeded seeding operations, seed germination and weed growth. Seeding is now under way in most areas with farmers nearly finished in the southwest of the province and just beginning in the northeast. In the southwest and central areas some crops are now emerging. Moisture conditions are generally good with the exception of the extreme southwest where conditions remain dry.

Alberta. — Unsettled weather continues to delay advancement of seeding with cool, cloudy conditions and occasional showers. Seeding is now about 15 per cent completed, one week behind normal. More than three-quarters of the cereals has been seeded in the Medicine Hat area. Moisture conditions are poor and rain is needed in this district. In the southwestern part of the province soil moisture is reported as good, but cool weather is interfering with seeding progress. Rain is needed in the Calgary, Hanna, Altario and Stettler districts to ensure good germination and forage growth. Limited seeding operations have been carried out in these areas. Moisture levels are very good to excessive at most west-central and northern Alberta points. Fields are generally still too wet to work in the area north of Edmonton. Field work is general in the Peace River District but little seeding has been done.

#### RUST AND GRASSHOPPER REPORT

The Canada Agriculture Research Station at Winnipeg reports that leaf rust and stem rust of wheat are prevalent throughout the southern United States but oat rusts are scarce. However, it is too early to forecast rust development on cereals in Western Canada.

Recent surveys indicated that grasshopper eggs over-wintered well and some hatching has already occurred in the Morris and Dominion City areas. This is approximately two weeks earlier than in 1971 but with continued hot, dry weather most eggs should hatch within the next two to three weeks which will coincide with the emergence of crops. Since vegetation on egg beds is very sparse newly hatched hoppers could move rapidly into adjacent emerging crops.

#### MANITOBA

In the southeastern area of the province around Dominion City seeding operations are general and farmers report ideal soil and moisture conditions. Alfalfa is showing fair growth. At Vita pasture conditions have improved following recent showers. Seeding is well advanced in the Sprague-Piney area where moisture conditions are generally good. At Altona moisture supplies have deteriorated due to hot, dry weather and early-sown cereals are showing above ground. Sunflowers are expected to be up in a day or two. Seeding continues at a steady rate with completion varying up to 40 per cent on the sands and somewhat less on clay soils. Around Morden warm temperatures in recent days have hastened growth of wild oats and other weeds and, as a result, seeding is being delayed. Current operations consist mainly of tillage and fertilizer application. Planting of sugar beets is about 80 per cent completed while planting of onions is almost finished. Seeding of early corn and sunflowers is presently under way. Pasture growth is improving with limited rainfall and above-average temperatures.

At Pilot Mound in the south-central area field operations are now general and about 5 per cent of seeding has been completed. Pastures and weeds are making rapid growth due to recent showers and very warm temperatures. Around Somerset seeding will be general by the middle of next week. Soil and moisture conditions are good



and have facilitated application of fertilizers and pre-emergent herbicides. Weed growth has been quite heavy and extra cultivation has been necessary. Although pastures are still poor, recent warm weather and showers should improve the situation. Further west at Melita seeding operations are general and about 20 per cent of cereals are in the ground. Subsoil moisture is fair to good while topsoil varies from fair to excellent. Pastures are improving rapidly and wild oats are in the one and two leaf stage.

Northeast of Winnipeg around Selkirk progress of seeding is extremely variable. In the Whitemouth area several farmers have almost finished while many others have yet to commence seeding because they are waiting for weeds to emerge. Soil moisture conditions are reported to be good. However, rain is now required to improve growth of pastures and meadows. At Stonewall, soils are very dry. Weeds are numerous and growth of wild oats is very heavy. Seeding operations are about 10 per cent completed with most farmers concentrating on seeding of wheat while many others are only commencing tillage operations. Pastures are in poor condition and require rain. At Portage La Prairie west of Winnipeg seeding operations are about 10 per cent completed and moisture conditions are excellent. Pasture growth is good.

In the Brandon area field work is now general and moisture conditions are reported as only fair. Recent temperatures have reached as high as 80 degrees. Early-seeded crops are emerging and weed growth is increasing.

In the southern Interlake Region at Teulon field work is general and seeding has commenced. Weed growth is slow but moisture conditions are good. Pastures are poor although cattle are already out due to low supplies of hay. In the northern Interlake Region at Arborg excellent drying weather has advanced farming operations. Considerable tillage has been done as well as chemical treatment for wild oat control. It is expected that seeding will get under way this week.

At Neepawa in the west-central area about 10 per cent of cereals has been seeded. Many farmers are waiting for weed growth. Fall rye wintered well and pasture conditions vary from fair to good. Moisture conditions are excellent although east of the Arden Ridge soils are still too wet for tillage. Recent heavy rains in the Minnedosa area have hampered field work. Spring-harvested wheat is grading out at No. 5. Seeding is expected to start this week. Weed growth is moderate and pasture development is late. Fall rye wintered well. At Shoal Lake recent showers have delayed field work. Warm, sunny weather during last weekend has stimulated weed growth. Seeding operations should be well under way by the end of this week. Recent rains in the Russell area have promoted growth of wild oats and other weeds. About 20 per cent of seeding has been completed. Pasture conditions are very good.

In the northwest region at Swan River field work is just getting under way and is not expected to become general until about May 20. Moisture supplies are adequate and pastures are improving.

The unweighted average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 28 per cent below normal compared with 24 per cent below normal a week ago, 27 per cent below normal two weeks ago and in contrast to 22 per cent above normal a year ago. The mean average temperature for the week ending May 15, 1972 was 4.1 degrees F. above normal compared with 2.5 degrees below normal a week ago, 5.7 degrees above normal two weeks ago and 3.0 degrees above normal for the week ending May 17, 1971.

SASKATCHEWAN

Warm, dry weather following recent showers is providing ideal seeding conditions near Fillmore in the southeast part of the province. Considerable pre-seeding work has been done and seeding has now started. Heavy weed growth is appearing and some farmers are delaying seeding operations for wild oat growth while others are spraying. Pasture and hay fields are very good. At Indian Head reports indicate that soil temperatures warmed up markedly on Saturday and Sunday following rain last week. Moisture supplies are adequate for germination. Seeding has been started but so far progress has been limited. Some farmers have delayed their seeding to obtain a weed kill. Winds have been light to date. Pasture and hay fields are improving but require rain to maintain development. Livestock appear to be in excellent condition.

Our correspondent at Gravelbourg reports that 50 per cent of the wheat, 60 per cent of the barley, 20 per cent of the flax and 50 per cent of the oats have now been seeded in the district. Nevertheless cool weather had delayed seeding considerably but recent high temperatures have seen operations get fully under way. There is a heavy infestation of wild oats. Moisture conditions are good on the surface but subsoil moisture is described as only fair. Pasture conditions are also fair.

At Eastend in the southwest part of the province farmers were able to start seeding on April 10 and about 90 per cent of the crop is now in the ground. Moisture conditions are only fair on summerfallowed land and poor on stubble land. Some of the early-seeded fields have severe weed infestations. Calving is about 90 per cent completed with some problem of scouring. Pastures are fair. In the Swift Current area seeding is 40 per cent completed and rain is needed soon to ensure even germination. Very little weed growth has taken place as a result of cool weather and dry surface soil. Pastures are fair to poor with very little new growth. Cattle are in good condition with calving 90 per cent completed. At Leader all the cereal crops have been seeded and most of the flax and speciality crops are also in the ground. Moisture supplies are adequate and the early-sown fields are now showing green and pastures are also turning green.

Warm, dry weather during the past week has enabled farmers near Saskatoon to achieve rapid progress in field work and about one-quarter of the crop has now been sown. A few fields of wheat and rapeseed are emerging. Moisture supplies are adequate for germination but rain is needed soon, especially for continued good growth of fall rye, legumes and pastures.

Reports from Rosetown indicate that seeding is now general on light land. Surface moisture is poor and pastures and haylands need rain. Some 0.15 inch of rain has fallen since April 1 and some farmers have worked their summerfallow for the first time. At Scott, about one-third of the cereal acreage has been sown as well as some rapeseed but no flax has been seeded. Growing conditions are ideal and surface and subsoil moisture very good. Forage crops are growing very well but pastures are developing more slowly. Last week temperatures were in the seventies and there was no frost at night.

At Melfort, in the northeast corner of the province, seeding operations are just nicely under way. A very heavy wild oat growth is reported and many farmers are delaying seeding. Forage crops and fall rye survived the winter in excellent condition but rain is needed soon to ensure a good hay crop.



The unweighted average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 14 per cent below normal compared with 9 per cent below normal a week ago, 28 per cent below normal two weeks ago and 44 per cent below normal a year ago. Mean temperature for the week ending May 15, 1972 was 3.0 degrees F. above normal in contrast to 4.3 degrees below normal a week ago and compared with 4.6 degrees above normal two weeks ago and 5.0 degrees above normal for the week ending May 17, 1971.

#### ALBERTA

Reports from Medicine Hat indicate seeding is now about 90 per cent completed and early emerging crops are holding up well. Moisture reserves are only fair and rain is urgently needed. Pastures are still dry and short but cattle are doing well.

In southwestern Alberta around Lethbridge seeding of cereal crops is progressing well and rapeseed is about 50 per cent planted. Ninety per cent of the sugar beets is seeded. Planting of canning crops is on schedule with carrots completed, sweet corn and red beets 50 per cent, peas 25 per cent, and beans 10 per cent. At Cardston, field work is nearly normal but seeding has been spotty. Seeding should be general towards the week-end if the weather remains warm. Weed growth is now ready for cultivation and spraying of winter wheat is in progress. Hay and pastures are making good growth. Calving is about 90 per cent completed with slightly above normal losses. In the Claresholm area warm, dry weather is reported and the crop is going in at a good rate. Farmers are getting a good weed kill with chemicals and cultivation. Moisture conditions are good in this area and pastures are growing well.

Our correspondent at Brooks in the south-central part of the province reports that seeding of cereals is about 30 per cent completed on irrigated land and about 90 per cent on dry land. Vegetables are practically all seeded in this area and 50 per cent of the potatoes is planted. It has been a dry, cool spring in this area and growth has been slow. Moisture is badly needed especially for the rye crop. At Vulcan, cooler than normal weather prevails with the result that wild oats and other weeds are slow to make their appearance. Seeding has become general with the warmer weather of the past four days. Increased volumes of fertilizer and wild oat chemicals are being used. Growth on hayland is very slow and pastures are in need of rain.

At Vermilion in the northeast-central part of the province spring seeding is progressing very well. Rains have given the required moisture for growing conditions. Hay and pastures are starting to come along now but growth has been quite slow and warm weather and rain are needed to speed up development.

In the central area around Stettler there has been good progress in field work and seeding is general in this area. Rains are needed with only widely scattered showers reported to date, and moisture reserves are low.

In the northwest-central area at Stony Plain, wet soil conditions have slowed down field work. Cultivation has been mainly limited to crust breaking. Spring fertilizer applications appear to be increased from previous years. Weed growth has been slow.

At Red Deer, in the west-central region, field work was general last week and seeding began on the week-end. Moisture conditions west of Red Deer are good, but only fair toward the Stettler area. Wild oats are germinating well. Hay and pasture crops have been slow in starting due to the cold weather. Cattle are only in fair condition. At Lacombe, seeding will become general this week with surface moisture

good but subsoil moisture only fair. Hay and pasture have made a two to three inch growth. In the Eckville area seeding started May 15 and will be general by May 19 with field work delayed one week due to the late spring. Hay, pasture and weed growth have been slow due to poor weather.

Our correspondent at Colinton in the northeast reports field work is general on high land but low land is still too wet for any activity. Cool, cloudy weather has slowed down drying of low land. Very little wheat is seeded in this area but seeding should be started later this week.

In the Peace River District around Beaverlodge seeding has now commenced. Good subsoil moisture is reported but winds are drying top moisture rapidly. Grasses are growing well but legumes are dormant. Our correspondent at Peace River reports seeding is just commencing. Farmers estimate that wheat will have to be seeded within the next three or four days or land will be used for other crops.

The unweighted average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 34 per cent below normal, compared with 21 per cent below normal a week ago, 15 per cent below normal two weeks ago and 42 per cent below normal a year ago. Mean temperature for the week ending May 15, 1972 was 2.1 degrees F. above normal in contrast to 4.2 degrees below normal a week ago and compared with 2.1 degrees above normal two weeks ago and 3.4 degrees above normal for the week ending May 17, 1971.

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 15, 1972	since April 1	since April 1	8 a.m. May 15	
			inches		1972	Normal
						degrees F.
<u>MANITOBA</u>						
1	Boissevain	.41	1.58	1.91	55	50
	Pierson	.49	1.46	1.88	54	52
2	Baldur	.35	1.52	2.14	55	51
	Pilot Mound	.34	1.62	2.13	54	50
3	Altona	.13	1.28	1.88	57	53
	Deerwood	N.R.	1.48(2)	2.14	N.R.	53
	Graysville	.15	.98	1.87	56	52
	Morden	.19	2.09	2.24	57	53
	Morris	.12	1.13(2)	1.73	55	53
	Portage la Prairie	.18	1.05	2.10	57	52
	Roland	.15	2.02	2.00	57	53
4	Stonewall	.05	.67	2.02	57	51
5	Emerson	.23	1.11	2.09	57	52
	Steinbach	N.R.	N.R. (2)	2.03	N.R.	51
	Winnipeg	.08	.79	2.08	57	52
	Starbuck	.08	.68	2.03	55	52
6	Pinawa	.07	.58	1.31	54	48
	Great Falls	N.R.	.30(2)	1.52	N.R.	50
	Sprague	.53	1.91	2.32	51	50
7	Virden	.54	1.21	1.44	54	52
8	Brandon	.35	1.09	1.89	54	52
	Cypress River	.46	1.21	1.80	55	51
9	Gladstone	.18	.80	1.94	N.R.	50
10	Birtle	.59	1.97(2)	1.68	55	50
	Rosburn	.58	1.91	1.56	55	50
	Russell	.55	1.64	1.26	55	49
11	Dauphin	.41	1.88	1.89	54	51
12	Arborg	.14	.95	1.86	54	49
	Gimli	.09	.98	1.86	52	49
13	Swan River	.79	2.91	1.58	57	51
	The Pas	.07	1.13	1.74	53	47
MANITOBA AVERAGE		.30	1.35	1.87	55.0	50.9

SASKATCHEWAN

1A	Carlyle	.62	1.93	1.52	53	50
	Estevan	.45	1.96	1.71	53	53
	Oxbow	.73	1.64	1.43	52	50
	Willmar	.43	.97(2)	1.37	N.R.	50
1B	Broadview	.58	1.32	1.39	52	49

For footnotes, see page IV.



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 15, 1972	April 1	April 1	May 15 1972	Normal
		inches			degrees F.	
SASKATCHEWAN - Continued						
1B	Moosomin	.53	.71	1.49	53	50
2A	Yellow Grass	.64	1.98	1.52	53	51
	Weyburn	.45	1.55	1.55	52	51
	Midale	.47	1.47	1.44	54	52
	Amulet	.75	1.52	N.R.	53	N.R.
2B	Moose Jaw	.71	1.22	1.60	54	52
	Regina	.64	1.62	1.43	54	52
	Francis	.56	1.33	1.37	52	50
	Indian Head	.39	1.91	1.43	53	51
3AS	Ormiston	.80	2.17	1.68	51	52
	Cardross	.75	1.92	1.68	50	52
	Rock Glen	.74	2.70	1.67	50	N.R.
3AN	Coderre	.35	1.48(2)	1.70	50	51
	Gravelbourg	.25	2.39	1.35	53	52
	Chaplin	.24	1.05	1.40	58	N.R.
3BS	Shaunavon	trace	.81	1.48	52	51
	Aneroid	.09	1.65	1.65	56	52
	Instow	.02	.37	1.45	52	51
3BN	Hodgeville	.14	1.18(2)	1.71	N.R.	50
	Swift Current	trace	.78	1.69	53	51
	Pennant	trace	.49	1.61	51	52
	Hughton	trace	.27	1.39	55	52
4A	Maple Creek	N.R.	2.12(2)	1.60	N.R.	53
	Consul	.07	.41	1.32	51	50
4B	Leader	trace	.44	1.44	52	53
5A	Cupar	.57	3.63	1.50	54	51
	Balcarres	N.R.	1.53(2)	1.60	N.R.	51
	Lipton	N.R.	3.24(2)	1.41	N.R.	51
	Melville	.51	1.67	1.54	54	N.R.
	Yorkton	.42	1.62	1.54	55	50
	Bangor	.59	1.56	1.67	55	50
5B	Wynyard	.12	1.71	1.74	55	49
	Foam Lake	.12	1.55	1.72	54	50
	Kuroki	.20	1.81	1.73	55	48
	Kamsack, Cote	.34	.76(2)	1.39	53	50
6A	Davidson	.35	1.06	1.54	54	51
	Strasbourg	.40	.96	1.53	55	50
	Watrous	.13	1.38	1.47	54	50
	Liberty	.31	.79	1.54	54	N.R.
6B	Harris	N.R.	.54(2)	1.46	N.R.	51
	Outlook	.04	.61	1.10	55	53

For footnotes, see page IV.



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 15, 1972	since April 1	since April 1	8 a.m. May 15	
			inches		1972	Normal
						degrees F.
<u>SASKATCHEWAN - Concluded</u>						
6B	Saskatoon	.04	.96	1.56	55	52
	Elbow	.03	.22	1.40	53	51
	Tugaske	.20	.69	1.53	54	51
	Dundurn	.10	.57	1.35	57	52
7A	Kindersley	.02	.30	1.11	54	51
	Rosetown	trace	.44	1.43	53	51
7B	Macklin	.15	1.08	1.28	55	51
	Denzil	.10	.80	1.39	55	51
	Scott	nil	.89	1.54	54	50
	Biggar	trace	.60	1.33	55	52
8A	Hudson Bay	.11	1.68	1.75	56	48
	Prairie River	.18	1.48	1.99	54	48
8B	Humboldt	nil	2.63	1.40	56	50
	Melfort	.09	1.69	1.53	55	50
9A	North Battleford	.04	1.79	1.45	56	51
	Victoire	.08	.98	1.61	54	48
	Prince Albert	.05	1.11	1.86	54	50
9B	Waseca	N.R.	1.40(2)	1.63	N.R.	50
	Meadow Lake	.26	1.18	1.44	57	48
SASKATCHEWAN AVERAGE		.28	1.30	1.52	53.7	50.7

ALBERTA

1	Empress	nil	trace	1.35	53	52
	Foremost	.25	.89	1.60	53	53
	Manyberries	N.R.	.30(2)	1.62	N.R.	52
	Medicine Hat	.02	.81	1.71	54	54
2	Brooks	nil	1.04	1.56	53	52
	Gleichen	.02	.11(2)	1.98	55	51
	Vauxhall	.12	1.62	1.36	50	52
	Raymond	.28	.83	2.61	53	53
	Lethbridge	.21	1.12	2.29	53	51
	Trochu	nil	1.03	2.16	N.R.	51
	Queenstown	.02	.75	2.09	53	51
	Calgary	.04	.79	2.34	52	49
3	Cardston	.56	1.83	2.48	49	50
	Pincher Creek	.67	3.84	3.04	50	48
	Fort MacLeod	.28	2.56	2.33	52	52
	High River	.06	1.49	2.83	48	48

For footnotes, see page IV.



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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 15, 1972	since April 1	since April 1	8 a.m. May 15	
			inches		1972	Normal
						degrees F.
<b>ALBERTA - Concluded</b>						
3	Olds	nil	.74	2.05	50	49
4	Alliance	nil	1.24	1.44	52	50
	Coronation	trace	.85	1.50	54	50
	Hughenden	trace	1.22	1.56	54	51
	Lloydminster	.02	1.25	1.39	56	50
	Stettler	nil	.36	1.49	52	50
	Vegreville	.10	1.72	1.29	52	50
	Ranfurly	trace	1.59	1.67	55	51
	Vermilion	.01	1.51	1.39	54	50
5	Edmonton	.03	1.97	1.92	53	51
	Lacombe	nil	1.75	2.29	51	50
	Red Deer	nil	1.14	2.53	50	50
	Rocky Mountain House	nil	1.93	2.47	50	48
	Wetaskiwin	.03	1.61	2.21	54	50
6	Campsie	trace	.91	1.80	54	49
	Edson	.20	1.16	1.96	51	47
	Elk Point	.29	.95	1.48	54	48
	Whitecourt	nil	1.33	2.07	53	48
7	Beaverlodge	nil	.15	1.55	52	49
	Chipewyan	.50	2.60	1.02	50	N.R.
	Ft. Vermilion	.15	.22	1.15	55	48
	Grande Prairie	nil	.25	1.40	54	49
	High Prairie	.05	.20	1.63	48	49
	Peace River	.03	1.10	1.10	53	49
<b>ALBERTA AVERAGE</b>		.10	1.22	1.84	52.3	50.2

(1) Source: Meteorological Service of Canada.

(2) Incomplete; not included in average.

N.R. No report.