

22-002  
no. 11  
1972  
May 24  
c. 3

# Statistics Canada Statistique Canada

For release  
May 24, 1972, 3 p.m.

Price: \$4.00 for series of  
20 Crop Reports

## Field Crop Reporting Series — No. 6

### TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT — PRAIRIE PROVINCES

This is the third 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. — Farmers made considerable progress with seeding operations during the past week in most districts of the Prairie Provinces. Present information is that in Saskatchewan the halfway point has been passed but in Manitoba and Alberta activity is less advanced due to unfavourable weather conditions, excessive moisture and, in some instances, voluntary delays to await weed growth in order to obtain better control. Moisture supplies vary with dry conditions prevailing in eastern Manitoba, southwestern Saskatchewan and southern and east-central Alberta. Elsewhere, moisture is satisfactory and excessive in some spots. Germination is good in most districts and early-sown crops are emerging. Weed growth is generally heavy.

Manitoba. — Throughout Manitoba an average of approximately 40 per cent of seeding operations have been completed. In the northwestern districts less than 20 per cent has been done; in the Interlake region 15 to 40 per cent, and in the central district 20 to 50 per cent has been completed. In the southern part of the province about 70 per cent has been completed. There are excessive moisture conditions in some western districts while rain is needed in the eastern half. There is a heavy growth of wild oats and early-seeded cereals and special crops have germinated well. Pastures are fair to good and in the Red River Valley approximately 25 per cent of grasshopper eggs have hatched.

Agriculture Division,  
Crops Section

5502-508

Saskatchewan. — Seeding conditions have been generally good due to a combination of warm weather and scattered showers. More than one-half of the wheat acreage has been seeded half of the coarse grains, one-quarter of the flax and most of the rapeseed. Crops in the southwest have germinated and are well advanced in the central and west-central areas while progress has been slow in the northeast, east-central and southeast. Showers have been heaviest in the southeast while the southwest region remains seriously dry. Districts in the west-central part of the province are also dry but elsewhere moisture conditions are good. Some seeding has been delayed while waiting for growth of wild oats.

Alberta. — The cold spring has delayed seeding in most parts of the province. Many farmers who could get on to their fields delayed operations until wild oats had germinated in order to get a good weed kill. For the province as a whole, it is estimated that a little over one-third of the land has now been seeded varying from 80 per cent in the southeast to less than 10 per cent in most northern areas. Seeding was general at most southern points over a week ago but will become general for the entire province only this week. As of May 19 approximately 60 per cent of the wheat, 25 per cent of the oats, 30 per cent of the barley and 20 per cent of the flax and rapeseed crops had been sown. Moisture is fair to poor in both the southern and east-central areas but good to excellent in the north. Pasture conditions show similar patterns of variability with development late but appearing good in the northern areas.

#### MANITOBA

In the southeastern area of the province around Altona many fields have been subject to blowing topsoil though later thundershowers settled the dust and gave a needed boost to germinating crops. However, more moisture will be needed. Seeding is up to 70 per cent complete and weed growth has been slow due to a lack of moisture. Around Morden, continued hot weather and strong winds have further reduced surface moisture. Heavy local thundershowers over the weekend have provided scattered relief for crops along the U.S. border. Due to limited moisture pasture growth continues to be slow and it is possible that the hay crop will be light. The seeding of cereals and special crops is continuing this week with 30 per cent now completed. Early-corn and cereals are emerging well. As a result of high winds last week some of the cereal crop was damaged. There continues to be a heavy growth of wild oats.

At Melita in the south-central area seeding has been delayed due to heavy rains. Early crops have emerged and pastures are fair to good with an improved outlook for the hay crop. Grasshoppers are hatching with the increased moisture.

Northeast of Winnipeg around Selkirk seeding is 30 per cent completed. Most fields are in excellent condition for cultivation due to favourable weather conditions this past week. However, the dry weather has slowed growth of pastures and haylands. Showers this past weekend should be of some help. Because of the dry weather conditions the early growth of wild oats has been killed with cultivation. Accordingly this should result in a saving of chemical costs for most farmers. There are reports of canker worm damage on elm trees and some insect problems are starting to appear on home grounds.

At Stonewall, wild oats are very heavy and farmers with an infestation of wild oats have held back seeding allowing the weeds to germinate. Cultivation is now underway. Seeding is approximately 20 per cent completed, and there has been very little rain. In general more moisture is required by crops and pastures.



Around Brandon field work is general in all areas. Seeding of wheat is 20 per cent completed and coarse grains 10 per cent completed. There has been good moisture and warm temperatures this past week and a good growth of cereal and forage crops is reported. In the northern area the harvest on the remaining 1971 crop is about 20 per cent complete. At Virden seeding has been delayed due to scattered showers although approximately 20 per cent has been completed. Presently seeding operations are in full production. Growth in pastures has been very good.

In the northern Interlake region at Arborg seeding operations have shown good progress during the past week with about 40 per cent of the crop in the ground. Pastures have improved greatly due to increased moisture.

At Neepawa, in the west-central section, about 25 per cent of seeding operations have been completed. Field work in some areas has been delayed due to scattered rain on May 18 and 22. Weed growth is very heavy in some areas and many farmers have delayed seeding in order to control weeds. Pastures are growing well and cattle are now out. At Shoal Lake seeding operations were interrupted by scattered showers on May 22. Cereal crops are 15 per cent seeded with rapeseed 5 per cent completed. Seeding has been hampered by wet field conditions. Weed growth is good and pastures are improving with the warm weather and precipitation. More forage crops are being seeded to provide pastures for expanding beef cow herds.

In the northwest region at Dauphin only 5 to 15 per cent of seeding operations are completed due to the wet soil conditions. There has been heavy wild oat germination with pastures and hay growth being fair to good. At Swan River seeding and field operations are now general. It is expected that planting of wheat will be finished by the weekend. There has been uniform germination of wild oats and good control is expected by cultural methods. With good moisture conditions pastures are now developing quickly.

The unweighted average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 28 per cent below normal, compared with 28 per cent below normal a week ago, 24 per cent below normal two weeks ago, and in contrast to 31 per cent above normal a year ago. Mean temperature for the week ending May 22, 1972 was 11.5 degrees F. above normal in contrast to 4.1 degrees above normal a week ago and compared with 2.5 degrees below normal two weeks ago and 4.5 degrees below normal for the week ending May 24, 1971.

#### SASKATCHEWAN

At Wilmar in the southeast part of the province 1.60 inches of rain fell during the weekend and raised the total since May 1 to 2.11 inches and as a result fields are very wet. Farmers are also waiting to kill wild oats and seeding is just now getting started. Pastures and forage crops are in good condition and fall rye wintered well. At Indian Head a few days of warm weather, after last week's showers, have stimulated weed growth and the emergence of early-sown crops. Seeding operations are now in full swing but are somewhat later than normal. Wild oats are growing strongly and a good kill is anticipated. Hay and pasture crops are making good growth.

In the south-central part of the province at Gravelbourg early-seeded fields are now about three inches in height. Wheat, barley and oats are about 80 per cent seeded and flax 50 per cent. There is a heavy infestation of wild oats and summer-fallow fields are now being worked. Pastures are in fair condition.

In the southwest at Val Marie seeding operations are almost completed. Early-seeded fields look good but there is a heavy infestation of wild oats and weeds. Irrigation is now underway. Alfalfa fields appear promising and pastures are normal for this time of year. A good rain would be generally beneficial. Further west at Eastend seeding operations are nearing completion and moisture conditions have improved with recent rains. Some early-seeded fields have a heavy infestation of weeds and additional rain would improve both pastures and hay. In the area around Leader crops have germinated evenly and are making good growth despite a lack of rain.

In east-central Saskatchewan around Endeavour seeding operations are well underway with about 50 per cent of the wheat and 20 per cent of the coarse grains already in the ground. Growth of wild oats, however, is holding up operations on some fields. Hay fields and pastures are in good condition.

Seeding has progressed rapidly during the past week around Drake in the central part of the province and operations could be almost completed by the end of this week. Warm, dry weather has terminated growth of wild oats and weeds. Early-sown crops are now emerging but additional rainfall will soon be required to germinate shallow sown rapeseed. Around Saskatoon weather conditions during the past week have been dry and warm and seeding has progressed at a steady pace. About 75 per cent of the crops are now in the ground and many fields of wheat and rape have emerged. Some pastures are still very poor and in need of rain.

At Rosetown in the west-central part of the province about 90 per cent of the wheat and coarse grains and about 50 per cent of the flax and rapeseed have been seeded. Fall rye, pastures and hayland are in need of rain. Recent warm weather and a light shower have promoted growth of wild oats and other weeds. Seeding operations are in the final stages around Scott and all early-seeded crops have emerged. Surface soil is drying out rapidly due to a lack of reserve moisture and high winds. Forage crops and pastures are also beginning to suffer from the lack of moisture. Flea beetles are already damaging early-sown rapeseed. Cultivation of summerfallow is underway.

In the northeast part of the province at Melfort, dry weather has permitted good progress with seeding operations. Completion of seeding is estimated at 65 per cent for wheat, 50 for barley, Argentine rape 70 to 80 and Polish rape 20 to 30. Many other farmers are cultivating to kill wild oats before seeding Polish rape. Moisture conditions are adequate for germination but rain will soon be needed to promote continued growth.

The unweighted average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 19 per cent below normal compared with 14 per cent below normal a week ago and 9 per cent below normal two weeks ago and 47 per cent below normal a year ago. Mean temperature for the week ending May 22, 1972 was 7.7 degrees F. above normal compared with 3.0 degrees above normal a week ago and in contrast to 4.3 degrees below normal two weeks ago and 2.9 degrees below normal for the week ending May 24, 1971.

#### ALBERTA

Farmers in the Medicine Hat district have just about finished seeding. Early crops are well up and are beginning to suffer from a lack of moisture. However, in some areas spotty showers during the last two days have helped in some areas. Fall rye is in the shot blade stage, pastures are short but cattle are good.



At Lethbridge wheat seeding is nearly finished and an estimated 75 per cent of the barley and rapeseed are also in the ground. Growth of early-seeded cereals, winter wheat and rye growth is good. Some areas need moisture, however, and some infestations of pale western cutworm are reported. Only 10 per cent of the sugar beet crop remains to be seeded and thinning has started. Canning crop planting is on schedule. In the Cardston district about three-quarters of the cereals has been planted and about two-thirds of the oilseed crops has been sown. Farmers have completed spraying of fall wheat. The early-sown spring crops are showing good germination and are now above the ground. Grass growth is very good and it is estimated one week's fair weather is needed to complete spring planting. Our correspondent at Claresholm reports cool weather. Farmers have delayed seeding but weeds are a problem and they are waiting for the wild oat growth. Fall crops, grass and hay look promising but rain is needed soon.

At Vulcan there was warm weather last week resulting in a good growth of weeds including wild oats. It is estimated about three-quarters of the seeding has been done and there is sufficient moisture for germination. Hay fields are growing slowly and rain is needed on pastures.

Reports from Vermilion in the northeast central part of the province indicate delays in seeding operations due to very heavy rain. Concern is being expressed at the prospect of time running out for wheat seeding and some farmers are changing their cropping plans and sowing other crops for this reason. Very heavy weed growth is becoming a problem.

Soil moisture is excellent at Edmonton and seeding became general in this district on the week of May 22. Heavy spring showers have brought on good stands of forage crops which were seeded last year with companion crops. It is felt span rapeseed acreage may increase but zephyr will be down because of the late seeding date. At Colinton most farmers have started seeding operations. Rain last week started wild oats growing and grass crops were also growing rapidly. Most of the wheat is now in the ground and barley seeding will start this week. Farmers have delayed planting rapeseed, however, in order to achieve control of early weeds.

At Eckville, in the west-central area, seeding of oats is 80 per cent complete, barley 20 per cent and rapeseed 5 per cent. No grain is showing up as yet but wild oats are very prevalent in unseeded land. Moisture conditions are good and cattle are now on pastures.

Seeding is progressing satisfactorily at Beaverlodge in the Peace River District. Topsoil is dry and some rainfall is required. Rye is progressing very well. At Peace River the cool, late spring has seen a great variety of progress throughout the district with some crops emerging while other land remains unworked. Wheat sowing has nearly been finished but farmers are waiting wild oat growth before sowing barley and rapeseed. Low night temperatures have restricted growth. Conditions are dry but not critical.

The unweighted average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 24 per cent below normal compared with 34 per cent below normal a week ago, 21 per cent below normal two weeks ago and 42 per cent below normal a year ago. Mean temperature for the week ending May 22, 1972 was 2.0 degrees F. above normal compared with 2.1 degrees above normal a week ago and in contrast to 4.2 degrees below normal two weeks ago and 0.7 degree below normal for the week ending May 24, 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 22, 1972	since April 1	since April 1	8 a.m. May 22	
			inches		1972	Normal
						degrees F.
<u>MANITOBA</u>						
1	Boissevain	.05	1.63	2.41	65	53
	Pierson	.75	2.21	2.32	67	54
2	Baldur	.24	1.76	2.54	65	54
	Pilot Mound	.06	1.68	2.49	67	53
3	Altona	.20	1.48	2.32	70	56
	Deerwood	.04	1.52(2)	2.55	67	56
	Graysville	.04	1.12	2.24	62	54
	Morden	.09	2.18	2.68	69	55
	Morris	.20	1.33(2)	2.12	71	55
	Portage la Prairie	.10	1.15	2.66	67	55
	Roland	trace	2.02	2.38	67	56
4	Stonewall	.15	.82	2.40	67	54
5	Emerson	.08	1.19	2.47	71	54
	Steinbach	N.R.	N.R.	2.37	N.R.	54
	Winnipeg	.01	.80	2.48	69	54
	Starbuck	N.R.	.68(2)	2.41	N.R.	55
6	Pinawa	.03	.61	1.55	66	52
	Great Falls	N.R.	.30(2)	1.82	N.R.	53
	Sprague	.60	2.51	2.73	66	52
7	Virden	.73	1.94	1.82	65	54
8	Brandon	.93	2.02	2.28	65	54
	Cypress River	.33	1.54	2.16	68	54
9	Gladstone	.31	1.11	2.33	N.R.	53
10	Birtle	.03	2.00	2.01	63	52
	Rossburn	trace	1.91	1.89	62	53
	Russell	trace	1.64	1.57	62	52
11	Dauphin	.02	1.90	2.25	60	53
12	Arborg	.24	1.19	2.23	62	52
	Gimli	.19	1.17	2.25	61	52
13	Swan River	trace	2.91	1.88	60	53
	The Pas	.40	1.53	2.06	54	50
MANITOBA AVERAGE		.21	1.62	2.25	65.1	53.6
<u>SASKATCHEWAN</u>						
1A	Carlyle	2.37	4.30	1.82	65	53
	Estevan	.85	2.81	2.03	66	55
	Oxbow	.78	2.42	1.74	63	53
	Willmar	N.R.	.98(2)	1.82	N.R.	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 22, 1972	since April 1	since April 1	8 a.m. May 22 1972	Normal
			inches		degrees F.	
<u>SASKATCHEWAN — Continued</u>						
1B	Broadview	.24	1.56	1.71	62	51
	Moosomin	.49	1.20	1.84	62	53
2A	Yellow Grass	.32	1.87	1.82	64	53
	Weyburn	.58	2.05	1.87	76	54
	Midale	N.R.	1.52(2)	1.82	N.R.	54
	Amulet	.40	2.38	2.03	64	N.R.
2B	Moose Jaw	trace	1.22	1.94	64	55
	Regina	.10	1.72	1.79	64	54
	Francis	.11	1.44	1.64	62	52
	Indian Head	.33	2.24	1.74	63	53
3AS	Ormiston	N.R.	2.17(2)	2.03	N.R.	55
	Cardross	.07	1.99	2.01	62	54
	Rock Glen	.84	3.54	1.99	62	N.R.
3AN	Coderre	.09	1.57(2)	1.97	62	53
	Gravelbourg	.40	2.79	1.68	61	54
	Chaplin	.12	1.17	1.64	62	N.R.
3BS	Shaunavon	.34	1.15	1.76	60	53
	Aneroid	.31	1.96	1.93	61	54
	Instow	.26	.63	1.72	60	53
3BN	Hodgeville	N.R.	1.42(2)	2.02	N.R.	53
	Swift Current	.08	.86	1.99	61	53
	Pennant	N.R.	.49(2)	1.89	N.R.	54
	Hughton	Nil	.27	1.65	63	54
4A	Maple Creek	N.R.	2.12(2)	1.88	N.R.	55
	Consul	.19	.60	1.51	58	53
4B	Leader	trace	.44	1.67	61	55
5A	Cupar	N.R.	3.63(2)	1.83	N.R.	53
	Balcarres	Nil	1.52(2)	1.91	N.R.	54
	Lipton	.15	3.39(2)	1.70	62	54
	Melville	.01	1.68	1.82	61	N.R.
	Yorkton	Nil	1.62	1.82	63	53
	Bangor	Nil	1.56	1.99	62	53
5B	Wynyard	trace	1.71	2.05	60	52
	Foam Lake	Nil	1.56	2.11	58	52
	Kuroki	Nil	1.81	2.05	59	51
	Kamsack, Cote	Nil	.76(2)	1.63	62	53
6A	Davidson	.06	1.12	1.85	61	53
	Strasbourg	trace	.96	1.90	64	53
	Watrous	N.R.	1.38(2)	1.75	N.R.	52
	Liberty	.03	.44(2)	1.85	62	N.R.

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 22, 1972	April 1	April 1	May 22	
			inches		1972	Normal
					degrees F.	
<u>SASKATCHEWAN — Concluded</u>						
6B	Harris	.21	.75(2)	1.70	57	54
	Outlook	.10	.71	1.34	62	55
	Saskatoon	.14	1.10	1.83	59	54
	Elbow	trace	.22	1.77	61	53
	Tugaske	.15	.84	1.90	61	53
	Dundurn	Nil	.57	1.60	59	54
7A	Kindersley	trace	.30	1.27	59	54
	Rosetown	trace	.44	1.67	61	54
7B	Macklin	.09	1.17	1.51	57	53
	Denzil	trace	.80	1.65	57	54
	Scott	.08	.97	1.85	56	53
	Biggar	Nil	.60	1.64	58	54
8A	Hudson Bay	.03	1.71	2.03	58	52
	Prairie River	.04	1.52	2.30	58	51
8B	Humboldt	.20	2.83	1.62	59	52
	Melfort	.04	1.73	1.80	58	53
9A	North Battleford	.02	1.81	1.72	58	53
	Victoire	.10	1.08	1.92	64	51
	Prince Albert	.11	1.22	2.19	56	52
9B	Waseca	.26	1.66(2)	1.91	54	52
	Meadow Lake	.68	1.86	1.78	55	50
SASKATCHEWAN AVERAGE		.21	1.48	1.82	60.9	53.2

ALBERTA

1	Empress	trace	trace	1.58	63	55
	Foremost	trace	.89	1.91	57	54
	Manyberries	N.R.	.30(2)	1.88	N.R.	54
	Medicine Hat	.06	.87	2.03	61	56
2	Brooks	Nil	1.04	1.90	57	54
	Gleichen	trace	.11(2)	2.32	54	53
	Vauxhall	Nil	1.62	1.73	58	53
	Raymond	.20	1.03	2.92	57	55
	Lethbridge	.05	1.17	2.73	57	53
	Trochu	.18	1.21	2.45	N.R.	53
	Queenstown	trace	.75	2.47	55	53
3	Calgary	.36	1.15	2.74	53	51
	Cardston	Nil	1.91	2.94	53	52
	Pincher Creek	Nil	3.95	3.45	53	50

For footnotes see page IV.



1010505773

- 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 22, 1972	since April 1	since April 1	8 a.m. May 22 1972	Normal
			inches			degrees F.
<u>ALBERTA — Concluded</u>						
3	Fort MacLeod	.10	2.66	2.82	54	54
	High River	.12	1.61	2.21	51	50
	Olds	.55	1.29	2.52	51	51
4	Alliance	.30	1.54	1.66	54	53
	Coronation	.11	.96	1.69	55	52
	Hughenden	.44	1.66	1.80	55	53
	Lloydminster	.42	1.67	1.62	56	53
	Stettler	.53	.89	1.79	55	53
	Vegreville	.55	2.21	1.59	53	52
	Ranfurly	.87	2.46	1.98	55	53
	Vermilion	.60	2.11	1.60	55	52
	Edmonton	.85	2.82	2.30	53	53
5	Lacombe	.88	2.63	2.69	52	52
	Red Deer	.64	1.78	3.03	52	52
	Rocky Mountain House	.45	2.38	2.91	51	50
	Wetaskiwin	.82	2.43	2.54	53	52
	Campsie	.86	1.77	2.17	52	51
6	Edson	2.44	3.60	2.39	50	50
	Elk Point	.37	1.32	1.76	54	51
	Whitecourt	2.64	3.97	2.43	53	50
	Beaverlodge	Nil	.15	1.88	51	51
7	Chipewyan	.03	2.63	1.20	53	N.R.
	Ft. Vermilion	.01	.23	1.43	57	51
	Grande Prairie	Nil	.26	1.70	55	52
	High Prairie	.03	.23	1.94	50	52
	Peace River	.02	1.12	1.34	56	51
ALBERTA AVERAGE		.40	1.63	2.15	54.3	52.3

N.R. — No report.

(1) Source: Meteorological Service of Canada.

(2) Incomplete; not included in average.