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TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT — PRAIRIE PROVINCES

This is the second of the 1973 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. — Seeding is now under way in most districts and should be general throughout the prairies by the weekend. Moisture supplies are fair to good in Manitoba, good in Saskatchewan and very variable in Alberta. Saskatchewan and Alberta have had warm weather which has improved pasture conditions and advanced weed growth. In Manitoba, however, low temperatures continue with the result that pastures and weeds have been slow in developing although conditions are now improving.

Manitoba. — Seeding is general with farmers in the western half of the province having seeded 15 per cent of the crop and in the eastern half from 10 to 25 per cent. The southern districts are the most advanced. Moisture supplies are fair to good except at Altona and Vita and weed and pasture growth are improving rapidly. Fall rye and alfalfa are in good condition. Feed shortages are reported in several areas. Grasshoppers are appearing at Melita.

Saskatchewan. — Seeding is now general in the southern two-thirds of the grain belt. In the north, seeding should be general by the weekend. Some southern localities are from 50 to 80 per cent completed. Pastures are improving under mild, sunny conditions. There are some reports of grasshoppers hatching.

Agriculture Division
Crops Section

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Alberta. — Moisture conditions in Alberta vary from ideal in the west-central region, adequate in the central and northern regions, to precipitation badly needed in the southwest. Warm weather has been reported in all districts. Seeding has started in all areas and should be general over the whole province by the end of this week. Weed growth has been reported and cultivation and chemical controls are being implemented. Fall-sown crops are in good shape in most areas although precipitation will be required shortly in some southern and central regions. Hay and pasturelands are also good.

PLANT DISEASES AND GRASSHOPPERS

The Agriculture Canada Research Station in Winnipeg reports that while cereal rust infection in the southern United States is about normal for this time of year it is too early to assess the importance of the southern rust situation to Western Canada.

The continued cool weather has delayed the grasshopper hatch but otherwise there has been no change since the last report.

MANITOBA

At Vita surface soil moisture is adequate but sub-surface supplies are low. Weed control measures are under way and Avadex is working well on wild oats. Considerable progress has been made with seeding operations with some 50 per cent of the crops now sown in the Dominion City area and 20 per cent in the Piney-Sprague district. Freezing night temperatures have been slowing pasture growth and many farmers are now out of feed. At Altona, the moisture situation remains critical although there has been enough rain recently to enable early-sown cereals to germinate. Wild oats also germinated very well but pasture growth is extremely slow. However, it is felt there may be just sufficient pasture to enable farmers to get by with a very small amount of forage still on hand.

At Pilot Mound in south-central Manitoba surface moisture conditions are excellent after the intermittent rains of last week. Heavy wild oat infestations will delay seeding about one week and so far only 5 per cent of the crop has been sown. Farmers are using pre-planting herbicides for wild oat control to an increased degree and fertilizer use is also up particularly anhydrous ammonia. Pasture growth is slow as a result of low temperatures but feed supplies are adequate.

At Beausejour east of Winnipeg work on the land is general with about 5 per cent of the land seeded. Pasture conditions are good but will require additional moisture soon. Weeds, while slow in starting, are now appearing and many farmers have delayed seeding operations until weed germination had taken place. In the Selkirk district seeding operations are in full swing with some of the smaller operations having now been finished. Although there has been no rain since the last report moisture conditions seem to be satisfactory and weed growth is taking place. Pastures are also growing although slowly and feed shortages do not seem to be too serious a problem but if pasture growth remains slow feed supplies on hand may prove to be inadequate.

Limited field work with some seeding being done was reported in the Stonewall district the beginning of the week with the expectation that activity would be general before the weekend. District farmers are waiting for wild oat growth. Fertilizers are in short supply. Canada thistles are coming up but there has been no grasshopper

problem so far. Short supplies of hay are obliging farmers to put cattle on pasture but the cattle are in fairly good condition. Water supplies will be short in range areas with dugouts and sloughs already dry; more rain is needed. Reports from the Portage La Prairie indicate that seeding is well under way and progressing rapidly. It is thought that a good control of wild oats is being achieved. Pasture conditions are good as hay crop prospects with good levels of soil moisture and excellent germination of crops being reported.

Reports from Brandon indicate that seeding is 10 per cent completed, activity having been interrupted by light rain during the past week. Some 2.84 inches of moisture since April 1 is restoring the low moisture supplies. Early-seeded cereals are emerging and wild oats are also appearing on some fields with forage growth improving as well.

In west-central Manitoba at Neepawa recent rainfalls have brought about soil moisture conditions which are ideal to get the crop started. However, only 5 per cent of the seeding has been completed to date since wild oat growth just began this week. Pastures have improved considerably but warmer temperatures are needed for rapid growth. In the Minnedosa district recent light showers and cool weather have delayed field operations. Wild oat germination is heavy but very little tilling or seeding has been completed. Moisture conditions are generally fair to good but pasture growth is very slow with feed and hay supplies being depleted.

In the Shoal Lake district in west-central Manitoba surface moisture conditions are good after the recent precipitation but subsoil moisture conditions on stubble fields are not too favourable. Seeding operations are general in the district. The recent rain speeded up wild oat growth. Pasture development is slow but cattle are in good condition except for scours which have been reported in spring calves on many farms with some calf losses having been sustained.

Our reporter at Dauphin in northwest Manitoba indicates that seeding is proceeding favourably in the district with soil moisture adequate for the present time. Low temperatures are continuing with the result that pasture and weed growth are slow. Due to the slow pasture growth livestock are on partial feed.

The average unweighted precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 16 per cent above normal compared with 31 per cent above normal a week ago, 22 per cent above normal two weeks ago and in contrast to 28 per cent below normal one year ago. Mean temperature for the week ending May 14, 1973 was 4.6 degrees F. below normal compared with 4.7 degrees below normal a week ago, 8.8 degrees below normal two weeks ago and in contrast to 4.1 degrees below normal for the week ending May 15, 1972.

SASKATCHEWAN

Our correspondent at Indian Head reports that cool, damp weather continued until May 12. Field work has just started and should be general tomorrow. There is very little plant growth and advancement of hay and pasture is slow but should improve with warm weather.

At Swift Current in the southwest of the province seeding is now 20 to 25 per cent completed. Moisture conditions in this area are good and weeds are numerous and vigorous with some spraying being done. Pastures are growing very well and calving is completed. Losses in the calf crop have been quite high in some areas due to scours. At Leader warm dry weather is ideal for seeding. Crop conditions are very good with half of the acreage sown.

In the Melville district of east-central Saskatchewan about two inches of rainfall this past week have made moisture conditions good. Seeding is well under way with increased acreages being devoted to wheat and flax. Hay and pastures are improving due to recent rainfall. At Endeavour, spring operations have just started and will not become general for one week. Moisture is good but weed growth is slow as are hayland and pastures.

Our report from Drake in the central part of the province indicates seeding has become general this week with considerable pre-cultivation completed. Cool weather has limited weed germination but moisture is quite adequate for grain emergence. This area has received some two and one-half inches of rain since April 1. Cattle have wintered well and are going out to pasture. In the Saskatoon area warm, dry weather the last few days improved growing conditions and pastures appear much better. Tillage and seeding are now fairly general. Wild oats are showing in many fields and farmers hope to control them before seeding these areas. With continued warm weather grasshoppers are expected to start hatching next week.

At Rosetown in the west-central part of the province seeding became general today with an anticipated sizeable increase in wheat acreage. A fair amount of stubble will be seeded this year. Moisture conditions are very good with some scattered showers during the past week. Increased amounts of fertilizer and Avadex are being used this spring. Pastures and hayland appear good. At Scott, warm, dry weather this past week improved conditions considerably. Seeding just started last Monday. Surfaces are drying well and subsoil moisture is good. Forages and pastures are growing well. Day temperatures have been up in the seventies but lows at night are below freezing level.

In the northeast part of the province at Melfort seeding is just getting under way. Precipitation in late April and early May improved surface moisture conditions. Pastures are starting to green. Fall rye survived fairly well but considerable winterkill is reported in the winter wheat acreage. There is keen interest in fertilizer recommendations among farmers and a considerable amount of anhydrous ammonia is being applied.

The unweighted average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 81 per cent above normal compared with 93 per cent above normal a week ago, 132 per cent above normal two weeks ago and in contrast to 14 per cent below normal a year ago. Mean temperature for the week ending May 14, 1973 was 3.5 degrees F. below normal compared with 4.2 degrees below normal a week ago, 6.6 degrees below normal two weeks ago and in contrast to 3.0 degrees above normal for the week ending May 15, 1972.

ALBERTA

In the southwest of the province near Lethbridge moisture is badly needed. Seeding is well under way with some delay due to wild oat control. Some cutworm damage but no grasshopper hatch is reported. Dry land forage is progressing slowly and planting of sugar beets is 95 per cent completed. Seed germination is slow. Canning crop growers are getting their planting done on schedule. At Cardston seeding of all grains is now under way with warm weather and soil conditions fair. Good germination of weed and wild oats is reported but spring cultivation will eradicate the first growth. Pastures are fair but in need of a rain as growth is slow. Calving is completed with very good results. Seeding of all grains is general in the Claresholm district but wild oats are a big problem. Temperatures have been up to eighty and rain is needed. Pastures are dry and the hay crop is now being affected. Winter wheat and rye crops are also dry.

At Brooks in the south-central region warm weather has been experienced recently. Native ranges and tame pastures are greening with some winterkill in alfalfa. Most trees have leafed out in the last two days and many cattle are now being put on community pastures. Some vegetable crops are being seeded and irrigation water is now in the main canals. At Vulcan temperatures have been in the high seventies and low eighties for the past few days. Conditions are very dry and windy. Rain is needed on the fall-sown crops with some of the fall rye having reached the shot blade stage. Approximately 70 per cent of the wheat is planted, 50 per cent of the barley, 80 per cent of the rapeseed, 20 per cent of the flaxseed and 50 per cent of the oats. Hayland is suffering from the lack of moisture as is pastureland. Wild oats have started to grow rapidly. It is reported that 60 per cent more chemical is being used to combat wild oats this year than last.

Moisture and growing conditions in the southwest-central region near Olds are good. Seeding of barley, rapeseed and wheat is 2 per cent completed. Growth on pasture and hayland is good.

In the northeast-central area at Sedgewick topsoil moisture is adequate while subsoil moisture is below normal. Seeding is proceeding rapidly with Polish rapeseed being seeded almost exclusively. Crops are responding well to the warmer weather.

At Stettler in the central region field work is general. Seeding is under way with no precipitation this week. Moisture conditions are good and the spring harvest has been completed.

About 0.58 inch of rain at Lacombe in the west-central area a week ago delayed combining and field work. Good weather since May 10 has allowed work to resume. Combining is almost completed and seeding should now be general. At Eckville seeding commenced May 15 and should be general by May 19. Field work is progressing rapidly with hot dry weather in the past few days. Moisture conditions are ideal and it is expected there will be less summerfallow and an increased acreage seeded to barley and rapeseed. Fertilizer usage will be increased slightly from a year ago.

In the northeast to north-central region at Colinton seeding began in earnest this week. One-half inch of rain fell during the past week and grass is growing vigorously.

In the Peace River District near Beaverlodge most fields have dried. Harvesting of the 1972 crop is 80 per cent completed with good grain weight. Soil moisture appears adequate with seeding proceeding and forage crops advancing very well. At Peace River warm dry weather has enabled field work and seeding to become general. Wheat is 50 per cent seeded as well as some barley and rapeseed. Moisture reserves are excellent.

The unweighted average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 5 per cent below normal, in contrast to 12 per cent above normal a week ago, 35 per cent above normal two weeks ago, and compared to 34 per cent below normal a year ago. The mean temperature for the week ending May 14 was 1.8 degrees F. below normal, compared with 1.9 degrees below normal a week ago, 6.3 degrees below normal two weeks ago, and in contrast to 2.1 degrees above normal for the week ending May 15, 1972.

Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces(1)

Province and crop district	Station	Precipitation			Mean tem- perature week ending	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	8 a.m.	
		8 a.m. May 14, 1973	since April 1	since April 1	1973	Normal
			inches			degrees F.
<u>MANITOBA</u>						
1	Boissevain	1.56	3.70	1.76	49	50
	Pierson	.78	3.21	1.75	49	52
2	Baldur	1.00	3.17	2.01	47	51
	Pilot Mound	.97	2.86	2.01	46	50
3	Altona	.10	.89	1.74	49	53
	Deerwood	.32	1.49	2.01	46	53
	Graysville	.13	1.49	1.75	48	52
	Morden	.37	1.18	2.11	49	53
	Morris	.18	1.02	1.61	47	53
	Portage la Prairie	.02	2.22	1.94	47	52
	Roland	.26	1.20(2)	1.88	47	53
5	Emerson	.16	.82	1.98	50	52
	Steinbach	trace	.87	1.92	45	51
	Winnipeg	.03	1.52	1.95	47	52
	Starbuck	nil	1.56	1.90	47	52
6	Pinawa	nil	1.53	1.24	46	48
	Great Falls	nil	1.38	1.43	46	50
	Sprague	.32	1.81	2.18	48	50
7	Virden	1.01	2.67	1.34	47	52
8	Brandon	.19	2.79	1.77	47	52
	Cypress River	.27	2.96	1.69	46	51
9	Gladstone	trace	1.60	1.81	N.R.	50
10	Birtle	.18	1.93	1.56	45	50
	Russell	.73	1.91	1.17	46	49
11	Dauphin	trace	1.72	1.77	45	51
12	Arborg	nil	2.45	1.74	44	49
	Gimli	trace	1.96	1.74	44	49
13	Swan River	trace	2.32	1.48	47	51
	Pasquia	nil	2.45	N.R.	46	N.R.
	The Pas	trace	3.99	1.63	44	47
	Thompson	trace	1.54	N.R.	39	N.R.
MANITOBA AVERAGE		.28	2.03	1.75	46.4	51.0

SASKATCHEWAN

1A	Carlyle	.64	3.31	1.42	47	50
	Estevan	.32	1.79	1.60	49	53
	Oxbow	.40	3.25	1.33	46	50
	Willmar	.27	2.43	1.25	N.R.	50

For footnotes, see page IV.

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Province and crop district	Station	Precipitation			Mean tem- perature	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	week ending	
		8 a.m. May 14, 1973	since April 1	since April 1	8 a.m. May 14	
			inches		1973	Normal
						degrees F.
<u>SASKATCHEWAN - Continued</u>						
1B	Broadview	.69	2.15	1.31	45	49
	Moosomin	1.21	3.18	1.38	49	50
2A	Yellow Grass	.47	2.30	1.43	47	51
	Weyburn	.54	1.85	1.45	47	51
	Midale	.34	1.38	1.34	48	52
	Amulet	.37	2.60	1.57	48	51
2B	Moose Jaw	.29	3.23	1.49	47	52
	Regina	.35	2.68	1.33	47	52
	Francis	N.R.	1.45(2)	1.27	N.R.	50
	Indian Head	1.06	3.90	1.34	46	51
3AS	Ormiston	.48	2.25	1.57	46	52
	Cardross	.33	1.76	1.57	47	52
	Rock Glen	.22	3.29	1.57	47	50
3AN	Gravelbourg	.05	2.32(2)	1.25	47	52
	Coderre	.10	3.36	1.61	45	51
	Chaplin	.13	3.62	1.32	47	53
3BS	Shaunavon	.16	1.92	1.40	47	51
	Aneroid	trace	2.48	1.56	48	52
	Instow	.07	1.52	1.36	46	51
3BN	Swift Current	.05	3.25	1.60	47	51
	Pennant	.24	2.03	1.52	48	52
	Hodgeville	trace	1.73(2)	1.60	N.R.	50
	Hughton	.11	2.58	1.31	48	52
4A	Maple Creek	.12	2.38	1.50	52	53
	Consul	.08	.73	1.26	45	50
4B	Leader	.32	2.08	1.37	50	53
5A	Cupar	.73	4.16	1.40	47	51
	Balcarres	N.R.	2.06(2)	1.50	N.R.	51
	Lipton	.15	3.77	1.33	46	51
	Yorkton	.55	2.41	1.44	45	50
	Bangor	.43	2.25	1.56	46	50
5B	Wynyard	.93	3.33	1.62	45	49
	Foam Lake	.79	3.37	1.61	44	50
	Kuroki	.48	3.66	1.62	46	48
	Kamsack, Cote	.51	1.63	1.31	46	50
6A	Davidson	.44	2.24	1.44	46	51
	Strasbourg	.32	3.01	1.42	48	50
	Watrous	.33	3.51	1.38	47	50
	Liberty	.27	2.18	1.44	47	50
6B	Harris	.26	2.87	1.37	47	51
	Outlook	.17	2.52	1.02	48	53

For footnotes, see page IV.

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		Week ending	Total	Normal	8 a.m.	
		8 a.m.	since	since	May 14	
		May 14, 1973	April 1	April 1	1973	Normal
			inches	degrees F.		
<u>SASKATCHEWAN - Concluded</u>						
6B	Saskatoon	.48	2.82	1.47	48	52
	Elbow	.28	1.49	1.30	45	51
	Tugaske	.32	3.29	1.42	42	51
	Dundurn	.49	2.11	1.28	49	52
7A	Kindersley	.46	2.20	1.06	49	51
	Rosetown	.11	3.17	1.36	49	51
7B	Macklin	.34	1.56	1.21	51	51
	Denzil	.21	2.33	1.31	50	51
	Scott	.02	1.98	1.44	49	50
	Biggar	.41	3.16	1.24	48	52
8A	Hudson Bay	trace	2.19	1.66	45	48
	Prairie River	.04	3.24	1.88	44	48
8B	Humboldt	.73	2.38	1.32	46	50
	Melfort	.27	1.79	1.45	45	50
9A	North Battleford	.58	2.33	1.37	50	51
	Victoire	.84	3.68	1.50	47	48
	Prince Albert	.51	2.46	1.75	47	50
9B	Meadow Lake	.99	2.98	1.53	51	50
	Waseca	.66	2.01	1.33	50	48
SASKATCHEWAN AVERAGE		.38	2.59	1.43	47.2	50.7

ALBERTA

1	Empress	.51	2.41	1.27	50	53
	Foremost	trace	1.60	1.50	49	53
	Manyberries	.04	1.06	1.53	50	52
	Medicine Hat	.09	1.30	1.61	50	54
2	Brooks	.08	1.51	1.46	50	52
	Gleichen	.06	1.52	1.88	48	51
	Vauxhall	.03	.95	1.26	48	52
	Raymond	trace	1.19	2.50	49	53
	Lethbridge	.01	1.05	2.15	48	51
	Trochu	nil	1.04	2.06	N.R.	51
	Queenstown	nil	1.69	1.98	49	51
3	Calgary	nil	1.14	2.21	48	49
	Cardston	nil	1.78	2.34	46	50
	Pincher Creek	nil	2.87	2.87	46	48
	Fort MacLeod	nil	.88	2.17	48	52
	High River	nil	1.20	2.71	43	48

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 14, 1973	April 1	April 1	May 14	Normal
		inches			degrees F.	
ALBERTA - Concluded						
3	Olds	.13	2.05	1.92	46	49
4	Alliance	.02	1.94	1.37	43	50
	Coronation	.27	1.90	1.43	49	50
	Hughenden	.13	2.03	1.47	47	51
	Lloydminster	.44	2.02	1.32	51	50
	Stettler	.16	1.82	1.40	48	50
	Vegreville	.04	1.86	1.19	48	50
	Ranfurly	.03	2.14	1.57	50	51
	Vermilion	.21	1.82	1.33	50	50
5	Edmonton	.18	2.06	1.81	48	51
	Lacombe	.58	2.54	2.16	48	50
	Red Deer	.07	1.99	2.35	47	50
	Rocky Mountain House	nil	3.09	2.34	48	48
	Wetaskiwin	.24	2.58	2.09	49	50
6	Campsie	.06	1.31	1.68	47	49
	Edson	.11	1.79	1.83	45	47
	Elk Point	.40	1.99	1.39	49	48
	Whitecourt	.03	2.03	1.96	48	48
7	Beaverlodge	nil	.34	1.44	47	49
	Chipewyan	nil	.50	.96	56	48
	Ft. Vermilion	N.R.	.67(2)	1.07	N.R.	48
	Grande Prairie	trace	.91	1.30	49	49
	High Prairie	trace	1.40	1.53	49	49
	Peace River	.17	.86	1.03	49	49
	Slave Lake	.53	1.84	1.45	46	48
ALBERTA AVERAGE		.12	1.65	1.73	48.2	50.0

N.R. - No report. (1) Source: Meteorological Service of Canada. (2) Incomplete; not included in average.