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## Field Crop Reporting Series — No. 6

### TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT — PRAIRIE PROVINCES

This is the third 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 was general last week in nearly all parts of the Prairie Provinces. Weekend rains halted activity in Saskatchewan and Manitoba and brought needed moisture to most of the drier districts. In Alberta excellent weather for seeding continues and moisture conditions are good except in the southeast where conditions are quite dry. Progress with seeding varies from 100 per cent completed in some southern districts of Alberta and Saskatchewan to just getting under way in parts of the north. Problems with heavy wild oat growth are being encountered.

Manitoba. — In the eastern part of the province farmers have completed 50 per cent of their seeding operations, in the central districts 25 per cent and 40 per cent in the western and Interlake regions. Heavy rainfall in the southeast has restored moisture supplies while to the west although there was less rain, moisture supplies are adequate. However, the Interlake area is still dry. Warm weather has improved forages and stimulated weed growth with heavy wild oat infestations observed. Early-seeded cereals have emerged.

Saskatchewan. — Seeding was general last week in the south and southwestern parts of the province with 75 to 100 per cent completed while in the central districts 40 to 60 per cent is seeded. In the northern areas only 5 to 20 per cent of the seeding has been accomplished and in the extreme northwest planting has not started. Rains over the weekend and since, are delaying seeding operations. Wild

Agriculture Division  
Crops Section

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oats are a serious problem in most areas. Fertilizer is being used extensively. There are very few reports of grasshopper hatching to this date.

Alberta. — Excellent weather allowed seeding to become general throughout Alberta during the week. Moisture conditions remain good to excellent in all parts of the province except the southeast where general rains are required to alleviate dry conditions and prevent soil drifting. Pastures have improved in all regions of northern and central Alberta but remain in poor to fair condition in the south due to lack of moisture. Seeding is well under way in the southern and eastern regions with planting of cereal crops nearing completion around Medicine Hat. Reports indicate that some grasshoppers are hatching in the southern region.

#### GRASSHOPPER REPORT

The Agriculture Canada Research Station in Winnipeg reports that grasshoppers are just starting to hatch in the areas of infestation in the Red River Valley and in the central and southwestern parts of the province.

#### MANITOBA

At Altona, rains of one and one-half to two inches relieved the critical moisture situation. High winds during the past week, however, caused a great deal of soil blowing damaging cereal and sugar beet fields where the crop had germinated. About 50 per cent of the crops has been seeded but some will require replanting. In the Morden district a large percentage of the land has been sown but few crops are up. However, some grain, mostly wheat, is appearing and row crops are also starting to emerge. Forages are thickening and appear in good shape. Wild oats are mostly under control and are not a serious problem yet. Fruit trees are in blossom. Last weekend a total of 1.12 inches of rain fell.

Precipitation this past week amounted to 0.2 to 0.7 inch in the Melita district. Seeding is about a half completed with moisture conditions satisfactory. Pastures are growing rapidly but the hay crop outlook is only fair.

As of May 18, work on the land was general at Beausejour. Some 25 per cent of the land had been seeded. At that date pastures were failing and moisture was required. However, weed growth was fairly good and land preparation and seeding were under way. Farmers in the Selkirk area have completed about 35 per cent of their seeding. With the recent warm weather weeds have been growing and pastures showing favourable development. Conditions were dry but weekend rains helped the situation. The Stonewall district received 1.94 inches of rain on the evening of May 21. However, the soil is still quite dry and some farmers are restricting their tillage practices because of the moisture shortage. Wells are below average in water supply and there is some concern among cattlemen. Little weed control spraying is under way and only about 15 per cent of the land has been seeded. It is expected there will be an increase in the flax acreage from that of last year. All bush pastures appear poorer this year due to there having been little rain and no fertilizer applied; however, the last rain has seen fertilized pastures turning green. Most animals are out on pasture since hay supplies are nearly exhausted.

Approximately 30 per cent of the seeding had been completed at Portage la Prairie prior to the recent heavy rain which halted operations. Pastures are fair, hay prospects are good and germination conditions are excellent with the outlook for crops generally described as good.



Our reporter at Arborg in the Interlake area indicates that a light rain on the night of May 21 brought some moisture and weather conditions continued to be overcast with some limited precipitation yesterday. Good seeding and growing weather last week saw farmers complete about 60 per cent of the seeding with less than 5 per cent emerged so far. There has been a considerable increase in the use of wild oat chemicals this season. Rain would now benefit pastures and crops.

In the Neepawa district, from three-tenths to one inch of rain fell over the weekend improving topsoil moisture conditions. Farmers were making good progress with seeding last week having got about 15 per cent of the crop in the ground by the weekend. Wild oat growth is rapid and has been a problem in some fields that have been treated with chemicals. With the heat received last week grass growth is now satisfactory. In the Minnedosa district seeding is well started and the weekend rains will benefit pastures and haylands. Moisture conditions are generally fair to good with a heavy wild oat growth apparent; pre-emergence wild oat chemicals have not been as effective as normally expected. Pasture and hayland growth is generally slow.

At Shoal Lake progress with seeding is very variable with some farmers having completed their work and others just starting. In certain instances seeding was stopped last week to combat wild oats. Light rains during the weekend halted seeding but improved moisture conditions. Forage crops are starting to develop slightly better and an estimated 35 per cent of the seeding has been completed. Warmer weather and up to one inch of rain has improved the hay and pasture conditions in the Russell district and moisture supplies are now considered adequate. Seeding of wheat, coarse grains and rapeseed was general this past week with the early-seeded crop starting to come through the ground.

In the northwest part of the province at Dauphin more than one-half inch of rain since noon on Monday has considerably altered the crop picture. Farmers report profuse wild oats and pastures and haylands are much improved and the situation now appears encouraging. About 50 per cent of the crop acreage is now seeded with early-sown wheat stands two inches tall. At Swan River some 75 per cent of the wheat had been sown by May 19. There was a general rain over the weekend bringing 0.75 inch of rain with the result that grasses, weeds and trees are now developing quickly. Pastures are also improving rapidly. No major shifts in crop acreages are anticipated although weather conditions would affect seeding plans at this stage.

The unweighted average precipitation of the province since April 1 has been 6 per cent below normal in contrast to 16 per cent above normal a week ago, 31 per cent above normal two weeks ago and compared with 28 per cent below normal a year ago. Mean temperature for the week ending May 21 was 2.6 degrees F. above normal in contrast to 4.6 degrees below normal a week ago, 4.7 degrees below normal two weeks ago and compared with 11.5 degrees above normal for the week ending May 22, 1972.

#### SASKATCHEWAN

At Moosomin in the southeast part of the province seeding got under way last week and is now general with approximately 60 per cent of the coarse grains, 40 per cent of the wheat and some rape sown. With favourable weather conditions planting in the area should be completed in ten to fourteen days. Subsoil moisture conditions are very good with one-half inch of rain reported Tuesday. Pastures are in good condition. In the Fillmore area seeding has progressed rapidly with an estimated 40 to 50 per cent now completed. Early-seeded crops are badly infested with wild oats

and many farmers are spraying for control. Moisture conditions are very good on summerfallow. Farmers are using a record amount of commercial fertilizer in this district. More moisture and warm weather are required for pasture and hay fields. At Indian Head seeding was general by May 17 with about 20 per cent of the planting now completed. A general rain of 0.5 inch along with cold damp weather on May 20 to 22 has halted field work. Some farmers have delayed field operations to obtain a better kill of wild oats. Pastures and hay crops are rapidly improving and prospects are good for an above average yield.

In the south-central part of the province at Big Beaver seeding is practically completed. Fifty per cent of the stubble land was worked before seeding. Germination has been good and a good weed kill was accomplished. At Gravelbourg seeding is 75 per cent completed and warm weather is now required. Early-seeded fields are starting to emerge with a good growth of wild oats in some areas. Increased acreages of wheat are expected in this district. Moisture and pasture conditions are good with some rainfall reported on May 21. No cutworm or grasshopper damage has been reported to date.

In the southwest at Val Marie seeding is 98 per cent completed and 25 per cent of the summerfallow has been worked. This area received one inch of rain in the past three weeks and crop and moisture conditions are good. Pastures are fairly good but will require more moisture soon. Irrigation is now under way. Gophers are numerous this year and grasshoppers are also appearing. Water levels in dams and dugouts are very low due to lack of spring runoff and precipitation last winter. At Eastend seeding is 95 per cent completed and first summerfallowing operations are 60 per cent completed. The surface moisture conditions are good except south and west of the town where they are poor. About 10 to 15 per cent of the area seeded is on stubble. Grasshoppers may be a problem in the area. The calf crop is now 94 per cent dropped. In the Swift Current area seeding is over 95 per cent completed and many fields have emerged with excellent stands. No insect losses have been reported and the grasshopper hatch has not begun. Pastures have made excellent growth but more rain is required to maintain this growth.

In the east-central area at Melville seeding is about 20 per cent completed. Farmers have delayed planting due to wild oats and some are spraying with Avadex. Hay and pastures are reported good since recent rains. Rainfall in this area since May 1 has been 2.92 inches. At Endeavour steady rain this past weekend has halted all spring operations with about 40 per cent of the wheat and 20 per cent of the coarse grains sown. Some rapeseed has been sown but there will be a reduction in acreage from previous years. Hay and pasture land are good and moisture is sufficient at present.

At Drake in central Saskatchewan seeding progressed well last week but one inch of rain Sunday night and cloudy moist weather since has halted all operations. Wild oat germination is extensive due to the warm days last week. Seeding is about half completed with increased acreages of wheat and reduced acreages of rapeseed. In the Craik area seeding is general. Wild oats are a serious problem and some spraying is being done. The area received one quarter inch of rain this past week bringing rainfall since April 1 to three and one-quarter inches. Temperatures in the area have ranged from 40 to 70 degrees with strong winds. The recent rains have improved pastures and germination. In the Saskatoon area except for light showers, weather during the past week has been dry and seeding has proceeded at a steady pace. About 60 per cent of the crop is now in and a few early-seeded fields of rapeseed and wheat are emerging. There has been good growth on hay and pastures. Grasshopper eggs are starting to hatch on the light soils south of Saskatoon and Red Turnip beetle larvae are invading a few rapeseed fields in the Wakaw area.



In the west-central area at Rosetown wheat and coarse grains are about 75 per cent seeded while 10 per cent of the rapeseed, flax and mustard is sown. Pastures and haylands require rain. The weather the past week has been very warm with a good growth of weeds reported and spraying in progress. Very few grasshoppers are reported in this area to date. At Scott, seeding operations are nearing completion with early-seeded fields just emerging. Surface soil is drying very rapidly due to winds and a lack of precipitation. This area has received only 0.04 inch of rain since May 1. Forage and pastures are holding up well. Summerfallow operations have just started and weeds are coming very fast. Rain is urgently needed this month.

At Melfort in the northeast about 25 per cent of the seeding has been completed and early-seeded fields are starting to emerge. This area received three-quarter inch of rain over the weekend after a period of dry, windy weather that caused some soil drifting. Wild oats are growing rapidly and forage crops have improved.

The unweighted average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 61 per cent above normal compared with 81 per cent above normal a week ago, 93 per cent above normal two weeks ago and in contrast to 19 per cent below normal a year ago. Mean temperature for the week ending May 21, 1973 was 5.3 degrees F. above normal in contrast to 3.5 degrees below normal a week ago, 4.2 degrees below normal two weeks ago and compared with 7.7 degrees above normal for the week ending May 22, 1972.

#### ALBERTA

At Lethbridge in the southwest rain is needed. Seeding of cereals is nearing completion with some flax still to be sown. Sugar beet seeding is complete but stands are spotty. Flea beetles are causing some damage and the grasshopper hatch has just started. At Cardston, seeding of cereals is 60 per cent complete. Oilseed planting is approximately 80 per cent finished with good germination. Some early-seeded crops are above ground with no insect damage reported as yet. Some fields of winter wheat are being worked up due to winterkill and spring dust storms. Pastures and native grasses are dry and hay crops are in need of rain. Spotty showers occurred near Claresholm over the weekend with seeding 90 per cent completed. The lack of rain is affecting winter wheat and rye crops. Spring crops are beginning to show and wild oats are the number one problem. Pastures need rain and the hay crop will be short. Cattle wintered well and a good calf crop was reported.

In the south-central region near Brooks most crops are seeded with many up but rain is needed. Irrigation farmers are watering their fields in the southern areas of the district. High winds over the weekend caused some soil erosion and pastures are reported drying. At Vulcan 0.4 inch of rain was reported over the past weekend providing relief from the drought. This will enable some farmers to plant their flaxseed. Some of the earlier sown crops are above ground and it appears that germination is good. The recent rain will not help the pastures very much but hayland has progressed considerably in the past week. Seeding should be complete by the end of this week.

Near Olds in the southwest-central area moisture, pasture and cropland conditions are reported as good. Seeding is 10 per cent done while spring threshing is 70 per cent completed.

Seeding of all crops progressed rapidly near Sedgewick in the northeast-central region. Cool windy weather prevailed during the week and early-seeded wheat is about one inch high. With 0.1 inch of moisture over the weekend, weeds, including wild

oats are growing well. In the Vermilion district moisture is needed although conditions are not yet critical. Seeding is about three-quarters completed. Pastures are suffering from a lack of heat needed to get growth started.

In the central district near Stettler no precipitation was reported during the week and good progress was made in seeding operations. Pastures and forage crops are in good condition with little or no winterkill in the new stands of forage. Moisture conditions are ideal and another week should see seeding completed.

In the west-central area field work progressed well near Eckville. Oats were reported 85 per cent, barley 20 per cent and rapeseed 15 per cent seeded. Hot, dry weather is depleting moisture reserves and rain will soon be needed.

Near Colinton in the northeast to north-central region hot, dry weather has enabled the following percentages of crops to be seeded: wheat 45, barley 20, oats 10, flaxseed 90, and rapeseed 35. Two-thirds of one inch of rain was reported over the past weekend and all crops are growing at a rapid rate.

In the Peace River District at Beaverlodge the 1972 crop harvest is completed and seeding of the 1973 crop is proceeding well. Soil moisture is still good with some intermittent rain received.

The unweighted average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 11 per cent below normal, compared with 5 per cent below normal a week ago and in contrast to 12 per cent above normal two weeks ago and compared to 24 per cent below normal a year ago. Mean temperature for the week ending May 21, 1973 was 7.0 degrees F. above normal in contrast to 1.8 degrees below normal a week ago, 1.9 degrees below normal two weeks ago and compared with 2.0 degrees above normal for the week ending May 22, 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.	since	since	May 21	
		May 21, 1973	April 1	April 1	1973	Normal
			inches		degrees F.	
<u>MANITOBA</u>						
1	Boissevain	.01	3.71	2.32	58	53
	Pierson	.06	3.27	2.24	59	54
2	Baldur	nil	3.17	2.47	58	54
	Pilot Mound	trace	2.86	2.43	58	53
3	Altona	nil	.89	2.24	58	56
	Deerwood	nil	1.49	2.47	56	56
	Graysville	nil	1.49	2.18	56	54
	Morden	nil	1.18	2.60	59	55
	Morris	nil	1.02	2.05	58	55
	Portage la Prairie	trace	2.22	2.56	58	55
	Roland	nil	1.20(2)	2.31	54	56
5	Emerson	trace	.82	2.40	60	54
	Steinbach	trace	.87	2.31	57	54
	Winnipeg	trace	1.52	2.40	56	54
	Starbuck	nil	1.56	2.35	58	55
6	Pinawa	nil	1.53	1.51	53	52
	Great Falls	N.R.	1.38(2)	1.76	N.R.	53
	Sprague	nil	1.81	2.65	54	52
7	Virden	.03	2.70	1.73	60	54
8	Brandon	nil	2.79	2.21	58	54
	Cypress River	nil	2.96	2.09	58	54
9	Gladstone	nil	1.60	2.27	N.R.	53
10	Birtle	.02	1.95	1.96	57	52
	Russell	nil	1.31	1.51	57	52
11	Dauphin	trace	1.72	2.19	58	53
12	Arborg	trace	2.45	2.17	51	52
	Gimli	trace	1.96	2.18	53	52
13	Swan River	.08	2.40	1.83	58	53
	Pasquia	.29	2.74	N.R.	54	N.R.
	The Pas	.32	4.31	2.00	52	50
	Thompson	.04	1.58	N.R.	45	N.R.
MANITOBA AVERAGE		.03	2.06	2.19	56.2	53.6

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 21, 1973	since April 1	since April 1	8 a.m. May 21	
			inches		1973	Normal
						degrees F.
<u>SASKATCHEWAN — Continued</u>						
1B	Moosomin	.15	3.33	1.78	56	53
2A	Yellow Grass	.42	2.72	1.95	59	54
	Weyburn	.15	2.00	1.81	58	54
	Midale	.43	1.81	1.75	56	54
	Amulet	.47	3.07	1.95	58	54
2B	Moose Jaw	.18	3.41	1.88	61	55
	Regina	.76	3.44	1.73	58	54
	Francis	N.R.	1.45(2)	1.60	N.R.	52
	Indian Head	.39	4.29	1.68	57	53
3AS	Ormiston	N.R.	2.25(2)	1.96	N.R.	55
	Cardross	.17	1.93	1.96	59	54
	Rock Glen	.15	3.44	1.93	61	53
3AN	Gravelbourg	.12	2.44(2)	1.62	61	54
	Coderre	.28	3.64	1.93	55	53
	Chaplin	.12	3.74	1.60	59	55
3BS	Shaunavon	nil	1.92	1.71	61	53
	Aneroid	trace	2.48	1.88	61	54
	Instow	nil	1.52	1.68	62	53
3BN	Swift Current	nil	3.25	1.93	60	53
	Pennant	nil	2.03	1.84	63	54
	Hodgeville	nil	1.73(2)	1.96	N.R.	53
	Hughton	trace	2.58	1.60	59	54
4A	Maple Creek	N.R.	2.38(2)	1.83	N.R.	55
	Consul	nil	.73	1.47	59	53
4B	Leader	nil	2.08	1.63	61	55
5A	Cupar	1.12	5.28	1.76	56	53
	Balcarres	.40	2.46(2)	1.85	N.R.	54
	Lipton	.71	5.48	1.65	56	54
	Yorkton	.20	2.61	1.77	58	53
	Bangor	N.R.	2.25(2)	1.94	N.R.	53
5B	Wynyard	.52	3.85	2.00	56	52
	Foam Lake	.68	4.05	2.04	56	52
	Kuroki	.80	4.46	1.99	57	51
	Kamsack, Cote	.16	1.79	1.59	56	53
6A	Davidson	.28	2.52	1.80	58	53
	Strasbourg	.49	3.50	1.83	59	53
	Watrous	N.R.	3.51(2)	1.70	N.R.	52
	Liberty	.18	2.36	1.80	58	53
6B	Harris	nil	2.87	1.66	58	54
	Outlook	nil	2.52	1.29	58	55
	Saskatoon	.07	2.89	1.78	59	54

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 21, 1973	since April 1	since April 1	8 a.m. May 21	
			inches		1973	Normal
						degrees F.
<u>SASKATCHEWAN — Concluded</u>						
6B	Elbow	.15	2.05	1.70	61	53
	Tugaske	.22	3.51	1.84	59	53
	Dundurn	nil	2.11	1.55	58	54
7A	Kindersley	nil	2.20	1.24	60	54
	Rosetown	.03	3.20	1.62	59	54
7B	Macklin	nil	1.56	1.47	61	53
	Denzil	trace	2.33	1.60	59	54
	Scott	nil	1.98	1.80	53	53
	Biggar	trace	3.16	1.58	59	54
8A	Hudson Bay	.29	2.48	1.98	57	52
	Prairie River	.58	3.82	2.25	57	51
8B	Humboldt	.63	3.01	1.58	59	52
	Melfort	.72	2.51	1.75	55	53
9A	North Battleford	.05	2.38	1.67	60	53
	Victoire	.01	3.69	1.86	62	51
	Prince Albert	.19	2.65	2.13	59	52
9B	Meadow Lake	trace	2.98	1.72	60	50
	Waseca	N.R.	2.01 (2)	1.86	N.R.	52
SASKATCHEWAN AVERAGE		.22	2.85	1.77	58.5	53.2

ALBERTA

1	Empress	nil	2.41	1.54	61	55
	Foremost	.09	1.69	1.86	63	54
	Manyberries	N.R.	1.06 (2)	1.84	N.R.	54
	Medicine Hat	nil	1.30	1.97	64	56
2	Brooks	nil	1.51	1.83	62	54
	Gleichen	.09	1.61	2.26	57	53
	Vauxhall	.32	1.27	1.66	63	53
	Raymond	.48	1.67	2.88	61	55
	Lethbridge	.60	1.65	2.66	62	53
	Trochu	.19	1.23	2.41	N.R.	53
	Queenstown	.18	1.87	2.41	61	53
3	Calgary	.23	1.37	2.67	60	51
	Cardston	.08	1.86	2.86	60	52
	Pincher Creek	nil	2.87	3.45	60	50
	Fort MacLeod	.05	.93	2.74	62	54
	High River	.22	1.42	3.14	59	50
	Olds	.12	2.17	2.44	58	51



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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.	May 21
		8 a.m. May 21, 1973	since April 1	since April 1	1973	Normal
			inches			degrees F.
<b>ALBERTA — Concluded</b>						
4	Alliance	.07	2.01	1.62	59	53
	Coronation	trace	1.90	1.66	59	52
	Hughenden	.03	2.06	1.76	60	53
	Lloydminster	trace	2.02	1.58	61	53
	Stettler	.02	1.84	1.74	59	53
	Vegreville	trace	2.16	1.54	61	52
	Ranfurly	.02	2.16	1.93	59	53
	Vermilion	trace	1.82	1.57	60	52
5	Edmonton	.13	2.19	2.23	58	53
	Lacombe	.03	2.57	2.63	57	52
	Red Deer	.01	2.00	2.99	58	52
	Rocky Mountain House	.22	3.31	2.82	60	50
	Wetaskiwin	.23	2.81	2.49	60	52
6	Campsie	N.R.	1.87(2)	2.10	N.R.	51
	Edson	.47	2.26	2.31	54	50
	Elk Point	trace	1.99	1.71	60	51
	Whitecourt	.88	2.91	2.37	56	50
7	Beaverlodge	nil	.34	1.82	56	51
	Chipewyan	.73	1.23	1.17	54	50
	Ft. Vermilion	N.R.	.67(2)	1.38	N.R.	51
	Grande Prairie	.01	.92	1.65	58	52
	High Prairie	.34	1.74	1.89	57	52
	Peace River	nil	.86	1.30	57	51
	Slave Lake	1.19	3.03	1.82	55	52
<b>ALBERTA AVERAGE</b>		<b>.19</b>	<b>1.87</b>	<b>2.11</b>	<b>59.2</b>	<b>52.2</b>

(1) Source: Meteorological Service of Canada.

(2) Incomplete; not included in average.

N.R. — No report.