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Field Crop Reporting Series - No. 5

#### TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT - PRAIRIE PROVINCES

This is the second of the 1974 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. — Rain has continued to delay all work on the land throughout most of the Prairies. As a consequence, very little seeding has been done so far. In some places flooding and water-covered fields are reported; it is expected that these conditions may force some changes in cropping patterns. Moisture supplies are, of course, generally high and pastures and hay crops look promising but development is late.

Manitoba. — Heavy rainfall has further delayed field operations throughout the province. The low-lying areas are still flooded in all districts, but field work may start next week on the better drained soils. Weed and pasture growth is very slow and cattle are still on supplementary feed. A change in seeding intentions is being considered by some farmers shifting wheat acreage to flaxseed, buckwheat, and rape-seed.

Saskatchewan. — Cold wet weather has delayed land work and seeding in all but the south-west of the province. Warm dry weather is urgently needed to promote seeding of cereals and growth in pastures and hayland. Many acres are flooded throughout the province and may not be seeded to wheat this year.

Agriculture Division Crops Section Alberta. — Spring operations in Alberta have been brought to a standstill by widespread rain, adding additional moisture. In the south seeding is approximately two weeks behind last year, but good to excellent moisture conditions are making it possible for farmers to sow some land not originally intended to be planted this year. Excessive moisture in central Alberta is presently hindering field operations and, although some work was done prior to the rain, it is not expected that seeding will be general until after May 20. North of Edmonton there has been practically no spring work done so far, and only isolated instances of combining last year's crop are reported. In the northern Peace River District, however, some farmers had begun spring work before last weekend when fields were again soaked by rain halting activity.

#### MANITOBA

Farmers have not been able to get on the land at Altona. The rain however has advanced the forage crops considerably. At Morden the soils remain cold. Moisture is generally in excess and seeding has started in the very few locations below the escarpment. Weed growth is beginning with reports of some wild oats sprouting. Very little pre-emergent weed control has begun below the escarpment and none above. Rains have enhanced spring pastures but warmer weather is required for growth.

At Pilot Mound a general rain of approximately two inches will delay seeding operations. No field work has been attempted and freezing temperatures are still quite frequent. Most fields of fall rye have survived the winter in good condition.

Excess moisture conditions at Beausejour will delay seeding considerably. Pasture growth is limited and very little spring work has been accomplished due to the heavy spring run-off and cold, damp weather.

Heavy rains over the weekend at Stonewall further delayed seeding. Field work is expected to be general in two weeks if favourable weather conditions prevail. Grass and weed growth has been slow and hay and straw supplies are in very short supply. Probably some wheat acreage will be transferred into oats and flaxseed if the season gets any later.

At Brandon the rain has delayed seeding but improved soil moisture reserves. Due to the cool weather, forages and fall rye are developing slowly. The annual winter weeds and other weeds will be controlled because of emergence prior to seeding.

Field work will not be general for another two weeks at Teulon as two inches of rain on May 10 and 11 caused further delay. Pasture growth and weed development have been slow to date.

In the west-central area at Neepawa rain and drizzle have left most of the district with an excessive amount of moisture. No field work has been done with little or no weed or pasture growth. Feed supplies are rapidly diminishing. At least one week of good dry weather is required for field work to commence at Minnedosa. Weed and pasture growth has been slow and cattle are generally in poor condition while calf losses have been higher than normal due to the low quality feed.

The soil moisture conditions at Shoal Lake are very good to excessive. No field work has been done but with good drying weather field work could start in about one week. Seeding intentions may change due to the late season. Feed supplies are extremely low and pasture growth has been very slow. At Russell cool, wet weather has further delayed seeding operations and there will be less wheat sown if seeding does not begin soon. Livestock feed supplies are still a problem and pastures are not yet ready for spring grazing.

There has been no land work done to date in the Dauphin area. A week of warm, dry weather is required for seeding operations to commence. Pastures are slow and feed is in very short supply. Heavy spring run-off caused some serious soil erosion. Livestock wintered poorly.

The unweighted average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 99 per cent above normal compared with 61 per cent above normal a week ago, 99 per cent above normal two weeks ago and 31 per cent above normal a year ago. Mean temperature for the week ending May 13, 1974 was 7.0 degrees F. below normal compared with 6.6 degrees below normal a week ago, in contrast to 0.7 degree above normal two weeks ago and compared with 4.7 degrees below normal for the week ending May 14, 1973.

# SASKATCHEWAN

Our correspondent at Indian Head in the southeast reports field work has not started and most of the land will require several days of good drying weather before it can be cultivated. Hay, pasture and weed growth has been limited. There appears to be little winter injury in fall rye.

In the south-central area at Big Beaver seeding has been delayed due to recent rainfall, however, pre-field work was completed with a good weed kill. Seeding is approximately 10 per cent completed in the area. Pasture lands are improving and cattle have wintered well.

At Val Marie in the southwest moisture conditions are very good in cultivated land. About 70 per cent of the seeding is now completed. Pastures and hayland are in good shape with 0.9 inch of rain since May 1. At Eastend seeding is 75 per cent completed. Pastures are much improved with rainfall of one to two inches in the area. Fall rye has wintered well. Wild oats are a problem in some isolated areas but there has been no appearance of grasshoppers. There has been some seeding on stubble acreage because of recent rainfall. In the Swift Current area moisture conditions are excellent in all but the extreme southwest where rain will soon be required. Seeding is well under way with some fields already up. Elsewhere seeding is delayed by the wet, cool weather. Wild oats are prevalent and control measures are being taken. Farmers in this area intend to seed more stubble land than usual. Fertilizer supplies have been exhausted. At Leader continued rains have added to the moisture supply but so far no field work has been accomplished.

In the east-central area at Melville no seeding has been done to date due to the rain this past week. Cool weather still prevails and pastures are turning green slowly. Seeding should start the first of next week if there is no further rain. Rainfall since May 1 has been 1.57 inches compared to 0.63 inch a year ago.

At Drake in the central part of the province cool, cloudy weather continues to delay drying of fields. No cultivation or seeding has been carried out. Pastures are beginning to green and cattle must go out as feed supplies are diminishing. At Craik showery weather has continued for the past six days and no work on the land will be done until later this week. At Saskatoon tillage and seeding have just started but are not expected to be general until next week. Fields have dried slowly due to showers and cool temperatures. Sloughs and low spots in fields are full of water. Weeds are just starting to show but pastures are growing well.

At Rosetown in the west-central area cool, wet weather has delayed seeding by about one week. This area received 1.69 inches of rain this past week. If the weather remains clear, seeding should be general about May 20 but as yet no field work has been done although weeds are showing good growth. Moisture conditions are excellent and pastures and forages have made a good start. At Scott six days of rain this past week amounting to 0.64 inch caused further delay in field operations. With a trend towards warmer weather seeding should be well under way by the weekend. Forage crops and pastures are in good condition.

In the northeast at Melfort 1.59 inches of rain fell during the past week causing further flooding of low-lying land. Field work has not started and will be delayed for several more days. Weeds and forages have made some growth but hot, drying weather is urgently required in this district.

The unweighted average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 38 per cent above normal in contrast to 6 per cent below normal a week ago, 10 per cent below normal two weeks ago and compared with 93 per cent above normal a year ago. The mean temperature for the week ending May 13, 1974, was 4.5 degrees F. below normal compared with 4.9 degrees below normal a week ago, in contrast to 2.2 degrees above normal two weeks ago and compared with 4.2 degrees below normal for the week ending May 14, 1973.

#### **ALBERTA**

In the Medicine Hat district seeding and other field work are general but halted periodically due to showers. Surface moisture conditions are good but sub-surface moisture is poor; however, showers and rains are improving conditions. At Lethbridge showers are delaying seeding operations which had become general. Some 70 per cent of sugar beet crop has been sown but germination is slow. About 50 per cent of the rape-seed is in the ground and summerfallows are now being worked. Winter wheat growers are spraying this crop for weed control. Moisture conditions are good at Cardston with some field work having been done but very little seeding accomplished so far. Pastures and hayland are showing slow growth but livestock is in good condition with calving completed. In the Claresholm district the weather has been cool and showery. An estimated 20 per cent of all grains have been sown. Moisture conditions are good but grass and hay crops would benefit by higher temperatures. Wild oats are starting to grow.

Reports from Vulcan indicate that moisture conditions are good with one inch of rain since May 1. Seeding is just starting and pastures are good. At Olds 2.5 inches of rain have fallen since May 1 and only about 5 per cent of the spring work has been completed in the district. Grasses and legumes are growing rapidly but warm, drier weather is needed.

Cool, cloudy, showery weather is still delaying field work near Sedgewick. Many low-lying fields are under water and will not be seeded this year. It is also expected that wheat acreages will be down considerably as a consequence of weather conditions. Pastures however, are in good shape. Farmers in the Vermilion district have not yet started seeding and will not be able to do so for about one week. Due to the late spring less wheat but more rapeseed will likely be sown. The Stettler district received some 2.4 inches of rain last week and the weather continues unsettled. So far there has been no field work or seeding activity and it is not expected that anything can be accomplished this week. It is estimated that 10 to 20 per cent of the cultivated land will not be seeded because of flooding. Hay and pasture however, will have a good start.

Continued heavy rains in the Red Deer district have brought all operations to a complete standstill and one week of dry weather is required to permit activity to recommence. Spring is very late and the situation is described as serious, although conditions are favourable for hay and pasture crops. At Lacombe there has been some rain every day from May 6 to 12, with very little field work having been possible as a result. However, work on the land may resume by May 17, given favourable weather conditions. Hay and pastures are growing well. At Eckville farmers started field work on May 6 but were halted three days later by cold, wet weather with two inches of rain. Field work will resume as soon as conditions permit but all field operations are now ten days behind schedule. Hay and fodder supplies are depleted and grass growth is slow. Wild oat chemicals are in short supply.

At Beaverlodge in the southwest part of the Peace River District moisture conditions are excessive and no seeding has been done to date there.

The unweighted average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 66 per cent above normal compared with 34 per cent above normal a week ago, 53 per cent above normal two weeks ago and in contrast to 5 per cent below normal one year ago. The mean temperature for the week ending May 13 was 1.6 degrees F. below normal compared with 3.0 degrees below normal a week ago, in contrast to 4.3 degrees above normal two weeks ago and compared with 1.8 degrees below normal for the week ending May 14, 1973.



Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces(1)
Données sur les précipitations et la température Provinces des Prairies(1)

		Precipitation — Précipitations			Mean temperature week ending 8 a.m.	
Province		Week ending	Week ending		May 16	
and		8 a.m.	Total	Normal		_
crop district		May 16	since	since April 1	Température moyenne semaine se terminant	
-	Station	1974	April 1			
Province et	o ede ton	_	_	_		
district		Semaine se	Total	Normales		a.m.
agricole		terminant	depuis	depuis	1e 1	.6 mai
4611010		8 a.m.	le ler	le ler		Normal
		le 16 mai	avril	avril	1974	_
		1974				Normale
			inches — pouces		degrees	- degrés l
IANITOBA						
1	Boissevain	.93	3.59	1.69	46	50
1	Pierson	.90	2.19	1.68	46	52
2	Baldur	1.40	4.05	1.95	44	51
-	Pilot Mound	1.73	3.38	1.95	43	50
3	Altona	1.68	4.74	1.67	45	53
	Deerwood	1.91	4.36(2)	1.95	44	53
	Graysville	1.62	4.99	1.69	45	52
	Morden	1.80	4.87(2)	2.04	45	53
	Morris	1.31	4.27	1.56	44	53
	Portage la Prairie	1.56	3.85	1.86	45	52
	Roland	1.46	2.08	1.82	43	53
-4	Stonewall	1.57	3.86	1.83	44	51
5	Emerson	1.26	4.45	1.92	47	52
	Steinbach	1.03	3.58	1.87	44	51
	Winnipeg	1.52	3.89	1.89	45	52
	Starbuck	1.55	4.25	1.84	43	52
6	Pinawa	1.05	4.33	1.21	44	48
	Great Falls	9.0	.36(2)	1.39	p 4	50
	Sprague	1.55	5.13	2.12	43	50
7	Virden	1.62	2.86	1.25	43	52
8	Brandon	1.56	3.32	1.71	43	52
	Cypress River	2.13	3.95	1.64	43	51
9	Gladstone	1.19	3.79	1.75		50
10	Birtle	1.29	2.06	1.51	44	50
	Rossburn	1.90	3.09	1.40	41	50
	Russell	1.11	2.01	1.12	40	49
11	Dauphin	1.30	3.10	1.66	42	51
12	Arborg	. 80	3.37	1.68	43	49
	Gimli	.97	3.66	1.68	40	49
13	Swan River	.86	2.16	1.43	44	51
	The Pas	.08	.99	1.58	43	47
14	Grass River	1.12	3.23	1.68	42	50
	Thompson	trace	.54	1.68	41	39
MANUTOOD A AUCT	RAGE - MOYENNE	1.30	3.36	1.69	43.5	50.5

For footnotes, see page IV. - Voir renvoi(s) à la page IV.

Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces(1)

Données sur les précipitations et la température Provinces des Prairies(1)

		Precipit	ation — Précip	itations	week	mperature ending a.m.
Province and crop district	Station	Week ending 8 a.m. May 16 1974	Total since April l	Normal since April 1	May 16 — Température moyenne semaine	
Province et district agricole		Semaine se terminant	Total depuis	Normales depuis	8	rminant a.m. 6 mai
1)		8 a.m. 1e 16 mai 1974	le ler avril	le l <sup>er</sup> avril	1974	Normal Normale
			inches — pouc	es	degrees	– degrés F
SASKATCHEWAN						
1A	Carlyle	.80	2.32	1.37	44	50
	Estevan	.81	1.68	1.55	49	53
	Oxbow	.58	1.53	1.28	44	50
	Willmar	.46	1.48	1.18		50
1B	Broadview	1.29	2.30	1.27	44	49
	Moosomin	1.36	2.80	1.33	41	50
2A	Yellow Grass	. 37	1.58	1.33	41	51
	Weyburn	. 94	1.88	1.40	47	51
	Midale	. 84	1.79	1.28	49	52
110	Amulet	. 58	2.12	• 1	48	51
2B	Moose Jaw	1.05	3.52	1.44	48	52
	Regina	1.16	1.84	1.28	47	52
	Francis		1.04(2)	1.23		50
0.0	Indian Head	1.07	2.00	1.30	45	51
3AS	Ormiston	1.08	1.93	1.52	46	52
	Cardross	. 90	1.81	1.52	47	52
2 4 57	Rock Glen	.46	1.45	1.52	48	50
3AN	Gravelbourg Coderre	. 90	1.44(2)	1.20	49	52
		**	.88(2)	1.57	4.0	51
3BS	Chaplin Shaunayon	.72	1.54	1.28	49	53
202	Aneroid	1.30	1.61	1.35	50	51
	Instow	.41	1.17	1.52	50 50	52 51
3BN	Swift Current	1.07	2.32	1.55	48	51
DDIA	Pennant	1.14	2.41(2)	1.48	49	52
	Hodgeville			1.55		50
	Hughton	b 6	• •	1.27		52
4A	Maple Creek	.87	3.08	1.46	49	53
	Consul	1.55	2.66	1.23	48	50
4B	Abbey		(2)	1.38		52
	Leader	1.43	3.29	1.39	49	53
5A	Cupar	. 97	1.93	1.35	46	51
	Balcarres	.72	.92(2)	1.45		51
	Lipton	1.38	1.75	1.29	44	51
	Yorkton	. 74	2.08	1.40	42	50
	Bangor	0 a	.86(2)	1.51	9 8	50
5B	Wynyard	1.12	2.14	1.56	44	49
	Foam Lake	.81	1.73	1.56	43	50
	Kuroki	. 81	2.23	1.57	42	48
	Kamsack, Cote	.47	1.33	1.27	43	50
6A	Davidson	.41	1.72(2)	1.39	43	51
	Strasbourg	. 39	1.64	1.36	46	50
	Watrous	.55	2.29	1.34	46	50
	Liberty	. 55	1.10	1.39	48	51

For footnotes see page IV. - Voir renvoi(s) à la page IV.

# Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces(1) Données sur les précipitations et la température Provinces des Prairies(1)

-116-		Precipit	Mean temperature week ending 8 a.m.			
Province		Week ending			Ma	y 16
and		8 a.m.	Total	Normal		_
crop district		May 16	since	since		rature
-	Station	1974	April 1	April 1	moyenne	semaine
Province et		_	_	_	se te	rminant
district		Semaine se	Total	Normales	8	a.m.
agricole		terminant	depuis	depuis	le 1	6 mai
		8 a.m.	le ler	le ler		Normal
		le 16 mai	avril	avril	1974	_
		1974				Normale
			inches — pouce	8	degrees	- degrés
SASKATCHEWAN — Co	oncluded - fin					
6B	Harris	1.28	1.41(2)	1.33	48	51
5 25	Outlook	.70	1.32	.98	47	53
	Saskatoon	1.11	1.71	1.43	46	52
	Elbow	. 28	.57	1.25	47	51
	Tugaske	.58	1.78	1.37	47	51
	Dundurn	.69	1.72	1.24	47	52
7A	Alsask	1.80	2.51(2)	1.40	47	53
/A	Kindersley	3.05	3.63	1,04	47	51
	Rosetown	1.83	2.62	1.33	48	51
770	Macklin	. 44	1.52	1.17	47	51
7B		.46	1.07	1.27	46	51
	Denzil	.64	1.19	1.39	51	50
	Scott		1.19	1.19	45	52
45.4	Biggar	.72			44	48
8A	Hudson Bay	.64	1.41	1.62 1.83	43	48
	Prairie River	.40	.71 1.67		45	
	Nipawin	.73		1.29	44	50
88	Humboldt	. 62	.87(2)		45	50
	Melfort	1.59	2.31	1.41		
9A	North Battleford	.82	1.95	1.33	47	51
	Victoire	.49	.73(2)	1.45	50	48
	Prince Albert	-92	2.06	1.70	45	50
9B	Meadow Lake	.43	1.56	1.29	46	48
	Waseca	.58	.63(2)	1.49	44	50
SASKATCHEWAN A	VERAGE - MOYENNE	.89	1.90	1.38	46.3	50.8
ALBERTA			0.71	1 00	00	E 2
1	Empress	1.44	2.74	1.23	99	53
	Foremost	.32	3.05	1.45	51	53
	Hanna	1.42	3.46	4 10	46	
	Manyberries	1.86	3.36	1.49	48	52
	Medicine Hat	.46	2.31	1.56	52	54
2	Brooks	. 31	1.87	1.41	51	52
	Gleichen	. 34	2.65	1.82	47	51
	Vauxhall	. 55	3.66	1.21	50	52
	Raymond	. 22	6.40	2.45	49	53
,	Lethbridge	.16	3.89	2.09	50	51
	Trochu	.95	1.85(2)	2.01		51
	Queenstown	. 29	4.18	1.70	49	51
3	Calgary	.40	2.50	2.15	45	49
	Cardston		1.84(2)	2.26		50
	Pincher Creek	.02	2.84	1.05	47	48

For footnotes see page IV. - Voir renvoi(s) à la page IV.



## Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces(1)

## Données sur les précipitations et la température Provinces des Prairies(1)

		Precipitation - Précipitations				emperature ending a.m.
December		Week ending			- man a	y 16
Province		-	Total	No rema 1	r. ac	19 10
and		8 a.m.	since	Normal since	Température	
crop district	2	May 16				
-	Station	1974	April 1	April 1		ne semaine terminant
Province et		-	T-t-1	Name les		
district		Semaine se terminant	Total depuis	Normales depuis le ler	8 a.m. le 16 mai Normal	
agricole						
		8 a.m.	le 1er		1974	NOTHAL
		le 16 mai	avril	avril	1974	
		1974			1	Normal
			inches — pouces		degrees -	- degres
LBERTA - Conclu	uded - fin					
3	Fort Macleod	.10	4.60	2.10	50	52
	High River	.40	4.00	2.65	44	48
	Olds	1.38	4.43	1.85	44	49
4	Alliance	1.14	2.67	1.34	46	50
	Coronation	1.01	2.79	1.40	46	50
	Hughenden	.64	2.27	1.43	48	51
	Lloydminster	1.14	2.04	1.28	46	50
	Sedgewick	1.22	2.28		47	
	Stettler	1.71	2.46	1.35	45	50
	Vegreville	.88	1.64	1.15	48	50
	Ranfurly	1.17	1.97	1.52	47	51
	Vermilion	. 99	1.85	1.29	47	50
5	Edmonton	1,06	1.80	1.75	47	51
	Lacombe	1.29	1.75	2.09	46	50
	Red Deer	1.90	3.48	2.26	46	50
	Rocky Mountain House	1.16	2.23	2.28	45	48
	Wetaskiwin	2.20	2.97	2.04	47	50
6	Campsie	1.62	1.62(2)	1.62	46	49
0	Yellowknife	. 33	.56	. 66	44	39
	Edson	1.14	2.59	1.76	43	47
	Elk Point	1.04	2.87	1.35	45	48
	Whitecourt	1.57	3.48	1.90	46	48
7	Beaverlodge	1.28	1.82	1.39	45	49
	Chipewyan	. 59	1.57	.93	48	48
	Ft. Vermilion		ni1(2)	1.02		48
	Grande Prairie	1.14	1.81	1.25	47	49
	High Prairie	1.08	1.82	1.48	46	49
	Peace River	.54	1.32	.99	47	49
	Rycroft	.41	1.25	1.28	48	49
	Slave Lake	.50	2.01	1.40	45	48
	Cad A C Traine		2.02	21.40		
		. 89	2.66	1.60	48.2	49.8

<sup>(1)</sup> Source: Atmospheric Environment Service. - Service de l'environnement atmosphérique.

<sup>(2)</sup> Incomplete; not included in average. — Incomplet, non compris dans la moyenne.

.. Figures not available. — Données indisponibles.