

22-002
no. 11
1974
May 30
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Statistics Canada Statistique Canada

For release
May 30, 1974, 3 p.m.

Price: \$5.60 for series of
20 Crop Reports

Field Crop Reporting Series — No. 6

TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT — PRAIRIE PROVINCES

This is the third 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. — Farmers are seeding in southwestern Manitoba and in much of Alberta. Elsewhere, the land is still too wet. Recent rains halted operations in those districts where some seeding had taken place earlier, particularly in southwestern Saskatchewan. However it is expected that, given favourable weather, activity will become general within about one week's time. Indications are that the late season is forcing changes in farmers' cropping plans.

Manitoba. — Field work and seeding operations are under way in the southwestern region of the province. In the central region including the Red River Valley seeding is expected to start on the better drained soils before the weekend. Eastern Interlake and northwestern regions will not start for at least another week. Weed and pasture growth is improving with the sunny weather but the cattle are still on supplementary feed in the later areas.

Saskatchewan. — Seeding was further delayed by cool weather and over two inches of rain this past week. Less than 15 per cent of the crop has been seeded. With fair weather seeding is expected to resume within a few days. Despite the lateness of the season, farmers may continue to plant some wheat early into June but will alter seeding plans to include more coarse grains and oilseeds.

Agriculture Division
Crops Section

5-3102-508

Alberta. — Seeding of the 1974 crop is slowly becoming widespread across the province. Progress is most advanced in the southern areas where approximately 75 per cent of the wheat, 50 per cent of the coarse grains and 30 per cent of the oilseeds have been planted. Elsewhere seeding is just getting under way and progressing satisfactorily under reasonably good conditions. In the central and northern regions many producers have altered their original seeding intentions due to the late spring and most reports indicate a cut-back in wheat acreage in favour of barley and rape-seed. Spring threshing is progressing rapidly in those areas where last year's crops remain in the field. However, recovery of the crop is less than originally expected due to mice and snow damage during the winter and the wet conditions this spring. For many farmers combining last year's crop is delaying seeding, which is already two weeks behind normal.

MANITOBA

Heavy rains over the long weekend at Altona curtailed the small amount of seeding of potatoes and wheat that has started on the lighter soils. Some localized flooding occurred particularly along the border. At Morden soil temperatures are below normal with excessive soil moisture due to the heavy rains rather than the spring run-off. Early-seeded crops such as wheat have germinated but this refers to only a small isolated acreage. Weed growth has started and wild oats are sprouting. General seeding will be delayed until the first week of June. Pastures are adequate and growth is especially good where proper fertilization practices are carried out.

Very limited field work has been done at Pilot Mound. General rain and showers occurred every day except Friday last week. Most sloughs are overfilled and are flooding the adjoining cropland. Pasture growth is improving and weed growth is beginning in most fields.

Rains for the past ten days have delayed all land cultivation at Beausejour. Pasture growth has been very slow. Farmers are considering alternatives to the normal seeding programs. At Selkirk seeding has been very minimal due to the wet soil conditions. The low-lying areas are still badly flooded and field work will not start for some time. Weed and pasture growth is still limited but conditions have improved after the sunny weekend. Most of the cattle are still on supplementary feed.

At Stonewall seeding operations have been delayed further by the cold, wet weather. If a week of dry sunny weather prevails field work could start on the higher ground by the end of May. Pasture and hay growth is slow but wild oats are beginning to sprout. Most of the cattle are out on pasture because of the hay shortage.

Field work is just under way at Brandon after the recent delays due to rain. Sunshine and drying weather are still badly needed in the area. Pastures are progressing slowly and are being damaged by premature grazing. Weeds are emerging and their control will depend on the cultural and chemical methods that are carried out. No changes in the planting intentions are evident yet.

Fairly good drying conditions since Wednesday prevailed at Arborg even though it will be another week before land work is general. There will be some spot field work done this week if the area does not receive any further rain. Grass growth has been fairly good and cattle are now being moved to pasture.

Warm, sunny weather has induced pasture and weed growth at Neepawa. It is still too wet for field work except on lighter, sandier soils. The Brookdale-Mentmore area received a heavy hail and rain storm Monday morning delaying work further. Forest Tent Caterpillars have infested a fair number of trees in the town of Neepawa. At Minnedosa no seeding has been done as yet but may commence by the end of the week. Weeds have emerged and indications are that the growth will be prolific. Pasture growth although slow has been improving. It is expected that farmers will be switching wheat acreage into barley and rapeseed in this district.

In the west-central region at Shoal Lake seeding operations started Sunday on the lighter rolling land. A heavy downpour early Monday morning further delayed field work in most of the area except for the southern portion. Feed supplies are low and livestock are generally in a rundown condition. However, pastures are starting to improve.

At Dauphin there has been no land work done to date. Two weeks of warm, dry weather are required to dry out the land. Field and pasture growth has been slow and consequently farmers are still feeding cattle. Many acres of native pasture have been flooded and may not be used this year. Some seeding has been completed about ten days ago on the well drained lighter soils at Swan River. Rains further delayed field operations but have resumed now on the lighter areas. Seeding should become general in a few days with the return of warm, sunny weather. Pasture growth and tree development have been slow to date.

The unweighted average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 145 per cent above normal compared with 148 per cent above normal a week ago, 99 per cent above normal two weeks ago and 15 per cent above normal a year ago. Mean temperature for the week ending May 27, 1974 was 6.4 degrees F. below normal compared with 8.4 degrees below normal a week ago, 7.0 degrees below normal two weeks ago and 0.9 degree below normal for the week ending May 28, 1973.

SASKATCHEWAN

In the Indian Head district field work has not started as the weather continues to be unsettled with light showers. Several days of good drying weather are required before field work can be started. Wild oats and other annual weeds are beginning to appear. Many farmers are considering changing their cropping plans from less wheat to more coarse grains and oilseeds.

In the south-central area at Gravelbourg seeding has been delayed as a result of heavy rain, however farmers are now back in operation. Seeding of wheat is 65 per cent completed with durum 25 per cent, barley 10 per cent and other crops 5 per cent completed. Cold weather has caused a heavy infestation of wild oats and buckwheat. Pasture conditions are good although warm weather is required.

At Val Marie in the southwest farmers are now back at work and seeding is 90 per cent completed. Rainfall since April 1 amounted to 4.4 inches. Fall rye, hayland and pastures are looking extremely well after this rain with very few grasshoppers reported. At Eastend seeding is 80 per cent completed. Fall rye and tame hay growth is excellent with some evidence of grasshopper hatching. No change in seeding intentions is expected due to the recent rainfall.

In the southwest at Leader seeding is general with about 50 per cent completed. Only minor changes are expected in seeding intentions due to the lateness of the season. Wild oat growth is heavy causing some seeding problems.

In the central region at Drake showers and cool weather continue to delay seeding operations with several drying days required before field work begins. Considerable flooded acreage will not be seeded. Seed supplies of earlier maturing grains will be limited. At Craik land work started on Saturday. Pastures are reported in good condition and wild oats are bad. Farmers are concerned about getting the seeding done.

At Rosetown in the west-central area seeding is about 15 per cent completed. Since April 20 rainfall has totalled 4.86 inches. Fall rye, pastures and hayland require warm weather. A reduced acreage of late-maturing crops is expected especially durum wheat. At Scott nearly one inch of rainfall since the last report has seriously hampered seeding operations. Less than 50 per cent of seeding has been completed to date and alternate earlier maturing crops will have to be considered due to the lateness of the season. Cold weather has delayed emergence of pastures. Forage crops and livestock are in good condition.

In the Melfort district 4.5 inches of rain since May 1 have impeded field work. Virtually no seeding has been completed and most fields will require at least ten days of good drying weather. Many farmers are considering and some have started to seed rapeseed by air. The problem is volunteer growth and farmers are spraying by air to kill broadleaf weeds. A greater acreage than planned of early maturing rapeseed and barley will no doubt be seeded.

The unweighted average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 96 per cent above normal, compared with 52 per cent above normal a week ago, 38 per cent above normal two weeks ago and 54 per cent above normal a year ago. Mean temperature for the week ending May 27, 1974 was 8.0 degrees F. below normal, compared with 9.8 degrees below normal a week ago, 4.5 degrees below normal two weeks ago and 1.5 degrees below normal for the week ending May 28, 1973.

ALBERTA

At Medicine Hat moisture conditions range from good to excellent due to the recent general rain. About 80 per cent of cereal crops, 30 per cent of oilseeds and 75 per cent of specialty crops are seeded. The range and grasslands are in the best condition at this date than they have been for some time.

In the southwest at Lethbridge growth of winter wheat, fall rye and pastures is good. Seeding has been slowed by intermittent showers. Planting of sugar beets is nearly completed, while cereals are about 50 per cent seeded and rapeseed about 80 per cent. Warmer weather is required. At Cardston the land is now in condition to work and seeding is under way. There has been good cultivation control for weeds and wild oats during seeding operations and spraying of fall wheat is in progress. Moisture conditions are good and pastures are fair. Approximately two weeks of good weather is needed to complete seeding which is already ten days later than normal. In Claresholm farmers are busy between showers trying to get the crop in. The weather is very cool and growth has been slow. Warm weather is needed to get a good kill of wild oats. There has been some winterkill in winter wheat and fall rye and some fields are being ploughed under.

At Brooks in the south-central region seeding has become general during the past few days and most dry land crops should be planted by June 1 and irrigated crops by June 5. Pastures and hay are now coming well but all crops require warm, dry weather. In the Vulcan district seeding of wheat, barley and flax is about 75 per cent completed while rapeseed is approximately 50 per cent seeded. Moisture

conditions are good with 2.8 inches of rain recorded since May 1. Warm, sunny weather is required.

At Olds seeding is only 10 per cent completed. There has been 4.5 inches of rain in this area since May 1. Growing conditions have been good for grasses and legumes but warm, dry weather is needed.

In the northeast central area at Sedgewick seeding has been hampered by unseasonal weather. However, most of the wheat in the immediate area is planted. Pastures are in excellent condition. At Vermilion seeding is approximately 50 per cent completed but much land is too wet to work. Rapeseed acreage will be increased substantially over last year. Spring threshing is still being done with approximately 50 per cent of it now completed. Much of the grain not threshed will be lost in the wet, low spots.

At Red Deer in the west-central area field work finally commenced May 22 but heavy showers since have hampered operations and seeding is less than 10 per cent completed. Pasture and hay growth has been slow due to the late, cold spring. In the Lacombe area field work became general May 24 and seeding is now 20 to 25 per cent finished. The weather has been cool and showery. Hay and pasture growth is now six to eight inches with good moisture conditions. At Eckville field work commenced May 21 and seeding started May 22. Showery weather has slowed field operations but seeding is now general with 80 per cent of the oats and 50 per cent of the rapeseed seeded while only 10 per cent of the barley is planted. Spring work is generally about ten days behind schedule and temperatures have been below normal.

In the Peace River District at Beaverlodge a limited amount of seeding has been done. Moisture has generally been heavy with snowflurries on May 27. Prospects for grass and seed crops appear good. North of the Peace at Fairview the cold, wet spring has delayed seeding of all crops as well as hampering spring harvest of the remnants of the 1973 crop. Because of the late seeding intended acreages of wheat and flax have been reduced in favour of barley, rapeseed, and fallow. It is estimated that 80 per cent of the wheat, 95 per cent of the flax and 40 per cent of the rapeseed and barley are in the ground.

The Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation report an isolated storm on May 14 at Rycroft causing severe damage to unharvested rapeseed and barley of the 1973 crop.

The unweighted average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 51 per cent above normal, compared with 75 per cent above normal a week ago, 66 per cent above normal two weeks ago and in contrast to 11 per cent below normal a year ago. Mean temperature for the week ending May 27, 1974 was 1.5 degrees F. below normal, compared with 9.3 degrees below normal a week ago, 1.6 degrees below normal two weeks ago and in contrast to 1.4 degrees above normal for the week ending May 28, 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. May 27 — Température moyenne semaine se terminant 8 a.m. 1e 27 mai Normal — Normale	
Province and crop district — Province et district agricole	Station	Week ending 8 a.m. May 27 1974 — Semaine se terminant 8 a.m. 1e 27 mai 1974	Total since April 1 — Total depuis le 1er avril	Normal since April 1 — Normales depuis le 1er avril	1974	
				inches — pouces	degrees — degrés F.	
MANITOBA						
1	Boissevain	.42	5.51	2.86	48	55
	Pierson	.41	4.40	2.72	50	56
2	Baldur	.89	6.74	2.90	50	56
	Pilot Mound	1.83	7.79	2.84	50	55
3	Altona	.11	6.76	2.72	52	58
	Deerwood	2.51	11.23	2.91	49	58
	Graysville	1.14	8.75	2.57	50	56
	Morden	2.74	10.04	3.08	52	57
	Morris	2.00	8.06	2.47	53	58
	Portage la Prairie	1.37	6.61	3.21	50	58
	Roland	1.29	7.63	2.76	50	58
4	Stonewall	.78	6.90	2.77	51	56
5	Emerson	.49	7.44	2.81	53	57
	Steinbach	2.14	7.72	2.70	53	56
	Winnipeg	1.85	8.09	2.85	52	56
	Starbuck	1.44	7.92	2.74	52	58
6	Pinawa	1.35	8.39	1.75	52	54
	Great Falls	..	.36(2)	2.13	..	56
	Sprague	.22	7.18	3.10	52	55
7	Virden	.43	3.83	2.24	49	56
8	Brandon	.42	4.36	2.70	48	56
	Cypress River	.68	6.60	2.54	49	56
9	Gladstone	.83	5.23	2.61	..	55
10	Birtle	1.28	4.34	2.34	47	54
	Rosburn	1.52	5.98	2.21	45	54
	Russell	.99	3.95	1.87	45	54
11	Dauphin	1.62	6.25	2.62	45	56
12	Arborg	.71	4.61	2.59	51	55
	Gimli	1.05	5.47	2.64	48	55
13	Swan River	1.98	4.42	2.20	45	55
	The Pas	.35	1.38	2.37	44	53
14	Grass River	1.11	4.87	2.68	48	55
MANITOBA AVERAGE — MOYENNE		1.16	6.40	2.61	49.4	55.8

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

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

		Precipitation — Précipitations			Mean temperature week ending 8 a.m. May 27 — Température moyenne semaine se terminant 8 a.m. le 27 mai	
Province and crop district — Province et district agricole	Station	Week ending 8 a.m. May 27 1974 — Semaine se terminant 8 a.m. le 27 mai 1974	Total since April 1 — Total depuis le 1 ^{er} avril	Normal since April 1 — Normales depuis le 1 ^{er} avril	1974	Normal — Normale
			inches — pouces	degrees — degrés F.		
SASKATCHEWAN						
1A	Carlyle	.17	4.04	2.11	47	55
	Estevan	.86	4.99	2.32	48	57
	Oxbow	.44	3.37	2.05	46	55
	Willmar	.37	1.85(2)	2.27	..	55
1B	Broadview	1.20	4.26	2.13	46	53
	Moosomin	.98	4.96	2.21	46	55
2A	Yellow Grass	1.60	3.94	2.14	49	55
	Weyburn	1.15	4.07	2.16	46	56
	Midale	.93	3.89	2.14	47	56
	Amulet	2.11	5.00	..	47	56
2B	Moose Jaw	1.69	5.77	2.27	48	57
	Regina	1.94	4.39	2.14	47	56
	Francis	..	1.19(2)	1.90	..	54
	Indian Head	2.24	5.04	2.09	45	55
3AS	Ormiston	1.30	4.27	2.35	47	56
	Cardross	1.35	4.36	2.32	46	56
	Rock Glen	2.12	5.50	2.32	47	55
3AN	Gravelbourg	..	2.58(2)	1.98	..	56
	Coderre	..	1.35(2)	2.22	..	55
	Chaplin	3.05	5.33	1.89	48	57
3BS	Shaunavon	3.94	7.66	2.06	47	55
	Aneroid	2.90	5.21	2.19	47	56
	Instow	1.62	4.54(2)	1.98	47	55
3BN	Swift Current	2.56	5.06	2.31	47	55
	Pennant	1.57	4.45	2.13	48	55
	Hodgeville	2.29	..	55
	Elrose	..	1.37(2)	1.90	..	56
4A	Maple Creek	2.07	5.82	2.13	51	57
	Consul	1.09	4.54	1.71	47	55
4B	Abbey	1.94	..	55
	Leader	.64	4.51	1.87	51	57
5A	Cupar	..	2.55(2)	2.15	..	55
	Balcarres	1.45	4.59	2.22	..	55
	Lipton	2.16	4.53	1.95	45	55
	Yorkton	1.70	4.03	2.12	44	55
	Bangor	..	2.13(2)	2.31	..	55
	Wynyard	2.25	4.57	2.35	43	54
5B	Foam Lake	1.77	3.90	2.46	43	54
	Kuroki	1.77	4.00(2)	2.39	44	53
	Kamsack, Cote	1.00	2.58	1.90	45	55
	Davidson	1.22	3.70	2.15	45	55
6A	Strasbourg	2.87	5.29	2.25	47	55
	Watrous	2.04	4.33(2)	2.00	45	54
	Liberty	.22	1.92	2.15	47	55

Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces(1)

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Province and crop district	Station	Week ending 8 a.m. May 27 1974	Total since April 1	Normal since April 1	Température moyenne semaine se terminant 8 a.m. le 27 mai	
Province et district agricole		Semaine se terminant 8 a.m. le 27 mai 1974	Total depuis le 1 ^{er} avril	Normales depuis le 1 ^{er} avril	1974	Normal
			inches — pouces		degrees — degrés F.	
<u>SASKATCHEWAN — Concluded — fin</u>						
6B	Harris	1.19	2.60(2)	1.91	47	55
	Outlook	1.54	3.17	1.60	48	56
	Saskatoon	2.50	4.58	2.07	48	55
	Elbow	.03	.64(2)	2.12	51	55
	Tugaske	2.13	4.35	2.23	47	55
7A	Dundurn	2.13	3.85(2)	1.81	48	56
	Alsask	..	3.21(2)	2.14	..	57
	Kindersley	.83	4.95	1.47	51	55
	Rosetown	1.45	4.81	1.92	49	55
	Macklin	.37	2.56	1.75	52	55
7B	Denzil	.34	1.98	1.90	50	55
	Scott	.42	2.16	2.14	49	54
	Biggar	1.02	2.71	1.93	48	55
	Hudson Bay	2.05	3.66	2.32	45	54
	Prairie River	1.23	2.17	2.58	44	53
8A	Nipawin	1.42	3.46	..	46	..
	Humboldt	1.43	2.58	1.87	43	54
	Melfort	2.07	4.77	2.09	47	55
	North Battleford	.19	2.58	1.96	50	55
	Victoire	1.04	3.05	2.19	48	53
9A	Prince Albert	1.54	3.99	2.48	46	54
	Meadow Lake	.40	2.40	2.05	50	52
	Waseca	..	1.60(2)	2.15	..	54
SASKATCHEWAN AVERAGE — MOYENNE		1.47	4.11	2.10	47.1	55.1

ALBERTA

1	Empress	.35	3.43	1.80	52	56
	Foremost	.09	3.85	2.22	52	56
	Hanna	N.	3.94	..	52	..
	Manyberries	.82	4.82	2.12	49	56
	Medicine Hat	.26	3.48	2.36	53	57
2	Brooks	N.	2.44	2.21	52	56
	Gleichen	.01	3.42	2.62	52	55
	Vauxhall	trace	4.83	2.05	53	55
	Raymond	..	7.57(2)	3.15	..	57
	Lethbridge	N.	5.29	3.12	53	55
3	Trochu	.01	4.89	2.69	..	54
	Queenstown	trace	5.11	2.80	52	55
	Calgary	N.	4.64	3.10	51	52
	Cardston	N.	2.12(2)	3.38	51	54
	Panchar Creek	N.	7.01	3.45	50	52



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— IV —

Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces(1)

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

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		Week ending 8 a.m. May 27 1974	Total since April 1 — Total depuis le 1 ^{er} avril	Normal since April 1 — Normales depuis le 1 ^{er} avril	1974	Normal — Normale
		Semaine se terminant 8 a.m. le 27 mai 1974				
					inches — pouces	degrees — degrés F.
ALBERTA — Concluded — fin						
3	Fort Macleod	N.	5.68	3.28	52	56
	High River	N.	6.00	3.59	50	51
	Olds	.23	5.72	2.92	51	52
4	Alliance	.15	3.28	1.85	52	54
	Coronation	.08	3.46	1.87	52	54
	Hughenden	.41	3.44	2.01	51	54
	Lloydminster	.54	3.24	1.85	52	54
	Sedgewick	.21	2.98	..	53	..
	Stettler	.36	3.20	2.08	52	54
	Vegreville	.30	2.31	1.89	54	54
	Ranfurly	.47	2.76	2.26	54	54
5	Vermilion	.27	2.77	1.82	53	53
	Edmonton	.18	2.15	2.65	52	55
	Lacombe	.24	2.64	3.05	51	53
	Red Deer	.32	4.63	3.64	51	53
	Rocky Mountain House	.09	3.75	3.35	52	51
	Wetaskiwin	.37	3.62	2.83	52	54
	Campsie	.36	4.20	2.51	52	52
	Edson	.34	3.75	2.78	50	51
6	Elk Point	.27	3.58	2.02	53	52
	Whitecourt	.53	3.96	2.77	52	51
	Beaverlodge	.40	2.53	2.19	52	53
	Chipewyan	.23	1.80	1.36	56	52
	Ft. Vermilion	..	.34(2)	1.69	..	54
	Grande Prairie	.28	2.54	2.00	54	53
	High Prairie	1.60	3.42(2)	2.22	54	53
	Peace River	.18	2.01	1.57	55	53
7	Rycroft	.33	2.05	1.96	54	53
ALBERTA AVERAGE — MOYENNE		.25	3.72	2.47	52.2	53.7

(1) Source: Atmospheric Environment Service. — Service de l'environnement atmosphérique.

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

.. Figures not available. — Données indisponibles.

N. Nil. — Néant.