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September 1, 1973 to March 31, 1974

TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT — PRAIRIE PROVINCES

This is the fifth 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 Atmospheric Environment Service, Department of the Environment.

SUMMARY

Prairie Provinces. — With recent favourable weather conditions seeding operations are nearly completed except for some areas in Manitoba and a few low spots elsewhere. Crops are growing very well in all districts although weed infestations tend to be heavy. Control measures are being taken. Hay and pastures are good in most parts of Manitoba and Saskatchewan but in Alberta a good general rain is wanted for these crops.

Manitoba. — Seeding progressed rapidly last week with approximately 95 per cent now completed in the western part of the province, 90 per cent in the central district and 75 per cent in the eastern and Interlake regions. In the areas where operations are more advanced there is little change reported in seeding plans but in the districts where work on the land was delayed there have been some reductions in the total acreage seeded and some shifting from wheat to other crops. Weed and forage growth is rapid. Spraying activities are under way. Flea beetles are very active.

Agriculture Division
Crops Section

5-3102-508

Saskatchewan. — Seeding is now practically completed throughout the province. Rapid growth is reported under the warmer conditions that have prevailed this past week. Weeds, especially wild oats are a serious problem but control measures are being taken. Outbreaks of grasshoppers are reported in the southwestern and central districts but spraying is under way for control. Hay and pastures are in good condition and summerfallow operations are just beginning.

Alberta. — Seeding operations are virtually completed except for relatively small areas of barley and rapeseed in the northeast and the Peace River District. Hot weather during the past week has promoted rapid growth in virtually all parts of the province. Fall wheat and rye have headed in the southwest while spring-seeded crops are showing excellent growth in all areas. Weed spraying operations are in full swing and haying has commenced in the southwest. A good general rain would be welcome to promote growth of pastures.

MANITOBA

Although an estimated 60 per cent of the seeding has been done at Altona some fields remain too wet to work. On other farms planting operations have been finished but crop land has been cut back in favour of summerfallow. Sunflower beetles, flea beetles and grasshoppers could cause problems for newly emerged crops. Our correspondent at Morden estimates that from 75 to 90 per cent of the seeding has been done and warm weather is now needed to bring on growth. Wild oats and broad leaved weeds are at the treatment stage in emerged crops and farmers are preparing to spray immediately. Flea beetles and sunflower beetles are causing damage and some control measures for the former have already been carried out. Pastures are in good condition.

At Pilot Mound 90 per cent of the seeding has been done with the early-sown crop now in the two leaf stage. Fall rye is heading out and weed growth is good and spraying will be under way shortly. The tame hay crop is good but wild hay is mainly under water. In the Melita district farmers have completed about 90 per cent of their seeding to date representing 70 per cent of the acreage originally intended. Crop spraying is general this week. Pastures are good and the outlook for hay is fair to good.

In the Beausejour — Whitemouth area seeding is well under way with about 45 per cent of the intended acreage sown as of June 16. If warm sunny weather continues operations could be completed by the end of the week. Pastures are in excellent condition and a good hay crop is in prospect. Selkirk district farmers have completed from 75 to 80 per cent of their seeding. However, there will be a considerable reduction in the acreage sown this year with some farmers not doing any seeding because of the lateness of the season. However recent warm weather has brought about good growth in previously sown crops while pastures are also developing favourably. Cankerworm and tent caterpillar damage is prevalent. In the Stonewall district farmers made excellent progress with seeding during the past week and an estimated 80 per cent has now been done; some oats, flax and green feed remain to be seeded. Weed spraying has started with a heavy weed growth reported. Green foxtail may be a problem. Tame hay crops are excellent and wild hay is also good. Mosquitoes are bothering livestock.

Reports from Brandon indicate that some land will be left unseeded this year due to excess moisture and the lateness of the season. Hay development is good but later than average. Pasture abuse in the early season due to a shortage of feed at that time has resulted in below average pasture conditions now. However moisture conditions are excellent. Oilseed crops and special crops were seeded very late so that yield prospects are considered below average. Weed infestation of both summerfallow and seeded land is heavy because farmers have been busy seeding.

At Teulon in the Interlake district soil and moisture conditions are good with 75 per cent of the acreage now seeded. Cropping trends are away from wheat with acreages of barley and rapeseed increased. Pasture and hay field growth is very good. Only a limited amount of weed control has been possible so far. At Arborg fair progress has been made with seeding in spite of rain. The actual proportion of the crop in the ground is variable and difficult to estimate. However reports indicate that flax, rapeseed and summerfallow are replacing wheat.

Near Minnedosa weather conditions were ideal for seeding last week. There was a small amount of rain on Thursday evening but it was widely scattered and did not cause great delay. A large number of farmers have all their crops in the ground with only 10 to 15 per cent of the acreage still to be sown. It is anticipated that seeding should be completed by the end of this week. About 30 per cent of the crop is now up and looks quite good but due to hurried seeding methods, weeds are abundant especially wild oats. Some spraying should start by the end of this week on early seeded crops. The weather has been ideal for alfalfa and clover which are growing quite rapidly and show great promise. In the Shoal Lake district seeding is practically finished except for low, wet areas where farmers are seeding coarse grains to be harvested for hay. Emergence is good, summerfallow operations are well under way and forage crops are progressing well. Flea beetle activity is reported in rapeseed.

Reports from Swan River in the northwest part of the province indicate that less than five per cent of the seeding remains to be done. Early-sown crops are doing well and fall rye is heading. District farmers have commenced weed spraying. Pastures are growing well. Some insect damage is reported on shrubs and trees.

The unweighted average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 50 per cent above normal compared with 86 per cent above normal a week ago, 108 per cent above normal two weeks ago and 28 per cent above normal a year ago. Mean temperature for the week ending June 17, 1974 was 5.2 degrees F. below normal compared with 0.3 degree below normal a week ago, 1.0 degree below normal two weeks ago and in contrast to 2.6 degrees above normal for the week ending June 18, 1973.

SASKATCHEWAN

Seeding is completed in the Indian Head district except for small areas around sloughs that were too wet to work. Most crops are emerging fairly uniformly. Temperatures this past week have been in the 70 to 80 degree range and as a result the crops are making rapid growth. Most fields are quite weedy as pre-seeding tillage was not effective because of the wet conditions. Most grains will require herbicides to control the weed growth. Growth of hay and pastures has been very good.

At Swift Current in the southwest seeding is completed and crops are emerging well. Weeds are a serious problem in this area but spraying is under way. There are reports of grasshoppers hatching with a severe outbreak indicated, however, spraying has started. Pastures are excellent and moisture is plentiful. In the Leader area warmer weather has speeded up crop growth and all crops look good but are a little late. Grasshoppers are appearing in large quantities but are being kept under control.

About 95 per cent of the seeding is completed in the east-central district at Melville with the remainder to be sown to oats and barley. Earlier-sown crops are showing rapid growth with the recent warm weather. Hay and pastures are in excellent condition. Rainfall since May 1 to date has been 5.31 inches compared to 5.67 inches for the same period last year.

At Drake in the central area one and three quarter inches of rain last week further delayed field operations, however, seeding is nearing completion. Early-sown fields are now green and are improving with the warmer weather as are pastures. Prospects for the hay crop are good. At Craik seeding is now finished and with the recent half inch of rain crops are looking good. It appears that there will be a good hay crop in this district. Wild oats are a serious problem. Grasshoppers are starting to hatch, however, spraying to control them has commenced. Warm, dry weather at Saskatoon the past ten days enabled farmers to complete seeding. The heavy rain two weeks ago compacted and crusted the soil resulting in poor emergence of some rapeseed but most crops are uniform and stands look good. Very little summerfallowing has been accomplished and stubble fields are very weedy. There has been excellent growth of alfalfa and grass hayland and pastures are good. Flea beetles are damaging some rapeseed stands but control measures are in progress. Spraying for grasshoppers is also under way in several districts of southwestern and central Saskatchewan.

In the west-central area at Rosetown seeding is now complete and weed growth in the crops is moderate to extremely heavy with reports of cow cockle, buckwheat and numerous wild oats. Temperatures this past week have been in the seventies and as a result early-seeded crops are looking good. First operation summerfallowing has just commenced. Pastures and hayland are in good condition and there are no reports of grasshoppers in this district.

The Saskatchewan Municipal Hail Insurance Association reports several hail storms early this month, with damage reported at Maple Creek on June 3 and Golden Prairie on June 7.

The unweighted average precipitation for the province since April 1 was 30 per cent above normal compared with 62 per cent above normal a week ago, 67 per cent above normal two weeks ago and 49 per cent above normal a year ago. The mean temperature for the week ending June 17, 1974, was 0.9 degree F. below normal compared with 3.1 degrees below normal a week ago, 4.2 degrees below normal two weeks ago and in contrast to 0.8 degree above normal for the week ending June 18, 1973.

ALBERTA

At Medicine Hat in the southeastern part of the province seeding operations have been completed and cereals are now two to four inches in height. Spraying operations are general and some grasshopper infestations are reported along the provincial border. Although moisture supplies are still adequate grazing land is beginning to dry out and a general rain would be welcome.

In the southwest around Lethbridge hot weather during the past week has promoted rapid crop growth. Fall rye is headed and winter wheat is commencing to head. Early-seeded rapeseed has started to bloom while cereal crops are in the shotblade. Haying operations have commenced and good stands are reported. Seeding of canning crops is completed while about 55 per cent of the sugar beets have been thinned. Spraying for weeds is general and some spraying for grasshoppers has occurred. Seeding is 95 per cent completed around Cardston and germination has been very good. Weed spraying operations are well under way although some chemicals are reported to be in short supply. Pastures and hayland are in very good condition. Fall wheat is in the shotblade but some spring-seeded grains are behind normal. Temperatures have been in the 90's around Claresholm and although, grain crops have been growing rapidly rain is needed. Spraying operations are well under way but in many cases it has been too warm to spray in the middle of the day. There are isolated reports of grasshoppers. Hay and pastures are drying up and rain will be

needed. Summerfallow has been covered once.

In southwest-central Alberta around Calgary seeding operations were completed about June 15 and hot, dry weather during the past week is advancing all crops rapidly. Surface moisture is fair and sub-soil moisture is good. Weed spraying has commenced on early-seeded crops. Pastures are in good condition.

Around Sedgewick in northeast-central Alberta seeding of wheat is completed and only a very small acreage of rapeseed and barley remains to be sown. Hot weather over the past few days has brought about rapid growth of all crops. Some chemical supplies for weed spraying are in short supply.

In the Red Deer district seeding is nearly completed and recent hot weather has promoted good growth of all crops. There are reports of shallow root development due to previous wet soil conditions. Around Lacombe seeding was 95 per cent completed by June 14. Early-sown cereals are now showing the third and fourth leaf with warm weather during the past week promoting rapid development. Hay and pastures have been delayed somewhat due to previous cool weather and could now use a good rain.

At Beaverlodge in the Peace River District seeding operations are completed. Surface moisture has been depleted by high winds and late seedings are now in need of rain to promote germination. Hay and pastures are growing well and fall rye is commencing to head. Warm, dry weather during the past two weeks around Fairview has resulted in good progress of field work. Seeding is almost completed except for some small amounts of rapeseed and barley. Early-seeded crops are now five to seven inches in height. Weed spraying operations are in full swing. A good general rain would be welcome as some pastures are beginning to deteriorate.

The Alberta Hail Insurance Board at Calgary reports a small pocket of hail on June 8 in the Bow Island area.

The unweighted average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 16 per cent above normal compared with 36 per cent above normal a week ago, 36 per cent above normal two weeks ago and 28 per cent above normal one year ago. The mean temperature for the week ending June 17 was 5.3 degrees F. above normal in contrast to 3.6 degrees below normal a week ago, 5.6 degrees below normal two weeks ago and 1.9 degrees below normal for the week ending June 18, 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. June 17 — Température moyenne semaine se terminant 8 a.m. 1e 17 juin	
Province and crop district — Province et district agricole	Station	Week ending 8 a.m. June 17, 1974 — Semaine se terminant 8 a.m. 1e 17 juin 1974	Total since April 1 — Total depuis le 1er avril	Normal since April 1 — Normales depuis le 1er avril	1974	Normal — Normale
			inches — pouces		degrees — degrés F.	
MANITOBA						
1	Boissevain	trace	5.91	5.43	54	60
	Pierson	.43	5.19	4.95	58	61
2	Baldur	trace	7.36	5.12	57	62
	Pilot Mound	.04	8.46	5.11	56	62
3	Altona	.05	8.67	4.68	54	64
	Deerwood	..	11.84(2)	4.89	..	63
	Graysville	N	9.23	4.60	58	62
	Morden	trace	10.99	5.17	60	64
	Morris	.01	9.06	4.53	57	64
	Portage la Prairie	.15	7.80	6.01	58	63
	Roland	trace	8.27	4.86	56	64
4	Stonewall	.45	7.94	5.13	57	62
5	Emerson	.08	8.48	4.78	59	63
	Steinbach	trace	8.37	4.79	58	62
	Winnipeg	.21	9.02	5.03	56	62
	Starbuck	.14	8.90	4.78	58	63
6	Pinawa	.35	9.49	2.95	54	60
	Great Falls	..	5.87(2)	..	..	..
	Sprague	.07	8.21	4.99	55	61
7	Virden	.06	4.45	4.82	57	61
8	Brandon	trace	5.26	5.14	56	61
	Cypress River	.02	7.12	4.96	55	62
9	Gladstone	trace	5.85	5.06	..	..
10	Birtle	..	4.63(2)	4.82	..	59
	Rosburn	.20	7.35	4.26	55	59
	Russell	trace	5.05	3.98	56	59
11	Dauphin	.11	6.55	5.26	56	61
12	Arborg	.51	6.02	4.82	55	61
	Gimli	.89	6.80	5.00	56	61
13	Swan River	.20	5.37	4.82	57	60
	The Pas	.12	2.57	4.03	55	59
14	Grass River	.13	5.84	..	57	..
AVERAGE — MANITOBA — MOYENNE		.15	7.23	4.83	56.4	61.6

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			Mean temperature	
					week ending	
					8 a.m.	
Province and crop district	Station	Week ending 8 a.m. June 17. 1974	Total since April 1	Normal since April 1	June 17	
Province et district agricole		Semaine se terminant 8 a.m. le 17 juin 1974	Total depuis le 1er avril	Normales depuis le 1er avril	Température moyenne semaine se terminant 8 a.m. le 17 juin	
					1974	Normal
					Normale	
					inches — pouces	degrees — degrés F.
SASKATCHEWAN						
1A	Carlyle	.28	5.26	4.16	56	59
	Estevan	.06	5.63	4.70	57	61
	Oxbow	..	3.73(2)	..	..	..
	Willmar	.38	4.09	4.55	..	..
1B	Broadview	.41	5.57	4.93	56	58
	Moosomin	.19	5.96	4.81	57	60
2A	Yellow Grass	N	4.97	4.23	59	61
	Weyburn	.21	5.23	4.18	57	60
	Midale	.05	5.06	4.05	57	61
	Amulet	.19	6.11	4.42	58	60
2B	Moose Jaw	.17	6.34	4.37	59	61
	Regina	.14	5.31	4.35	58	60
	Francis	..	3.29(2)	..	..	..
	Indian Head	.16	5.88	4.36	57	60
3AS	Ormiston	.02	4.70	4.42	59	60
	Cardross	N	4.94	4.47	60	60
	Rock Glen	.17	6.75	4.42	58	59
3AN	Gravelbourg	..	4.77(2)	..	..	..
	Coderre	trace	3.70	4.07	57	60
	Chaplin	.04	5.99	3.66	60	61
3BS	Shaunavon	.14	7.15	4.02	61	59
	Aneroid	N	5.47	3.76	60	60
	Instow	.02	6.24	3.83	61	59
3BN	Swift Current	trace	5.80	4.44	59	59
	Pennant	.06	4.80	3.86	60	60
	Elrose	.04	3.03	3.27	63	61
4A	Maple Creek	.21	7.07	3.75	64	61
	Consul	N	6.25	3.22	61	59
4B	Leader	.03	5.40	3.34	64	61
5A	Cupar	.25	6.73	..	58	..
	Balcarres	..	5.30(2)	4.37	..	..
	Lipton	.27	5.44	3.77	57	59
	Yorkton	.04	4.84	4.22	57	59
	Bangor	.16	4.82(2)	4.59	57	59
5B	Wynyard	.08	5.73	4.26	58	58
	Foam Lake	.05	4.91	4.35	56	58
	Kuroki	trace	5.10	4.40	58	58
	Kamsack, Cote	.15	3.95	4.03	54	59

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			Mean temperature week ending 8 a.m. June 17 — Température moyenne semaine se terminant 8 a.m. le 17 juin	
Province and crop district — Province et district agricole	Station	Week ending 8 a.m. June 17 1974 — Semaine se terminant 8 a.m. le 17 juin 1974	Total since April 1 — Total depuis le 1er avril	Normal since April 1 — Normales depuis le 1er avril	1974	Normal — Normale
					inches — pouces	degrees — degrés F.
SASKATCHEWAN — Concluded — fin						
6A	Davidson	.16	4.75	4.05	57	60
	Strasbourg	.09	6.49	4.47	58	58
	Watrous	.23	5.64	3.68	59	60
	Liberty	.08	2.00(2)	4.05	59	60
6B	Harris	.05	4.76	3.30	57	60
	Outlook	.09	4.27	3.35	54	61
	Saskatoon	.07	5.47	3.47	59	60
	Elbow	N	2.22	4.17	59	60
	Tugaske	.08	5.25	4.15	59	60
	Dundurn	.02	6.13	3.25	60	60
7A	Alsask	N	4.29	..	61	..
	Kindersley	.01	5.57	2.94	62	60
	Rosetown	.04	5.93	3.56	61	60
7B	Macklin	.04	5.02	3.27	62	59
	Denzil	.02	4.96	3.35	62	60
	Scott	.01	3.69	3.62	59	58
	Biggar	..	2.71(2)	3.57	..	60
8A	Hudson Bay	.10	4.99	4.26	56	58
	Prairie River	.04	3.46	4.43	54	58
	Nipawin	.15	4.40	..	58	..
8B	Humboldt	.05	3.36	3.76	58	59
	Melfort	trace	5.80	3.94	56	59
9A	North Battleford	.18	4.37	3.40	60	60
	Victoire	.25	4.30	3.74	62	57
	Prince Albert	.10	4.82	3.91	59	59
9B	Meadow Lake	.59	4.97	3.89	60	59
	Waseca	.65	5.55	..	58	..
AVERAGE — SASKATCHEWAN — MOYENNE		.12	5.17	3.99	58.7	59.6

ALBERTA

1	Empress	.17	4.51	3.51	64	61
	Foremost	N	3.72	4.19	67	60
	Hanna	.03	5.35	3.51	64	61
	Manyberries	N	5.70	3.55	64	60
	Medicine Hat	.04	4.34	4.03	68	62
2	Brooks	N	3.51	3.83	65	60
	Gleichen	N	4.55	4.26	64	58
	Vauxhall	N	5.05	3.55	66	59
	Raymond	N	8.29(2)	..	66	..
	Lethbridge	trace	5.89	5.20	67	59

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



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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. June 17 — Température moyenne semaine se terminant 8 a.m. le 17 juin	
Province and crop district — Province et district agricole	Station	Week ending 8 a.m. June 17 1974 — Semaine se terminant 8 a.m. le 17 juin 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.
ALBERTA — Concluded — fin						
2	Trochu	N	5.53	4.10	..	..
	Queenstown	N	6.31(2)	4.62	68	58
3	Calgary	N	5.30	5.48	63	56
	Cardston	N	5.17(2)	5.96	62	57
	Pincher Creek	N	9.28	6.69	64	55
	Fort MacLeod	N	7.08	5.86	66	60
	High River	N	7.01	5.97	63	54
	Olds	N	6.47	5.23	68	55
4	Alliance	.08	5.48	3.27	64	58
	Coronation	.11	5.50	3.27	63	57
	Hughenden	.19	6.07	3.35	61	58
	Lloydminster	.57	5.78	3.55	61	58
	Sedgewick	.76	5.85	3.55	64	58
	Stettler	.02	4.68	4.23	64	58
	Vegreville	.21	5.15	3.67	61	57
	Ranfurly	.37	5.56	3.86	62	58
	Vermilion	.55	5.54	3.42	61	57
5	Edmonton	.04	3.56	4.78	62	58
	Lacombe	N	3.53	5.28	63	57
	Red Deer	N	5.46	6.37	62	57
	Rocky Mountain House	N	4.28	5.73	63	55
	Wetaskiwin	N	5.13	4.66	63	57
6	Campsie	..	4.41(2)	4.22	..	56
	Edson	trace	4.48	5.18	59	54
	Elk Point	.97	6.56	3.72	59	56
	Whitcourt	N	4.26	4.63	60	54
7	Beaverlodge	N	2.54	3.72	58	56
	Chipewyan	1.62	4.11	2.42	59	57
	Ft. Vermilion	..	.41(2)	3.42	..	57
	Grande Prairie	N	2.57	3.76	59	57
	High Prairie	.03	4.04(2)	3.87	57	57
	Peace River	N	2.19	2.83	59	57
	Rycroft	N	2.31	..	59	..
AVERAGE — ALBERTA — MOYENNE		.14	4.97	4.30	62.8	57.5

(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.