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## Field Crop Reporting Series — No. 14

### TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT — PRAIRIE PROVINCES

This is the ninth 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. — Cereals are headed with height and stands variable throughout the Prairies. More rain is now urgently required in Manitoba and most of Alberta to permit proper filling. In Saskatchewan moisture conditions are generally more favourable. Haying is nearly completed with average to better than average yields reported.

Manitoba. — Recent rain has improved crop prospects but more rain is still needed throughout the province. Early-seeded crops are heading on short straw while late-seeded crops are also short, sparse and in poor condition. Haying is almost completed with above average yields reported. Pastures are being overgrazed and consequently are in poor condition. Aphids are causing some damage to barley.

Saskatchewan. — Cereals are in head or heading rapidly throughout the province and in the oilseed growing areas, rapeseed is half podded and flax is in flower. Crop development and prospects vary but conditions in general are reasonably favourable although more rain is needed in most districts. Haying is nearly finished with generally good yields reported. Pastures are also holding up well.

Alberta. — With the exception of the Peace River District almost all of the province is urgently in need of rain. In general, crops have headed and are commencing to fill. Swathing of winter wheat and rye is in progress. Most of the rapeseed crop

Agriculture Division  
Crops Section

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is in bloom or is forming pods. Haying operations are nearly completed but pastures are very dry.

#### RUST REPORT

Trace to light infections of leaf rust have occurred on wheat throughout Manitoba and much of Saskatchewan but dry weather has prevented significant disease development. Stem rust of wheat has been observed on susceptible wheat in experimental plots but has not been found in farm fields. Crown rust occurred throughout southern Manitoba but infections are light. It is not likely that the rust will cause any significant damage in 1974.

#### MANITOBA

Early-seeded crops are in good condition and are now starting to head at Vita. Late-seeded crops are poor with low yields expected. Weed growth has not been severe and because of the hot, dry weather many of the fields were not sprayed this year. Grasshoppers have caused some damage to crops in the Dominion City area. The corn crop is good, rapeseed and sugar beets are fair, and flaxseed looks poor. The first crop of hay was about average but the second crop will be below average. Pastures are starting to deteriorate. At Altona rain is urgently needed to save the crops. Aphids are a menace on late barley fields and the pea crops could also be endangered. Crops in the Morden area need rain. Haying is almost completed and farmers are preparing to dig early potatoes. The green pea harvest has been completed. Spraying for aphids on barley and peas is being carried out and the cannery is about to spray for the corn borer in sweet corn. Field corn tasselled last week and seems to be standing the drought quite well. Moisture will be needed to aid pollination and filling.

Rain is urgently needed for crops and pastures at Pilot Mound. Hay yields have been above average but grain yields are expected to be below average. Some ploughing down of late-seeded crops is under way. Spraying for aphids on barley is widespread.

Moisture conditions in some parts of the Winnipeg area improved with recent rains. However, crops around Beausejour are deteriorating due to insufficient moisture. The first cut of hay was of high quality and good yield but moisture is required to produce a satisfactory second cut. Aphids are reported on peas and barley. The grain being late and light is heading on short straw. Crops in the Selkirk area are doing poorly. The first cut of hay is almost finished and because of the dry conditions the second cut will be poor. Pastures require moisture. There have been no reports of any armyworms or aphids at this time. Rain is long overdue at Stonewall. Crops are very light, especially barley and oats. Wheat looks surprisingly well but will be short strawed. The first cut of hay is now completed but prospects of a good second cut do not look promising. At Portage La Prairie crop conditions are variable and hot, dry weather has severely reduced crop prospects on the lighter soils. Some crops are being worked under and cereal yields are expected to be half of normal. Aphids are serious in barley and spraying is expected. Hay crops were good but pastures are drying up.

Grains are short and are beginning to deteriorate at Brandon due to lack of rain. Pastures are drying up with no second cut of hay in prospect. Aphids on barley are causing some problems.



Scattered showers were received in the Arborg area last week. Crops are disappointing as only 75 per cent of the seeded area will be suitable for threshing. General rains have not rejuvenated pastures and more rain is needed to keep cattle thriving.

Rain is needed in most parts of the west-central area except for certain spots around Neepawa where isolated rains have added moisture to the soil. Most crops are beginning to head while fall rye will be ready to cut this week. Aphids have been a problem in late-seeded barley forcing several farmers to spray. Approximately 70 per cent of the haying is now complete with above-average yields reported. At Minnedosa prospects are for an average yield. Late-seeded crops are poor and all crops will be short strawed. Hail caused some damage in a narrow belt running south of Basswood and Newdale. Aphid infestation on barley is wide spread but of no economic importance. Hay yields are average but are being harvested in over-ripe condition. At Shoal Lake early crops are doing well but late-seeded crops are short and sparse. Hail damage occurred last Thursday night in the northwestern and southeastern part of the area. Damage was also reported west of Shoal Lake and south of Strathclair. Aphids have been reported in late barley but are not severe enough to warrant spraying. Haying is in progress with good yields and quality reported.

Scattered showers were received throughout the Dauphin area last week but a general rain would still be beneficial. Most of the cereals have now headed and over 30,000 acres of barley have been sprayed for aphids. Haying is almost completed with good yield and quality but pastures need rain. At Swan River swathing of fall rye will commence soon. Aphids are serious on late barley and some chemical control is being applied. Haying is well advanced and although crops are in generally good condition a rain would be beneficial in the Birch River - Lenswood area.

The unweighted average precipitation since April 1 has been 3 per cent above normal compared with 6 per cent above normal a week ago, 10 per cent above normal two weeks ago and 23 per cent above normal a year ago. The mean temperature for the week ending July 29, 1974, has been 0.9 degree F. below normal in contrast to 5.1 degrees above normal a week ago, 2.2 degrees above normal two weeks ago and in contrast to 3.0 degrees below normal for the week ending July 30, 1973.

#### SASKATCHEWAN

At Indian Head in the southeast part of the province crops are heading out rapidly as a result of the continued hot weather. Although scattered showers have occurred in some localities, a good general rain is required to maintain present growth; however, although rain would improve moisture conditions and growth as a consequence, it would also slow maturity and most crops are so late that maturity before frost could be critical. Nearly all of the wheat is headed with about 60 per cent of oats and 80 per cent of the barley in head as well. At present, expectations are that crops sown on summerfallow will produce about average yields but stubble crops below average. Some 80 per cent of the haying is completed, with above average yields reported. Summerfallow is in good condition with weed growth well controlled.

Reports from Val Marie in the southwest of the province indicate that durum wheat is now about 29 inches in height and spring wheat, barley and oats are 25 inches high. The second irrigation is just about completed. Above-normal yields are reported for the first cutting of hay. Precipitation since May 1 this year has totalled 6.04 inches and a good rain could still be useful for later crops. Considering the amount of rain so far this season, pastures are still good.

At Leader all crops are headed out with a good height. Stands are heavy and conditions are still good although the crop is much later than usual.

In the Saskatoon district some 90 per cent of the cereals are in head and rape-seed is about half podded. Growth is good and moisture supplies are adequate at present but additional rain may be required to fill the late stands. Entomologists report that corn leaf aphids are infesting many fields of late barley in the eastern half of Saskatchewan with severe damage occurring in a few fields. Control measures are in progress.

At Drake most of the wheat is headed at heights varying from 8 to 30 inches. Stands are light and it is expected that yields will be below average in all crops. Haying is nearly completed with ample fodder supplies now reported. Summerfallow fields are in fair to good condition and pastures and cattle are good since the recent rain.

In the Rosetown district some 80 per cent of the wheat and barley is in head and these crops look good. Most of the flax is in flower and summerfallow fields have been worked for the second or third time. Haying is almost finished and pastures could use rain now. Fall rye appears promising and is now filled. With one more rain and no early frost, a better than average crop may be in prospect. At Scott all crops are filling well, helped by a rainfall of 0.45 inch since the last report. More rain is needed, however, as crop stands are heavy. No insect damage has been reported to date. District farmers have finished about 80 per cent of the haying with good yields reported. Pastures are holding up well.

At Melfort rain is needed to fill all crops with early-sown grains fully headed. Present indications are for below normal yields. There are several reports of aphid damage in barley and many late-seeded crops have been sprayed. Aphids are also present on fruit and shade trees. Haying is completed but pastures need rain.

The Saskatchewan Municipal Hail Insurance Association reports the following hail storms since last report: July 15 - Sovereign; July 16 - Nokomis, Watrous, Renown; July 17 - Outram, Lestock, Allan, Alvena; July 19 - Glen McPherson, Lafleche, Ardill, Fox Valley, Stalwart, Snipe Lake, Handel, Landis, North Battleford, Medstead; July 20 - Estevan, Halbrite, Griffin, Kipling, Tantallon, Spy Hill, Churchbridge, Verigin, Chelan; July 21 - Coderre; July 22 - Blumenhof, Claybank, Avonlea, Courval, Dinsmore, Delisle, Vanscoy, Warman; July 23 - Manor, Redvers, Antler, Midale, Macoun, Cadillac, Admiral, Viscount, Cupar, Strasbourg, Loreburn, Nokomis, Dinsmore; July 24 - Sceptre, Macklin, Reward; July 25 - Kipling, Hafford, Maidstone, Glaslyn, Arborfield, Carrot River.

The unweighted average precipitation for the province since April 1 is 10 per cent above normal, compared with 12 per cent above normal a week ago, 14 per cent above normal two weeks ago, and 25 per cent above normal a year ago. Mean temperature for the week ending July 29, 1974 was 2.0 degrees F. below normal in contrast to 5.0 degrees above normal a week ago, and 0.9 degree above normal two weeks ago, and compared with 2.1 degrees below normal for the week ending July 30, 1973.

#### ALBERTA

At Medicine Hat in the southeast moisture conditions vary from poor to fair. Most of the grain is headed and starting to fill although some crops are showing signs of burning. Irrigation crops are later than normal but are progressing well. A general rain would be welcome.



In the Lethbridge district moisture reserves are low and spring wheat and barley are headed and commencing to fill. Swathing of winter wheat and rye is general and swathing of rapeseed has begun in some areas. Irrigated crops are progressing well but there is a heavy demand for water. Dryland pastures are suffering. At Cardston spring grains are showing signs of drought. Swathing of fall wheat will commence next week and the swathing of early-seeded rapeseed will commence fairly soon. Haying operations are now completed and yields were about average. All summerfallow is in good condition except in those areas where it is too dry. In the Claresholm district the weather has been hot and dry. Rain will have to come very soon or it will be of little use to this year's crop. Grasshoppers are a serious problem in some districts. Swathing of winter wheat and rye is in progress and where harvesting has occurred yields of rye have been fair. Crops and pastures are dry and burning.

In south-central areas around Brooks most irrigated crops are in good condition and second-crop alfalfa is progressing well. Dryland crops are suffering from the hot, dry weather of the past few weeks. A good general rain in the next week or ten days would be most welcome.

In the Eckville area of west-central Alberta hot, dry weather during the past two weeks have advanced crop development. Haying operations are 80 per cent completed. Rain will be needed very soon for crops to mature properly. Pastures are in only fair condition.

In the Peace River District around Fairview prospects for an average crop continue. Rain has brought moisture supplies up to a satisfactory level in most areas although more rain would be very welcome. Most wheat is fully headed and stands are average to very good. Barley ranges from the early dough stage to heading and stands of this crop also vary from average to very good. Rapeseed is progressing well and most of the crop is in full bloom although many fields are more advanced. Yields are expected to be average.

The Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation reports the following storms: July 16 - an early morning storm severely damaged rapeseed and barley in a two mile strip from 12 miles south of Falher to Guy. An evening storm on the same day travelled southeast from Valleyview to Bonnyville and Cold Lake. Severe damage was reported from Sunset House and Cold Lake. July 19 - an afternoon storm beginning southwest of Vegreville moved in a northeasterly direction to Two Hills and St. Paul with heavy damage being reported around St. Paul. July 22 - an evening storm caused light to moderate damage from Bluffton to Ponoka and Bashaw. July 24 - an evening storm travelled from Hughenden to Czar, Provost and Hayter and severe damage from large hail stones was reported. July 25 - an isolated storm damaged an area three miles long and one mile wide from west to east in the Bentley area. July 29 - a storm beginning at Rocky Mountain House in late evening travelled in a southeasterly direction and there are reports of heavy damage from Wimborne and Trochu.

The unweighted average precipitation for the province since April 1 was 3 per cent above normal compared with 11 per cent above normal a week ago, 17 per cent above normal two weeks ago and 6 per cent above normal a year ago. Mean temperature for the week ending July 29, 1974 was 0.7 degree F. below normal in contrast to 1.8 degrees above normal a week ago and compared with 2.7 degrees below normal two weeks ago and 0.4 degree below normal for the week ending July 30, 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. July 29 — Température moyenne semaine se terminant 8 a.m. le 29 juillet	
Province and crop district — Province et district agricole	Station	Week ending 8 a.m. July 29, 1974 — Semaine se terminant 8 a.m. le 29 juillet 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.	
<u>MANITOBA</u>						
1	Boissevain	trace	8.40	9.09	68	67
	Pierson	.09	7.79	8.58	67	68
2	Baldur	trace	8.38	9.16	68	68
	Pilot Mound	N	9.46	9.01	67	68
3	Altona	.22	10.23	8.39	69	69
	Deerwood	..	12.39(2)	8.86	..	70
	Graysville	trace	10.74	8.25	68	68
	Morden	N	12.38	9.03	70	70
	Morris	.18	10.24	8.36	68	70
	Portage la Prairie	.47	9.90	10.32	69	70
	Roland	.13	9.18	8.66	68	69
4	Stonewall	.10	9.33	9.24	66	68
5	Emerson	.04	10.26	8.73	70	69
	Steinbach	trace	9.76	8.76	69	68
	Winnipeg	.35	10.13	8.86	68	69
	Starbuck	.31	9.90	8.70	68	68
6	Pinawa	.71	11.04	5.51	67	68
	Great Falls	..	7.10(2)	6.87	..	68
	Sprague	.10	9.99	9.20	67	66
7	Virden	.01	6.48	8.72	67	68
8	Brandon	.07	6.81	9.35	65	68
	Cypress River	.01	9.24	9.01	68	69
9	Gladstone	.19	8.26	9.08	..	67
10	Birtle	.12	7.14	9.19	60	66
	Rosburn	1.28	9.46	8.45	63	65
	Russell	.66	7.08	7.47	64	66
11	Dauphin	.66	8.02	9.10	66	68
12	Arborg	.90	7.91	8.68	67	66
	Gimli	.28	7.74	9.05	67	68
13	Swan River	1.63	9.22	8.60	65	65
	The Pas	.19	4.98	7.46	65	65
14	Grass River	.20	6.94	9.10	66	67
AVERAGE — MANITOBA — MOYENNE		.30	8.91	8.65	66.9	67.8

SASKATCHEWAN

1A	Carlyle	.03	6.56	8.02	64	66
	Estevan	.04	11.11	8.22	67	69
	Oxbow	trace	6.75(2)	7.31	64	66
	Willmar	.10	6.68	8.69	..	66

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)

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					inches — pouces	degrees — degrés F.
SASKATCHEWAN — Continued — suite						
1B	Broadview	.06	6.47	8.78	65	65
	Moosomin	.02	7.50	9.05	64	67
2A	Yellow Grass	.25	9.34(2)	7.94	65	67
	Weyburn	.16	6.24	7.70	65	66
	Midale	.35	7.52	7.60	65	68
	Amulet	.14	7.88	..	66	67
2B	Moose Jaw	.48	7.48	7.46	68	68
	Regina	.52	6.84	7.75	64	67
	Francis	..	5.33(2)	7.39	..	66
	Indian Head	.15	7.89	7.49	65	67
3AS	Ormiston	.08	7.63	8.00	66	67
	Cardross	.37	7.48	7.98	65	67
	Rock Glen	.09	10.24	8.02	65	67
3AN	Gravelbourg	.09	5.36(2)	6.58	65	68
	Coderre	..	3.85(2)	7.59	..	67
	Chaplin	.06	7.03	6.75	66	66
3BS	Shaunavon	1.25	12.01	6.94	..	66
	Aneroid	.31	6.63	6.63	66	67
	Instow	1.08	9.33(2)	7.02	62	66
3BN	Swift Current	.01	7.69	7.68	64	68
	Pennant	..	9.99(2)	6.95	..	67
	Elrose	..	7.64(2)	6.30	..	67
4A	Maple Creek	.39	9.36	6.43	72	68
	Consul	.04	8.78	5.54	64	66
4B	Leader	.07	8.61	6.09	65	68
5A	Cupar	.08	9.89	7.30	64	67
	Balcarres	..	6.45(2)	7.83	..	66
	Lipton	.02	8.20	6.94	63	66
	Yorkton	.23	7.09	7.09	65	67
	Bangor	..	6.52(2)	8.31	..	65
5B	Wynyard	.52	7.91	7.41	64	65
	Foam Lake	..	4.96(2)	7.54	..	65
	Kuroki	.70	7.67	7.88	63	64
	Kamsack, Cote	.63	7.28	7.38	63	65
6A	Davidson	.85	6.89	7.36	64	66
	Strasbourg	.53	8.50	7.89	64	65
	Watrous	.45	9.02	6.90	65	66
	Liberty	..	2.92(2)	7.36	..	67
6B	Harris	..	9.65(2)	6.23	65	67
	Outlook	.09	7.12	6.23	65	68
	Saskatoon	.10	9.30	6.21	64	67
	Elbow	.28	3.47	7.38	64	66

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



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SASKATCHEWAN — Concluded — fin

6B	Tugaske	.01	7.16	7.60	64	66
	Dundurn	.05	8.14(2)	6.33	63	67
7A	Alsask	..	7.29(2)	5.78	..	66
	Kindersley	trace	8.95	5.59	66	66
	Rosetown	.15	10.37	6.74	63	66
7B	Macklin	.83	9.31	6.44	63	65
	Denzil	.56	7.49	6.48	63	65
	Scott	.45	7.34	6.68	62	64
	Biggar	.41	3.12(2)	6.50	63	66
8A	Hudson Bay	.31	6.79	8.09	63	64
	Prairie River	.59	5.65	8.36	62	64
	Nipawin	.80	7.20(2)	..	63	..
8B	Humboldt	.71	4.79(2)	6.71	57	65
	Melfort	.12	8.60	7.38	62	65
9A	North Battleford	.32	8.43	6.46	63	66
	Victoire	.66	9.31(2)	6.78	63	62
	Prince Albert	.21	10.04	7.14	62	65
9B	Meadow Lake	.54	7.73	7.62	62	62
	Waseca	.40	8.41	7.25	60	63

AVERAGE — SASKATCHEWAN — MOYENNE

.27	7.96	7.24	64.1	66.1
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ALBERTA

1	Empress	N	5.97	6.20	65	68
	Foremost	N	5.58	6.59	69	68
	Hanna	.08	7.32	..	67	..
	Manyberries	N	7.90	6.07	69	68
	Medicine Hat	N	6.46	6.22	68	70
2	Brooks	N	5.50	6.11	67	67
	Gleichen	N	6.98	7.49	63	65
	Vauxhall	N	5.93	5.90	67	66
	Raymond	..	9.31(2)	6.97	..	66
	Lethbridge	N	7.36	7.81	68	66
	Trochu	N	7.35	7.57	..	64
	Queenstown	N	8.87	7.17	65	65
3	Calgary	.02	7.04	9.00	62	63
	Cardston	N	6.19(2)	8.93	65	63
	Pincher Creek	N	10.15	8.44	64	63
	Fort MacLeod	N	9.30	8.84	66	67

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)

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				1974 — Normale
inches — pouces				degrees — degrés F.

ALBERTA — Concluded — fin

3	High River	..	8.88(2)	9.51	..	61
	Olds	N	8.35	6.67	61	62
4	Alliance	.17	8.02(2)	6.87	63	64
	Coronation	.20	7.65	6.70	64	63
	Hughenden	.32	8.17	6.91	65	64
	Lloydminster	.26	1.68	6.88	62	64
	Sedgewick	.21	7.91(2)	..	61	..
	Stettler	..	7.86(2)	7.89	..	63
	Vegreville	.09	8.59	7.44	60	63
	Ranfurly	.42	9.63	7.78	61	62
	Vermilion	.40	9.13	6.95	61	62
5	Edmonton	.17	10.01	9.21	60	63
	Lacombe	.18	8.39	9.51	60	62
	Red Deer	.11	9.39	10.87	61	62
	Rocky Mountain House	.09	9.52	10.56	61	60
	Wetaskiwin	.48	14.26	9.08	60	62
6	Campsie	..	11.10(2)	9.38	..	61
	Edson	.10	11.57	10.14	57	59
	Elk Point	.75	10.67	7.74	60	60
	Whitecourt	.25	11.19	9.55	58	59
7	Beaverlodge	N	5.67	7.01	57	60
	Chipewyan	.28	7.81	4.92	62	61
	Ft. Vermilion	..	.41(2)	5.77	..	62
	Grande Prairie	N	5.42	6.99	58	60
	High Prairie	.09	7.82	7.90	56	61
	Peace River	.06	5.55	5.78	57	60
	Rycroft	..	6.30(2)	7.31	..	62

AVERAGE — ALBERTA — MOYENNE .13 8.01 7.67 62.5 63.2

(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.