

22-002
no. 11
1975
Sept. 11
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Statistics Canada Statistique Canada

For release
September 11, 1975, 3 p.m.

Price: \$5.60 for series of
20 Crop Reports

Field Crop Reporting Series - No. 17

TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT - PRAIRIE PROVINCES

This is the tenth of the 1975 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. - A period of wet, cool weather practically stopped harvesting throughout the Prairie Provinces. Considerable acreages have been swathed but not combined and as a result there are widespread reports of grain sprouting in the swath in Manitoba and Saskatchewan; in Alberta this problem is less serious. Dry weather and heat are now needed for the completion of harvest. Pastures, however, are very good although hay supplies have been adversely affected.

Manitoba. - Wet weather has delayed harvesting in Manitoba for four consecutive weeks. It is estimated that not more than 10 per cent of the grain has been harvested to date. Frost has occurred in several areas. As a result of these weather conditions crops are deteriorating with yields and grades reduced. There is considerable sprouting of grain in the swath throughout the province. The heaviest losses are reported in the western and inter-lake regions with large areas flooded in the Inter Lake District. There have also been hay losses with much of

Agriculture Division
Crops Section

5-3102-508

the second crop lost. Pastures, however, are excellent and potato digging is under way.

Saskatchewan. - Cool, cloudy and showery weather this past week has again delayed harvesting. Practically no combining and only spotty swathing progress is reported. Indications are that crop quality will be reduced by recent rains especially for the swathed crops where sprouting is widespread. A return of warm, sunny weather is essential to avoid further crop loss and to permit combining to become general. In spite of the recent deterioration of crops, yield prospects still appear to be above normal.

Alberta. - Swathing operations are proceeding well but very little combining has been accomplished as a result of recent heavy rainfalls. Heavy precipitation in the northern and Peace River regions of the province halted harvest for most of the week. Hail storms have caused moderate damage to both swathed and standing crops. The quality of Alberta's crop still appears very good although frost damage will be evident. Sprouting of swathed grains has been reported on winter wheat and fall rye in isolated locations.

RUST REPORT

In 1975 Wheat Stem Rust occurred widely on susceptible varieties and wild grasses in western Canada but commercial varieties continued to be resistant and were virtually free from the disease. Wheat Leaf Rust was widely distributed on the Prairies but infections were variable and frequently developed late in the season. Leaf Rust losses were relatively small in total. The Oat Rusts occurred commonly in Manitoba and eastern Saskatchewan but they developed too late to damage most of the oat crop. However, late fields were severely attacked by crown rust and some late fields were damaged by Stem Rust. The overall loss was not large.

MANITOBA

In the Winnipeg district farmers have completed some two-thirds of their swathing but have been able to do little combining due to the cool, wet weather. Some sprouting and deterioration are taking place in grain which has been swathed and a heavy spoilage of second-cut alfalfa is reported. Pasture growth is good. Warm, sunny weather is needed. At Altona wet weather has persistently stopped combining although some swathing has continued during dry intervals. Black-birds continue to be a nuisance on corn and sunflowers with experimental controls serving to drive the birds to unprotected fields. Potato harvesting is under way and it is expected that sugar beet harvesting will start on September 15.

At Pilot Mound 95 per cent of the crop has been swathed but only 15 per cent combined. In this district rapeseed yields are poor to average with some insect damage reported. Recent rains have halted harvesting but pastures have remained in fair condition. Farmers in the Somerset district have completed an estimated 40 per cent of their harvesting operations and warm, dry weather is required. Grades of grain have been lowered considerably by the wet weather and yields are also expected to be reduced.

In the Beausejour district there has been very little harvesting this past week due to showers, heavy dews and frost. Crops are deteriorating in the wet fields. The second hay crop is late and very little fall tillage has been possible due to the soft wet ground. At Selkirk most harvesting has been stopped by rain although a few people have harvested and are drying their grain crops. About 40 per cent of the crops have been swathed and 20 per cent combined. There has been very little damage to date from spoilage and several days of warm weather would see resumption of harvesting. The second hay crop has not yet been cut but the potential still exists to harvest this crop. Some fall work is being done on fields that were combined earlier.

At Stonewall there was a limited amount of swathing last week and some combining was carried out on Monday. Because of the wet weather, some grains are now sprouting in the swath. At least three days of dry weather are needed before field work resumes. Pastures are holding up well but there is some possibility of hay shortage in parts of the district.

Near Brandon cool, damp weather has halted combining operations although swathing was done last week. Reports of sprouting grain are frequent and in some instances farmers have turned cattle into swathed fields. Indications are that hay supplies will be low in quantity and quality.

In the Inter Lake District at Teulon an estimated 75 per cent of the crops is swathed and approximately 10 to 15 per cent of the combining has been done. Dry weather is required for three to four days before combining becomes general. It is estimated that fall tillage is 10 per cent completed. Excess moisture has delayed the second-cuts of alfalfa and native hay and haying has been at a standstill for the past three weeks. Many of the bales left stooked in the fields are showing signs of growth. All pastures are good. At Arborg wet, showery weather continued last week preventing any headway in harvesting. Precipitation varied throughout the district and the first frost occurred on the night of September 8. Conditions have worsened since last week with crops suffering one more week of weathering.

Around Minnedosa cool, wet weather has seriously delayed harvesting. A month of warm weather is required to mature the late crop and enable farmers to complete harvesting. About 40 per cent of the swathing and five per cent of the combining have been completed. However, yields are expected to be average and pastures are in excellent condition; hay quality and quantity have been adversely affected by the excessive moisture.

The unweighted average precipitation since April 1 has been 25 per cent above normal compared with 23 per cent above normal a week ago, 24 per cent above normal two weeks ago and four per cent above normal one year ago. Mean temperature for the week ending September 8, 1975 was 1.9 degrees C. below normal in contrast to 1.6 degrees above normal a week ago, compared with 0.4 degree below normal two weeks ago and 1.1 degrees below normal for the week ending September 9, 1974.

SASKATCHEWAN

Our correspondent at Indian Head reports rainfall on 14 of the past 21 days with a total of 2.17 inches. Sprouting has been quite common in fields that are swathed as well as in some fields of Durum that are standing. Only about 50 per cent of the crop has been swathed and 10 per cent combined with average to above average yields reported. A heavy growth of weeds is appearing on many summerfallow fields.

In the south-central area at Gravelbourg 85 per cent of the crops has been swathed with approximately 15 per cent combined. Although yields are expected to be above average in this district, recent cool damp weather has lowered expected grades.

At Swift Current harvesting has been delayed by the cool, showery weather. Swathing is 60 to 70 per cent completed with very little combining to date. Yields have been better than expected but are variable. Seeding of fall rye has been delayed because of grasshoppers. In the Leader area swathing is becoming general but no threshing is reported. The stand is heavy and the sample good.

At Drake in the central district all rapeseed and mustard are in the swath with wheat and barley approximately 90 per cent swathed. Continued cool, cloudy weather has delayed combining. Warm weather is required to prevent further deterioration of the grain and to permit harvesting to progress. Summerfallow fields are green with new weed growth. Pastures and livestock are in good condition. In the Saskatoon area 75 per cent of the crop has been swathed but cool, showery weather has delayed threshing with only 10 per cent completed. Two weeks of dry weather would see most of the crop harvested. Average yields are expected although there is considerable variability from field to field.

In the west-central area at Rosetown about 60 per cent of the barley and oats is harvested. About 20 per cent of the wheat is harvested with some grading three. Spring wheat is yielding above average. Barley is stained but still meets malting requirements. Two weeks of good weather would see most of the harvest completed. At Scott ideal harvesting weather this past week has speeded up operations. About 80 per cent of the rapeseed and 70 per cent of the barley are now combined. Wheat has been much slower ripening with about 50 per cent in the swath. Frost damage is more serious than appeared to be the case earlier. Barley yields are much better than average.

At Melfort in the northeast hot, dry weather is needed to allow harvesting to proceed. Some fields have been in the swath for more than three weeks and weeds and volunteer grain are growing in these fields making them difficult for the combines to pick up. Yields have been better than average from the few fields that have been combined. There has been considerable damage caused by waterfowl.

The Saskatchewan Municipal Hail Insurance Association reports the following storms: August 21 - Beechy, Lucky Lake and Maidstone; August 22 - Estevan, Readlyn, Verwood, Qu'Appelle, Indian Head, Abernethy, Neudorf, Grayson, Goodeve, Langham, Hague, Rosthern and St. Louis; August 24 - Bracken and Mankota; August 28 - Ratcliffe, Torquay, Estevan, Eastend, Piapot, Shaunavon, Simmie, Neidpath, Mortlach, Verlo, Fox Valley, Lemsford, Mantario, Marengo, Kindersley, Eston, Lacadena, Coleville, Dodsland and Macklin; August 29 - Lampman, Wordsworth, Carlyle, Parkman, Wynyard, Wadena, Fosston, Spalding and Lake Lenore.

The unweighted average precipitation since April 1 is 22 per cent above normal compared with 25 per cent above normal a week ago, 18 per cent above normal 2 weeks ago and 24 per cent above normal a year ago. Mean temperature for the week ending September 8, 1975, was 1.4 degrees C. below normal in contrast to 0.5 degree above normal a week ago, compared with 1.7 degrees below normal 2 weeks ago and 1.7 degrees below normal for the week ending September 9, 1974.

ALBERTA

At Medicine Hat in the southeastern part of the province harvesting operations are general although combining was hampered by frequent showers earlier in the week. Light sawfly damage has been noted throughout the district.

In the southwest around Lethbridge harvesting weather this past week has been good. Winter wheat and fall rye are now 90 per cent swathed and 20 per cent harvested, spring wheat and barley are 40 per cent swathed and five per cent harvested. Pastures are reported to be good and second-cut hay is average. Harvesting of fall grain is under way in the Cardston area and yields are reported good although grades may be poor. Seeding of fall grains is completed and pastures are in very good shape. Second-cut hay is of poor quality. Some grasshopper damage has been noted in seeded fall wheat. An estimated six weeks of good weather is required to complete the harvest. Winter wheat and rye harvesting is almost completed in the Claresholm area. Some spring wheat and barley are being combined and swathing of all crops is in full swing. The weather has been ideal for the last four days and winter wheat and rye are now being sown.

Our correspondent at Sedgewick in the northeast-central part of the province reports that harvesting operations are being delayed by showers. Grades of grain are expected to be variable. Some frost damage has been reported. Yields are expected to be above average.

In the Red Deer district clear, warm weather has allowed harvesting to become general. Approximately 75 per cent of the crops is swathed and 30 per cent combined. Frost damage is minimal. Very little second-cut hay was harvested and pastures remain dry. At Lacombe swathing is 75 per cent completed and 10 per cent and three per cent of rapeseed and barley respectively have been combined. The potato harvest has not yet started but the yield outlook is very good. There have been reports of frost in low areas but no general killing frost to date.

Pastures are good although the second-cut hay will be very light. Cool, showery weather delayed harvesting operations until September 4 at Eckville. Swathing is 95 per cent completed and combining started September 6 and is now general. Grain is slightly weathered but generally of good quality. Pastures are fair with very little second-cut hay due to the dry summer.

At Beaverlodge in the Peace River District swathing is 90 per cent completed and combining of cereal crops is in full swing after a ten day delay due to two inches of rain. At Vermilion the rapeseed harvest is almost completed. Feed grains are coming off with some fields of wheat being harvested as well. Yields are average or above for rapeseed and cereals with better grades than last year. Hay is in very short supply and cattlemen are concerned over the poor quality of the hay crop this year.

The Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation reports the following hail storms: August 21, (1) a storm beginning at Drayton Valley moved in a northeasterly direction to immediately west of Edmonton, (2) an evening storm beginning at Rimbey moved in a westerly direction to north of Ponoka and to New Norway inflicting heavy damage in a strip three miles wide. On August 22 a storm front travelling in a northeasterly direction left pockets of moderate damage at Rimbey, Ponoka, Tofield and Smoky Lake. On August 24 a storm beginning at Blueberry Mountain moved due east with moderate crop damage reported from Codesa and McLennan. On August 28 numerous storm fronts moving in a west to east direction left varying amounts of damage in the following paths: (1) Lamont to Vegreville and St. Paul (2) Wetaskiwin to Camrose and Daysland (3) Ponoka to Donalda and Provost (4) Delburne to Alliance and Bodo

(5) Olds to Three Hills and (6) Airdrie to Hussar and Hilda. On August 29 an afternoon storm moving in a northeasterly direction left pockets of damage from Beiseker to Three Hills and from Alliance to Wainwright and Vermilion. On September 6 an afternoon storm beginning near Grimshaw travelling in a southeasterly direction inflicted moderate crop damage reported from Grimshaw, Girouxville and Sunset House. On September 7 a storm beginning at Fort Assiniboine moved due east over Camp Creek, Pibroch and Nestow to Tawatinaw and inflicted heavy crop damage.

The unweighted average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 14 per cent above normal compared with 14 per cent above normal a week ago, 16 per cent above normal two weeks ago and 8 per cent above normal one year ago. The mean temperature for the week ending September 8 was 2.8 degrees C. below normal compared with 0.4 degree below normal a week ago, 0.8 degree below normal two weeks ago and unchanged from the week ending September 9, 1974.

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. September 8	
Province and crop district — Province et district agricole	Station	Week ending 8 a.m. September 8 1975 — Semaine se terminant 8 a.m. 1e 8 septembre 1975	Total since April 1 — Total depuis le 1er avril	Normal since April 1 — Normales depuis le 1er avril	— Température moyenne semaine se terminant 8 a.m. 1e 8 septembre	
					1975	Normal — Normale
					inches(2) — pouces(2)	
					degrees — degrés C.	
MANITOBA						
1	Boissevain	1.09	16.80	12.72	12	13
	Pierson	1.45	16.26	11.43	12	13
2	Baldur	.88	12.43	12.66	13	14
	Pilot Mound	1.03	13.64	9.89	12	13
3	Altona	.25	12.00	11.71	13	14
	Graysville	.87	13.91	11.03	13	14
	Morden	.56	11.34	12.45	13	15
	Morris	.05	12.47	11.59	13	15
	Portage la Prairie	.61	16.78	14.17	12	14
	Roland	.77	11.18(3)	12.08	9	14
4	Stonewall	1.08	12.51	12.86	13	14
5	Emerson	.18	14.30	12.24	13	14
	Steinback	.12	11.41(3)	12.32	12	14
	Winnipeg	1.03	16.93	12.42	12	14
	Starbuck	.66	11.08	12.25	9	14
6	Pinawa	1.49	18.58	7.83	11	13
	Sprague	.43	13.43	13.68	11	13
7	Viriden	.70	17.13	11.94	12	13
8	Brandon	1.36	20.86	12.66	11	13
	Cypress River	.73	16.33	12.17	12	14
9	Gladstone	.63	17.84	12.74	..	13
10	Birtle	1.18	17.53	12.52	11	13
	Rosburn	..	1.40(3)	11.62	..	13
	Russell	1.60	13.85	10.25	10	12
11	Dauphin	.94	15.20	12.25	10	13
12	Arborg	1.27	17.70	12.22	11	13
	Gimli	.80	14.33	12.75	12	13
13	Swan River	1.37	12.16	12.01	10	13
	The Pas	.80	12.82	10.57	9	12
14	Grass River	.57	17.78	12.58	11	13
MANITOBA — AVERAGE — MOYENNE		.84	15.04	11.99	11.5	13.4

SASKATCHEWAN

1A	Carlyle	.94	18.76	10.99	11	13
	Estevan	1.77	19.42	10.63	13	14
	Oxbow	.80	17.18	10.33	11	13
	Willmar	.85	15.36(3)	11.55	..	13
1B	Broadview	.60	12.82	12.00	11	12
	Moosomin	1.01	17.23	12.20	11	13
2A	Yellow Grass	1.10	13.74	10.30	11	13
	Weyburn	.59	10.91	10.50	12	13

For footnote(s) 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. September 8	
Province and crop district	Station	Week ending 8 a.m. September 8 1975	Total since April 1	Normal since April 1	— Température moyenne semaine se terminant 8 a.m. le 8 septembre	
Province et district agricole		Semaine se terminant 8 a.m. le 8 septembre 1975	Total depuis le 1 ^{er} avril	Normales depuis le 1 ^{er} avril	1975	Normal — Normale
					inches(2) — pouces(2)	degrees — degrés C.
SASKATCHEWAN — Continued — suite						
2A	Midale	.81	13.28	10.42	12	14
	Amulet	.85	11.13(3)	..	11	13
2B	Moose Jaw	.89	8.62	9.82	12	14
	Regina	.63	13.88	10.23	12	13
	Francis	..	7.37(3)	9.91	..	13
	Indian Head	.73	11.35	10.21	11	13
3AS	Ormiston	.66	8.86	10.41	12	13
	Cardross	.85	12.01	10.30	11	13
	Rock Glen	.84	13.18	10.68	12	13
3AN	Gravelbourg	..	5.46(3)	8.85	..	14
	Coderre	.67	9.44(3)	9.49	11	14
	Chaplin	.98	10.01	8.97	11	13
3BS	Shaunavon	.98	14.13(3)	8.85	11	13
	Aneroid	.25	11.58	8.65	12	13
	Instow	1.04	13.87(3)	9.13	11	13
3BN	Swift Current	1.05	11.89	9.99	12	13
	Pennant	.94	6.61	8.86	12	13
	Elrose	.78	9.58(3)	8.05	12	13
4A	Maple Creek	1.34	12.29	8.33	13	14
	Consul	.76	11.70	7.68	12	13
4B	Leader	.27	9.20(3)	7.92	13	14
5A	Cupar	.44	11.36	10.38	11	13
	Balcarres	..	7.86(3)	11.00	..	13
	Lipton	.45	10.78	9.45	11	13
	Yorkton	.53	12.99	10.81	10	13
	Bangor	.93	15.33(3)	11.38	9	13
5B	Wynyard	.33	8.73	10.39	11	12
	Kuroki	.63	11.25	10.72	10	11
	Kamsack, Cote	.60	12.17	10.18	10	13
6A	Davidson	.70	10.20(3)	9.37	11	13
	Strasbourg	.39	8.54	10.62	12	13
	Watrous	.25	8.74	9.26	11	13
	Liberty	..	6.80(3)	9.37	..	13
6B	Harris	.16	9.53	7.89	12	12
	Outlook	trace	9.02(3)	8.01	14	13
	Saskatoon	.40	10.23	8.63	12	13
	Elbow	.65	8.60	9.69	12	13
	Tugaske	.64	10.32	9.83	12	13
	Dundurn	.42	8.85	8.45	9	13
7A	Alsask	.34	10.72(3)	7.30	13	13
	Kindersley	.26	9.12	7.98	13	13
	Rosetown	.27	8.61	8.90	12	13
7B	Macklin	.13	13.05	8.96	13	12
	Denzil	.05	14.44	8.80	12	12
	Scott	N	9.33(3)	8.79	12	12
	Biggar	.13	10.14	8.95	11	13

Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces(1)

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

Province and crop district — Province et district agricole		Station	Precipitation — Précipitations			Mean temperature week ending 8 a.m. September 8 — Température moyenne semaine se terminant 8 a.m. le 8 septembre	
			Week ending 8 a.m. September 8 1975 — Semaine se terminant 8 a.m. le 8 septembre 1975	Total since April 1 — Total depuis le 1 ^{er} avril	Normal since April 1 — Normales depuis le 1 ^{er} avril	1975 — Normale	
			inches(2) — pouces(2)			degrees — degrés C.	
SASKATCHEWAN — Concluded — fin							
8A	Hudson Bay	1.16	12.99	11.04	10	12	
	Prairie River	1.14	9.97(3)	9.08	10	11	
8B	Nipawin	1.11	13.20(3)	..	10	..	
	Humboldt	.70	11.03	8.83	10	12	
9A	Melfort	.74	12.45(3)	9.86	10	12	
	North Battleford	.03	10.06	8.64	13	12	
9B	Prince Albert	.42	11.50	10.00	10	12	
	Meadow Lake	.28	17.93	12.10	12	10	
	Waseca	.12	11.42(3)	10.29	11	12	
SASKATCHEWAN — AVERAGE — MOYENNE			.64	11.77	9.68	11.4	12.8
ALBERTA							
1	Empress	.57	9.50	8.14	14	13	
	Foremost	.16	14.61	8.32	13	14	
	Hanna	.50	10.21(3)	..	12	11	
	Manyberries	.36	14.33(3)	7.44	13	14	
	Medicine Hat	.40	11.49	8.26	14	14	
2	Brooks	.15	13.82(3)	8.67	13	13	
	Gleichen	.21	9.04	9.78	12	13	
	Vauxhall	.51	14.04	7.89	12	13	
	Raymond	..	13.61(3)	9.10	..	13	
	Lethbridge	.36	13.97	9.88	13	14	
3	Trochu	.07	9.80(3)	11.20	..	12	
	Queenstown	.50	14.03(3)	10.26	13	13	
	Calgary	.10	9.75	11.92	12	12	
	Cardston	..	12.17(3)	9.34	12	12	
	Pincher Creek	N	17.22	11.84	12	12	
4	Fort MacLeod	.07	13.61	10.96	13	14	
	High River	.12	9.97	12.32	10	11	
	Olds	.29	8.58	12.85	12	11	
	Alliance	.17	14.37	9.91	10	12	
	Coronation	.35	12.18	9.63	12	12	
5	Hughenden	.34	10.76	9.88	11	12	
	Lloydminster	.37	12.11	10.01	12	12	
	Sedgewick	..	1.32(3)	12	
	Stettler	.19	13.25	10.92	12	12	
	Vegreville	.12	11.86(3)	10.40	12	12	
5	Ranfurly	.14	10.05	11.41	12	12	
	Vermilion	.11	12.36	10.71	12	11	
	Edmonton	.22	14.01	12.41	12	12	
	Lacombe	.18	11.89	12.72	11	12	



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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. September 8 — Température moyenne semaine se terminant 8 a.m. <u>le 8 septembre</u> Normal — Normale	
Province and crop district — Province et district agricole	Station	Week ending 8 a.m. September 8 1975 — Semaine se terminant 8 a.m. le 8 septembre 1975	Total since April 1 — Total depuis le 1 ^{er} avril	Normal since April 1 — Normales depuis le 1 ^{er} avril		
					inches(2) — pouces(2)	
					degrees — degrés C.	
<u>ALBERTA — Concluded — fin</u>						
5	Red Deer	.20	12.04	15.50	11	12
	Rockey Mountain House	.20	12.34	14.35	11	11
	Wetaskiwin	..	1.25(3)	12.25	..	12
6	Campsie	.16	16.10	12.78	11	11
	Edson	.22	13.47	14.07	11	10
	Elk Point	.27	12.86	10.85	11	10
	Whitecourt	.89	16.68	13.52	11	10
7	Beaverlodge	.07	7.92	9.67	11	11
	Chipewyan	.17	8.80	6.91	12	10
	Ft. Vermilion	..	3.51(3)	7.96	..	10
	Grande Prairie	.06	7.12	9.50	12	11
	High Prairie	.31	11.76	10.86	11	11
	Peace River	.87	9.44	7.82	12	11
	Rycroft	..	3.99(3)	9.82	..	11
ALBERTA — AVERAGE — MOYENNE		.27	11.98	10.54	11.9	11.9

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

(2) The Winnipeg Meteorological Office (of the Meteorological Service of Canada) is continuing to supply precipitation data in inches rather than millimeters for the remainder of the 1975 crop reporting season. The change to metric units will be made in 1976. — Le Bureau météorologique de Winnipeg (Service de la météorologie du Canada) continuera à fournir en pouces plutôt qu'en millimètres les données sur les précipitations pour le reste de la campagne agricole de 1975. Le changement au système métrique se fera en 1976.

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

.. Figures not available. — Données indisponibles.

N. Nil. — Néant.