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TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT - PRAIRIE PROVINCES

This is the second 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. - In spite of delays caused by showers last week farmers in most parts of Saskatchewan and Manitoba have made good progress with seeding operations. In Alberta, cool, wet weather has delayed work and as a result, except in the northern districts, seeding progress is later than normal. Throughout the Prairies wild oats are proving to be a problem as a result of weather conditions. Warm, sunny weather is now needed.

Manitoba. - Seeding in Manitoba is 50 per cent completed with progress more advanced in the eastern half of the province. Last week there were frequent showers and moisture conditions are excellent. Early cereals have emerged evenly and wild oats and other weed growth is heavy. Farmers have started spraying. Fall rye is well advanced while forage crop growth is excellent and grazing is good.

Agriculture Division
Crops Section

5-3102-508

Saskatchewan. - Seeding operations are well advanced throughout the province. Rains last week temporarily halted operations in some areas. Warm, sunny weather is now needed to complete seeding. With excellent moisture conditions, seeding of stubble land is expected to increase. Weeds, especially wild oats, have been difficult to control in the cool weather. Hay and pastures are in good condition but need some warm weather.

Alberta. - Seeding progress is later than normal in most of Alberta due to cool, wet weather. As of May 23 only about 30 per cent of the crops have been planted. Central and southern areas are furthest delayed and three weeks warm, dry weather is needed to see completion of seeding. Provincially, about 35 per cent of wheat and rapeseed, 20 per cent of the barley and oats, and 15 per cent of the flaxseed has been planted. Northern areas of the province are well advanced and should be completed soon. It appears wild oats will be a real problem this year. Pastures are fair to poor and have benefited from the moisture but cold weather has prevented much growth and with the large cattle population the fields will likely be overgrazed this year.

RUST REPORT

It is too early to predict the course of rust development in Western Canada in 1975. The rust potential from the varietal standpoint has not changed much in recent years. Unless there are sudden threatening changes in races, wheat varieties should not be affected by stem rust but they are moderately susceptible to leaf rust. Oat varieties are susceptible or moderately susceptible to both stem rust and crown rust. Early reports indicate moderate rust development in the southern United States but the situation could change greatly in the next few weeks.

MANITOBA

Seeding is now 70 per cent completed and well ahead of last year in the Altona district. Some farmers in the area have finished seeding while others are still struggling with the wild oat problem. Moisture supplies are sufficient and early-seeded crops are growing well with pasture and hay growth good.

At Pilot Mound up to three inches of rain has slowed seeding operations. However, some 35 per cent of the crop is in the ground. Weed growth is good and pastures have improved with the recent rains. At Somerset field work was negligible during the past week due to the rain but excellent drying conditions have made it possible for some farmers to start work again since the weekend. Between one-quarter and one-third of the seeding has been done. Wild oats are growing quickly and pasture growth is also rapid. At Melita in the southwest corner of the province it is estimated that 25 per cent of the crop has been sown. Wild oats are heavy in early-seeded fields. Summerfallow is still too wet to work and 10 per cent of the cultivated land is flooded. Surface and sub-soil moisture are adequate on all fields. The hay outlook is good and pastures are described as fairly good.

At Beausejour soil moisture conditions are good and weeds are growing well. Tillage is under way for weed control. In the northwest part of the district 40 per cent of the seeding has been completed with work having been delayed by showers and farmers postponing activities to await weed growth. Throughout the district an estimated 70 per cent of the seeding has been done. Pasture growth is good but additional moisture is required. At Selkirk soil moisture conditions are excellent with seeding operations continuing in all areas. About 70 per cent of the crop has been seeded and early-sown fields are germinating well. District farmers have started spraying with post-emergence chemicals for wild oat control.

Wild oats are the main concern of farmers as weather conditions have resulted in excellent germination. Pasture and hayland growth is good and all cattle herds have been turned out. About 65 per cent of the seeding has been completed at Stonewall and about 10 per cent of the crop has emerged. It is anticipated that, except for some flax and oats, seeding will be completed by the end of the week. Hay growth is good as is pasture development although there is slow recovery reported due to heavy grazing last fall. Most cattle are now on pasture. So far there have been no reports of grasshoppers or flea beetles.

Reports from Brandon indicate that some 60 per cent of the cereal and special crops have now been seeded. Wild oat emergence is late and pasture growth is average with good moisture supplies. Flea beetles are active on rapeseed.

In the Inter-Lake District at Teulon some 30 per cent of the grains have been seeded. Heavy infestations of wild oats are reported in early-sown crops. Timothy fields for seed production, fall rye, pastures and hay are all doing well with three-quarters to one inch of rain over the past 10 days.

In the West Central parts of the province at Neepawa 30 per cent of the crop has been seeded with frequent showers having delayed progress. Weed growth is heavy. At Shoal Lake cold, damp weather has halted seeding operations. Progress to date is extremely variable with some farms being 25 per cent seeded and others almost finished; it is estimated that about 75 per cent of the land in the district has been seeded. Wild oat infestation is heavy where chemicals were not used. Forage crops are doing well. At Dauphin in the northwest 50 per cent of the seeding has been completed with excellent germination. A good kill on heavy wild oat growth is reported. It is expected that with good weather most of the seeding will be completed by the week-end. Moisture supplies are satisfactory and recent rains and warm weather have improved hay and pasture lands. At Swan River an estimated 25 per cent of the seeding is completed and it is expected that farmers will finish sowing wheat this week. Wild oats are germinating very well. Warmer, sunny weather is required for spring operations now. Forages are progressing well.

The unweighted average precipitation for the province since April 1 was 63 per cent above normal compared with 50 per cent above normal a week ago, 69 per cent above normal two weeks ago and 145 per cent above normal a year ago. Mean temperature for the week ending May 26 was 1.1 degrees C. below normal in contrast to 1.7 degrees above normal a week ago, 1.6 degrees above normal two weeks ago and compared with 3.9 degrees below normal for the week ending May 27, 1974.

SASKATCHEWAN

Seeding progressed favourably in the Fillmore district last week. Fields remain extremely wet and as a result are difficult to work. As well, large areas are flooded south of Fillmore and may not be seeded this year. There has been considerable spraying for wild oats but control has been hampered by the cool weather. Approximately 70 per cent of the wheat is now seeded and warm weather is urgently needed for good germination. Pasture and haylands are in very good condition. At Indian Head good progress in seeding has been made with a few farmers already finished. Wild oats have been troublesome in the early-sown fields and wild oat herbicides are in short supply. Pasture and hay crops are making good growth. Moisture supplies are plentiful but warmer weather is required for rapid growth.

Seeding is general and about 70 per cent complete at Gravelbourg. However, showers have delayed seeding in certain areas. Heavy infestations of wild oats and buckwheat will occur if the cool weather continues. Warmer weather is required and some farmers have started summerfallow operations.

In the southwest of the province at Swift Current 80 per cent of the seeding has been completed. Moisture conditions are excellent but warm weather is needed for growth. Wild oat infestations have been severe in some areas and, as a result, chemical and cultural controls have been used extensively. There has been no winterkilling evident in forage crops with growth being well above average. Intermittent rain has halted seeding at Leader with seeding being less than half completed.

At Melville warm, dry weather is urgently needed to finish seeding operations. Some fields are being seeded by air due to wet conditions. Approximately 40 per cent of the crop has been seeded. Early-seeded fields are just starting to emerge and hay and pasture crops are making good growth. A few rapeseed fields that were seeded by air last fall have become infested with winter annual weeds and are being worked down for reseeded.

Seeding is 60 per cent completed with early-sown grain already emerging at Drake. Weed control has been difficult because of continued cool, cloudy, showery weather. Wild oats have been a problem necessitating considerable chemical spraying for a pre-emergent kill. Cattle have been put out to pasture and grass growth has been slow.

Our reporter from Saskatoon indicates that several rains totalling over 2.5 inches since the last report have further delayed seeding. Only about 50 per cent of the crop has been planted. Seeding has resumed and a week of good weather would see most of the crop planted. A few fields are starting to emerge.

Seeding is approximately 85 per cent completed in the Rosetown area. Acreages seeded to all wheat are expected to increase and since moisture conditions are excellent, an increase in the seeding of stubble land is also anticipated. Warmer weather is needed to promote growth. Hay and pastures have shown favourable development. Seeding is almost completed at Scott. Total rainfall since last report of 0.91 inch has produced ideal moisture conditions. However, the temperature has been very low with daytime highs below 16 degrees C. and overnight lows of around 0 degree. Pastures and forages are in very good condition. Weed growth has been heavy.

The unweighted average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 80 per cent above normal compared with 86 per cent above normal a week ago, 111 per cent above normal two weeks ago and 96 per cent above normal a year ago. Mean temperature for the week ending May 26, 1975 was 4.5 degrees C. below normal in contrast to 0.9 degree above normal a week ago, 0.8 degree above normal two weeks ago and compared with 4.5 degrees below normal for the week ending May 27, 1974.

ALBERTA

In the southwest part of Alberta at Claresholm, the past two weeks have been cool and wet with very little seeding being done. However, if the weather holds, by this weekend most of the seeding will be completed. Moisture conditions are much improved but grass is slow and wild oats are just showing up. Winter wheat and rye look excellent. At Cardston field work is progressing very slowly due to the

abnormal wet spring. Two per cent of the seeding has been completed to date. No weed growth is evident as yet. Pastures and hayland are slow and fall wheat is approximately three weeks late. There is no insect damage to report. In the Lethbridge area, intermittent rains have delayed preseeding tillage and seeding although seeding did become general by May 23. Five per cent of the wheat, one per cent of the other cereals and oilseeds and 30 per cent of the sugar beet crop has been seeded. Winter wheat, fall rye and pastures look excellent.

Our correspondent at Brooks in the south-central district reports that rain and snow during the past four weeks have prevented most farmers from doing any field work. Only five per cent of the seeding has been completed to date mainly on the lighter soils primarily as a result of approximately five and one-half inches of precipitation during the period May 1 to May 26. Pastures are in good condition but warm weather is required. If warm, dry conditions prevail for the next few days seeding should be general by June 2. The Vulcan district received 4.45 inches of rain since May 1 resulting in only 20 per cent, eight per cent, and five per cent of wheat, oats, and rapeseed respectively being seeded. No flaxseed has been seeded as yet. Sunny, warm weather is needed and seeding should be completed within 10 days providing weather conditions remain favourable.

At Sedgewick in the north-central part of the province three-tenths of an inch of rainfall was received over the weekend. Sixty-five per cent of the spring wheat, 10 per cent of the oats and barley and 25 per cent of the rapeseed acreage has been seeded to date. Soil and moisture conditions are good although warm weather is needed. At Vermilion cool temperatures are still very prevalent and as a result pasture growth is very slow. Seeding was halted due to weekend rain although most of the wheat crop is in. Barley and rapeseed seeding is very general. By this weekend seeding will be nearly completed. Moisture conditions are excellent although unseasonably cool weather is causing concern because there is practically no growth.

Field work is about one week later than normal due to showery, cool weather in the Lacombe district. Seeding is 30 to 40 per cent completed and moisture conditions are reported to be good. Hay and pasture growth is slow. At Eckville cool, showery weather during the past two weeks has hampered seeding operations. Forage supplies are nearly depleted with hay and pasture growth reported very slow. Seeding is 35 per cent completed. An increase in wild oats spray is being used compared to last year and fertilizer usage is similar to last year.

In the Peace River district at Fairview weather continues to be favourable for spring seeding to progress. Wheat and flaxseed seeding is now complete with 55 per cent of the barley and rapeseed and 40 per cent of the oats now in the ground. There are some early-seeded crops of wheat and barley in the two-leaf stage three to four inches tall. Some variation in seeding progress is evident in that some farmers are delaying seeding for weed control while others are not. Pasture growth is slow because of cool weather during most of the period.

The unweighted average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 62 per cent above normal compared with 60 per cent above normal a week ago, 89 per cent above normal two weeks ago and 51 per cent above normal one year ago. The mean temperature for the week ending May 26 was 4.0 degrees C. below normal in contrast to 0.7 degree 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 May 27, 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. May 26 — Température moyenne semaine se terminant 8 a.m. le 26 mai	
Province and crop district — Province et district agricole	Station	Week ending 8 a.m. May 26, 1975	Total since April 1	Normal since April 1	1975	Normal
		Semaine se terminant 8 a.m. le 26 mai, 1975	Total depuis le 1er avril	Normales depuis le 1er avril	Normale	
		inches — pouces			degrees — degrés C.	
<u>MANITOBA</u>						
1	Boissevain	1.13	6.81	2.77	10	13
	Pierson	.75	5.77	2.64	10	13
2	Baldur	1.21	5.24	2.83	11	13
	Pilot Mound	1.53	5.10	2.77	11	13
3	Altona	.45	4.21	2.66	14	14
	Deerwood	..	..	2.84	..	14
	Graysville	.92	4.91	2.50	14	13
	Morden	.32	3.35	3.00	13	14
	Morris	.25	3.47	2.40	16	14
	Portage la Prairie	1.89	5.10	3.09	12	14
	Roland	.61	3.68	2.68	13	14
4	Stonewall	.45	3.01	2.69	13	13
5	Emerson	.39	4.61	2.74	15	13
	Steinbach	.50	2.72	2.63	15	13
	Winnipeg	.54	3.27	2.77	14	13
	Starbuck	.70	1.63(2)	2.67	14	14
6	Pinawa	1.20	3.52	1.71	14	12
	Great Falls	..	..	2.07	..	13
	Sprague	.51	3.04	3.02	16	13
7	Virden	.49	5.10	2.15	10	13
8	Brandon	1.32	5.94	2.61	10	13
	Cypress River	1.20	4.93	2.46	11	13
9	Gladstone	..	2.47(2)	2.62	..	13
10	Birtle	.92	4.26	2.27	9	12
	Rosburn	..	1.40(2)	2.14	..	12
	Russell	1.14	4.43	1.81	9	12
11	Dauphin	.75	3.32	2.55	10	13
12	Arborg	.99	2.69	2.51	12	13
	Gimli	1.01	2.65	2.56	12	13
13	Swan River	.58	2.79	2.13	9	13
	The Pas	2.08	4.02	2.31	8	12
14	Grass River	1.05	3.56	2.59	11	13
MANITOBA — AVERAGE — MOYENNE		.89	4.13	2.54	12.0	13.1

SASKATCHEWAN

1A	Carlyle	.10	4.86	2.05	8	13
	Estevan	.47	6.03	2.26	10	14
	Oxbow	.73	6.48	1.98	5	13
	Willmar	..	6.51(2)	2.18	11	13
1B	Broadview	.21	4.43	2.04	8	12
	Moosomin	1.12	4.52	2.13	9	13

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Province and crop district	Station	Precipitation — Précipitations			Mean temperature week ending 8 a.m. May 26	
		Week ending 8 a.m. May 26, 1975	Total since April 1	Normal since April 1	Température moyenne semaine se terminant 8 a.m. le 26 mai	Normal
Province et district agricole		Semaine se terminant 8 a.m. le 26 mai, 1975	Total depuis le 1er avril	Normales depuis le 1er avril	1975	Normale
					inches — pouces	degrees — degrés C.
SASKATCHEWAN — Continued — suite						
2A	Yellow Grass	.15	3.58	2.08	10	13
	Weyburn	.13	4.79	2.10	9	13
	Midale	.05	3.94	2.07	10	14
	Amulet	.14	4.26	..	9	13
2B	Moose Jaw	.03	2.43	2.20	9	14
	Regina	trace	2.66	2.07	9	13
	Francis	..	4.12(2)	1.85	..	12
	Indian Head	.05	3.89(2)	2.02	9	13
3AS	Ormiston	.19	1.52(2)	2.28	9	13
	Cardross	.16	3.51	2.26	9	13
	Rock Glen	.21	2.98	2.25	7	13
3AN	Gravelbourg	.22	2.12(2)	1.92	7	13
	Coderre	.20	2.04(2)	2.17	8	13
	Chaplin	.40	2.79	1.84	9	14
3BS	Shaunavon	.11	6.00	2.00	7	13
	Aneroid	.07	3.22	2.14	8	13
	Instow	.39	5.61	1.92	8	13
3BN	Swift Current	.35	3.45	2.24	7	13
	Pennant	.35	3.39	2.08	9	13
	Elrose	.22	4.92(2)	1.85	9	13
4A	Maple Creek	1.16	5.83	2.08	8	14
	Consul	.05	3.50	1.67	7	13
4B	Leader	1.17	4.32	1.83	8	14
5A	Cupar	..	2.92(2)	2.08	11	13
	Balcarres	trace	2.70(2)	2.15	..	13
	Lipton	.04	3.88	1.90	8	13
	Yorkton	.18	3.42	2.10	7	13
5B	Bangor	.19	4.10(2)	2.24	8	13
	Wynyard	.03	3.31	2.30	8	12
	Foam Lake	..	..	2.39	..	12
	Kuroki	..	4.09(2)	2.32	..	12
6A	Kamsack, Cote	.01	3.31	1.85	8	13
	Davidson	.34	2.57	2.29	8	13
	Strasbourg	.05	1.89	2.18	9	13
	Watrous	.57	2.84(2)	1.95	9	12
6B	Liberty	N.	2.17	2.29	10	13
	Harris	.70	3.08	1.87	8	13
	Outlook	.35	1.88(2)	1.54	9	13
	Saskatoon	2.33	4.12	2.02	9	13
7A	Elbow	.16	1.56	2.05	9	13
	Tugaske	.69	2.92	2.16	8	13
	Dundurn	.40	1.89	1.77	8	12
	Alsask	1.69	5.42	2.08	8	14
	Kindersley	1.62	4.02	1.43	9	13
	Rosetown	.48	2.45	1.87	9	13

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Province and crop district — Province et district agricole	Station	Week ending 8 a.m. May 26, 1975	Total since April 1	Normal since April 1	1975 — Normale	
					inches — pouces	degrees — degrés C.
SASKATCHEWAN — Concluded — fin						
7B	Macklin	.44	3.84	1.70	10	13
	Denzil	.79	4.02	1.85	8	13
	Scott	.65	2.27	2.03	8	12
	Biggar	1.93	4.08	1.87	8	13
8A	Hudson Bay	1.36	4.46	2.26	7	12
	Prairie River	.76	2.19	2.52	7	12
	Nipawin	1.76	4.10	..	8	..
8B	Humboldt	.96	3.69	1.82	7	12
	Melfort	.67	3.73	2.03	7	13
9A	North Battleford	1.13	2.72	1.91	9	13
	Victoire	..	..	2.13	..	12
	Prince Albert	1.24	3.56	2.42	8	12
9B	Meadow Lake	1.83	4.11	2.00	10	11
	Waseca	..	1.94(2)	2.10	..	12
SASKATCHEWAN — AVERAGE — MOYENNE		.55	3.70	2.05	8.4	12.9
ALBERTA						
1	Empress	1.18	4.34	1.75	9	12
	Foremost	1.28	7.43	2.15	7	13
	Hanna	1.09	4.81	..	9	12
	Manyberries	.55	5.79	2.07	7	13
	Medicine Hat	1.37	5.34	2.27	9	14
2	Brooks	2.54	6.98	2.15	9	13
	Gleichen	.88	5.38	2.56	8	13
	Vauxhall	1.97	7.33	1.98	8	13
	Raymond	.96	6.31(2)	3.11	8	14
	Lethbridge	.50	5.68	3.04	8	13
	Trochu	.05	4.13	2.64	..	12
	Queenstown	1.41	6.52(2)	2.01	7	13
3	Calgary	.41	3.00	3.03	8	11
	Cardston	N.	3.45(2)	3.29	8	12
	Pincher Creek	.75	5.81	3.81	7	11
	Fort MacLeod	.65	5.11	3.18	8	13
	High River	.38	2.85	3.51	7	12
	Olds	.46	3.59	2.84	7	11
4	Alliance	.41	4.63	1.81	9	12
	Coronation	.84	5.36	1.83	9	12
	Hughenden	.78	3.43	1.97	8	12
	Lloydminster	.26	2.69	1.80	9	12
	Sedgewick	..	1.32(2)	12
	Stettler	.29	4.25	2.02	9	12



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Province and crop district — Province et district agricole	Station	Week ending 8 a.m. May 26, 1975 — Semaine se terminant 8 a.m. le 26 mai, 1975	Total since April 1 — Total depuis le 1 ^{er} avril	Normal since April 1 — Normales depuis le 1 ^{er} avril	1975	Normal — Normale
					inches — pouces	
ALBERTA — Concluded — fin					degrees — degrés C.	
4	Vegreville	.53	2.10	1.83	9	12
	Ranfurly	.55	2.51	2.20	9	12
	Vermilion	.52	2.39(2)	1.77	9	12
5	Edmonton	.54	3.20	2.58	9	13
	Lacombe	.30	3.37	2.97	8	12
	Red Deer	.68	4.27	3.53	8	12
	Rocky Mountain House	.84	3.86	3.26	8	11
	Wetaskiwin	..	1.25(2)	2.77	..	12
6	Campsie	..	1.73(2)	2.44	..	11
	Edson	.43	2.17	2.70	6	11
	Elk Point	.36	3.09	1.97	8	11
	Whitecourt	.32	1.69	2.70	8	11
7	Beaverlodge	.44	1.69	2.13	7	12
	Chipewyan	1.15	1.96	1.32	9	11
	Ft. Vermilion	..	.81(2)	1.64	..	12
	Grande Prairie	.36	1.56	1.94	8	12
	High Prairie	.42	1.13	2.16	8	12
	Peace River	.21	1.17	1.52	9	12
	Rycroft	..	.27(2)	1.91	..	12
ALBERTA — AVERAGE — MOYENNE		.70	3.87	2.39	8.1	12.1

(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.