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TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT - PRAIRIE PROVINCES

This is the fourth 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. - Seeding is nearing completion throughout the Prairies. Germination and growth of early-seeded crops have been good. Moisture supplies are good to excellent, although warmer weather is needed. Wild oat growth is heavy and spraying is in progress although some areas, particularly in Manitoba, are too wet for control. There is a large population of flea beetles in rapeseed and control measures are being undertaken. Hay and pasture growth is above average.

Manitoba. - Seeding is now 90 to 100 per cent completed throughout the province. Moisture supplies are good and prospects for all crops are excellent. Early-sown cereals are in the shotblade stage and fall rye is headed. Wild oats are a serious problem. Flea beetles are active and spraying is general. Grasshoppers are just hatching and some weevil damage is reported in sweet clover. Forage growth is excellent and prospects are for a good hay crop. Warm weather is now needed to promote crop growth.

Agriculture Division
Crops Section

5-3102-508

Saskatchewan. - Seeding is nearing completion in all areas of the province. Moisture conditions remain excellent but the weather has been cooler than normal. Wild oats have been quite heavy and spraying with post-emergent chemicals has been necessary. Flea beetle damage has been extensive but the grasshopper hatch is still expected to peak. Some fields are being reseeded due to infestations of wild oats or flea beetles. Hay and pastures are in excellent condition.

Alberta. - Seeding operations in Alberta advanced rapidly during the past week as a result of favourable spring weather. A summary of the Alberta agriculture crop correspondents indicates that provincially 95 per cent of the wheat, 79 per cent of the oats, 83 per cent of the barley, and 86 per cent of both rapeseed and flaxseed have been seeded. The majority of farmers, including those in southern Alberta, should conclude their seeding prior to June 15. Soil moisture conditions remain good to excellent and good germination of seeded crops is occurring. The cool, late spring did not allow a good weed kill prior to seeding and in a few locales weeds, especially wild oats, are predominant.

ENTOMOLOGY REPORT

The hatching of grasshopper eggs progressed slowly during the past week because of the cool weather. Recent rains will enhance crop growth and delay hopper activity. The population of flea beetles is large and control measures are under way to protect seedling rapeseed. The sunflower beetle population remains low and damage to sunflowers is light.

MANITOBA

In the southeast part of the province at Vita moisture conditions are adequate with considerable rainfall this past week. However, heat is required for better development of all crops. Post-emergence spraying is progressing well. There is very little acreage remaining to be seeded in this district. At Altona recent showers have replenished surface moisture which will help germinate the late-sown crops. Sub-soil moisture is fairly good. Insect problems are not causing major concern although flea beetles, grasshoppers and sunflower beetles are present. Ungerminated seed from the previous year is one of the major weed problems.

Rain over the weekend at Pilot Mound has delayed final seeding operations. Flea beetles are reported in many rapeseed fields and some spraying for control has been carried out. Wild oats are a problem and some post-emergence spraying has been done. Hay crops are progressing favourably. In the Somerset area seeding is approximately 90 per cent completed although work was delayed due to heavy rain this past weekend. Germination is even and early-seeded crops are making good progress. Wild oats are heavy and post-emergent chemicals are being applied. There are reports of flea beetles on rapeseed and some acreages have been sprayed. At Melita 85 per cent of the crop is now seeded but the remainder requires drier weather. Rainfall from one and one-half to three inches was reported this past week. Pastures are in good condition as is the outlook for the hay crop.

At Beausejour about five per cent of the crop remains to be seeded and if the showers continue, this acreage could be left unseeded. Moisture conditions are very good. Weed growth is heavy and cultivation and spraying for control are under way. Pasture growth is improving with the continuing showers. Almost 100 per cent of the seeding has been completed in the Selkirk district. Rain the past few days has been very beneficial. Spraying for broad-leaf weeds has now started and spraying of wild oats is also under way. Pasture growth is excellent.

In the Stonewall area approximately 95 per cent of the seeding is completed and crops are emerging well. There is adequate moisture in this area but warmer weather is needed. Flea beetles are creating problems in rapeseed and home gardens. Tame hay is good to excellent while wild hay is fairly good. Native pastures grazed late last fall have been slow to recover. Cattle are in good condition. Seeding is now 95 per cent completed at Portage La Prairie although some fields in the Portage Plains are not finished due to the heavy rains two weeks ago. Growth has been slow due to the cool wet weather. Some flaxseed, rapeseed and sugar beet fields were reseeded because of crusting. Pre-plant chemicals have given poor wild oat control. Fall rye is well headed. Pastures are in good condition and hay fields are excellent.

Our correspondent at Brandon reports cereals have emerged uniformly. Rains continue to create a problem for control of wild oats because fields are too wet to spray with herbicides at the critical stage of the weed growth. Flea beetles are active on rapeseed but plant growth is rapid and there should be no problem. The same applies to weevil damage in sweet clover. Tent caterpillars appear to be a localized problem. Pastures and hay crops are progressing very well.

In the Interlake area at Teulon seeding of cereal grains is 95 per cent completed. Spraying for wild oat control is general. Flea beetles are reported on the rapeseed crop. Crops are looking good with an adequate moisture supply. Fertilized pastures and hay fields are good while others are only fair. At Arborg seeding is generally completed and crop prospects are excellent. Some farmers are hindered by the unavailability of post-emergent weed sprays. Early-seeded crops are up to eight inches high and fall rye is heading. Pastures are good in this area.

At Neepawa in the west-central area seeding is not finished and warm weather is needed to promote growth. There has been some spraying for forest tent caterpillars. There are reports of flea beetles in rapeseed fields. Hay and pasture growth is very good. At Minnedosa the crop is 90 per cent seeded. Weed growth is heavy and difficult to control due to frequent rains. Germination of all crops has been good. There are numerous reports of flea beetles in rapeseed. Pasture growth is fair to good and prospects for the hay crop are excellent. In the Shoal Lake area seeding is virtually completed, however, some farmers have a small acreage remaining to be planted. Recent rains will enhance germination of annual crops and will promote good forage growth. There are several reports of flea beetle damage to rapeseed.

At Dauphin in the northwest seeding is almost completed but recent rains have delayed all field operations, especially carbyne spraying of the heavy wild oat growth. A heavy population of flea beetles is reported in the rapeseed. There has been excellent growth of hay and pasture but warm, dry weather is needed for other crops. In the Swan River area wet weather this past week has curtailed seeding and field work. Seeding is estimated to be approximately 80 per cent completed and will continue through until June 15. Fall rye is commencing to head. Some flea beetles have been reported in rapeseed and vegetable gardens.

The unweighted average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 31 per cent above normal compared with 35 per cent above normal a week ago, 63 per cent above normal two weeks ago and 86 per cent above normal a year ago. The mean temperature for the week ending June 9, 1975, was 2.7 degrees C. below normal compared with 2.5 degrees below normal a week ago, 1.1 degrees below normal two weeks ago and 0.6 degree below normal for the week ending June 10, 1974.

SASKATCHEWAN

At Indian Head crops are progressing slowly although moisture conditions are good. All crops would improve rapidly with warmer weather. Many of the fields are heavily weed infested and the first summerfallow operations have not been completed. Forage crops continue to show favourable growth and hay should be plentiful this year.

Seeding is 98 per cent completed at Shaunavon. Durum acreage has increased and seeding of stubble land has been above average. Moisture conditions are excellent. Weed growth has been slow and a heavy grasshopper hatch has been reported. Livestock are in good condition.

Crops are growing rapidly and are looking very good at Swift Current. Grasshoppers are beginning to hatch in large numbers on the lighter land. Grass growth has been exceptional and hay prospects remain very good.

In the east-central region at Melville seeding has been completed but warm, sunny weather is needed to help improve growth of cereal crops. Moisture supplies are adequate. Hay and pastures are growing rapidly.

At Drake seeding is nearing completion as only the low lying land remains to be planted. It appears that the seeded acreage of cereals has increased but oilseed acreage has decreased. Summerfallow operations are under way. Flea beetles have been reported in rapeseed but grasshoppers have not hatched so far. The area received three-quarters of an inch of rain last week but warmer weather is needed to promote growth. Wild oats and wild millet are a problem in early-sown fields. Cattle are doing well.

Our correspondent from Saskatoon reports that all seeding except for occasional fields being reseeded due to infestations of wild oats or flea beetles has been completed. Most of the crop is up and growing well. Moisture supplies are adequate and the first summerfallow tillage is in progress. Entomologists report that the grasshopper hatch is being delayed due to below normal temperatures. Serious infestations have not developed as the peak hatch is still expected to come. Flea beetle damage has been widespread and considerable spraying has been required.

At Rosetown seeding is now completed with about 70 per cent of the crop above the ground. The weather has been cool and approximately 2.2 inches of rain has fallen since April 1. Most farmers are working their summerfallow for the first time. Wild oats are a problem and some farmers are spraying with post-emergent wild oat chemical. Warmer weather is required to promote crop growth. Haylands are in good condition but pastures could use some rain. At Scott the first summerfallowing is now completed. Weed and crop growth are nearing the spraying stage. Wild oat growth has been very heavy and some spraying has been done to control flea beetles in rapeseed. Moisture conditions are still very good with the area receiving 0.37 inch of rain this past week but cool weather is still persisting. Pastures and hay fields are in good condition.

Seeding is virtually completed in the Melfort area. Early-sown crops are competing with a heavy infestation of weeds. Many fields that were treated with soil applied chemicals for wild oat control in the fall or early spring are being re-treated with a post-emergent herbicide. Hay and pasture crops are excellent.

The unweighted average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 50 per cent above normal compared with 59 per cent above normal a week ago, 80 per cent above normal two weeks ago and 62 per cent above normal a year ago. The mean temperature for the week ending June 9, 1975 was 1.0 degree C. below normal compared with 2.7 degrees below normal a week ago, 4.5 degrees below normal two weeks ago and 1.6 degrees below normal for the week ending June 10, 1974.

ALBERTA

In the southeast part of Alberta at Medicine Hat dryland seeding is virtually completed, with the exception of the Cypress Hills area. Seeding in the irrigation areas is well under way and should be completed within the week. New grass growth is excellent.

Our correspondent at Lethbridge in the southwest district reports that seeding of all crops is nearing completion. Moisture conditions are excellent and early-sown crops are up and growing well. Fall rye is heading and sugar beet thinning has started. Weed spraying and summerfallowing is under way. Grasshoppers are hatching and some spraying is reported. Pastures are in excellent shape. At Cardston seeding is 90 per cent completed with germination of early-sown crops reported to be good. Spraying for weeds is now under way. Hay and pasture land are showing very good growth and livestock are in good condition. The Claresholm district reports seeding of crops completed. Winter wheat is in the shotblade and fall rye is heading out. Moisture is good and three inches of hail fell to the south and west of here over the past weekend. Some crop insurance claims are being filed. There are reports of grasshopper hatching as well as wild oats showing up in early-sown crops. Spraying will be general in ten days' time. Grass and hay crops are in good condition.

Seeding is nearing completion and good moisture reserves are reported at Brooks in the south-central part of the province. Alfalfa and hay crops are growing well with a good first cutting expected. Pastures are in very good condition. At Vulcan seeding was completed the first week of June. Seeded crops are just coming through the ground and sunny, warm weather is needed to bring these crops along. Rye is just starting to head. Pastures are reported to be in good condition.

Nine-tenths of an inch of rain has been received in the Sedgewick area since the last report. Only the odd field of oats is left to seed in this area. However, weather continues cool and crop growth is slow. Pasture is good and it looks promising for a good year.

In the west-central district at Red Deer warm, spring weather has allowed growth of pasture, hay and field crops to progress rapidly. Seeding is essentially completed with perhaps some green feed still to go in. One or two infestations of red turnip beetles has been reported but nothing major. Soil moisture is still fairly good but some rain would be welcome in the western areas. At Lacombe cereal and rapeseed crops are emerging well with early cereals at the three to four leaf stage. Wild oats and annual weeds are very prevalent with some early spraying being done. Hay and pastures are late. At Eckville seeding was completed June 8. Weed spraying will start June 14. Rain will be needed soon to maintain ideal growing conditions. Pastures are fair.

The Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation reports the following storms: on June 6, the first storm caused light damage at Del Bonita; a subsequent evening storm inflicted moderate damage to fall rye and winter wheat in a two mile strip from Woodhouse to Picture Butte. Inclement weather on June 7 caused light damage in the vicinity of Morrin.

The unweighted average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 31 per cent above normal compared with 52 per cent above normal a week ago, 62 per cent above normal two weeks ago and 36 per cent above normal one year ago. The mean temperature for the week ending June 9 was 0.1 degree C. below normal compared with 1.2 degrees below normal a week ago, 4.0 degrees below normal two weeks ago and 1.6 degrees below normal for the week ending June 10, 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. June 9 — Température moyenne semaine se terminant 8 a.m. le 9 juin	
Province and crop district — Province et district agricole	Station	Week ending 8 a.m. June 9, 1975 — Semaine se terminant 8 a.m. le 9 juin, 1975	Total since April 1 — Total depuis le 1er avril	Normal since April 1 — Normales depuis le 1er avril	1975	Normal
			inches — pouces		degrees — degrés C.	Normale
MANITOBA						
1	Boissevain	.82	7.43	4.22	13	14
	Pierson	1.34	7.19	3.91	13	16
2	Baldur	1.56	6.66	4.09	13	16
	Pilot Mound	.88	6.07	4.05	13	16
3	Altona	.58	3.94	3.85	14	17
	Graysville	.42	5.42	3.63	13	16
	Morden	.51	3.96	4.21	14	17
	Morris	.37	3.91	3.87	14	17
	Portage la Prairie	.44	5.59	4.78	14	16
	Roland	..	3.77(2)	3.95	..	17
4	Stonewall	.53	3.66	4.08	12	16
5	Emerson	.34	5.00	3.85	14	16
	Steinbach	trace	2.72	3.85	13	16
	Winnipeg	.52	4.18	4.01	11	16
	Starbuck	.24	2.00	3.80	14	16
6	Pinawa	.61	4.60	2.39	12	14
	Sprague	.94	4.31	4.11	12	15
7	Virden	1.61	6.74	3.58	13	15
8	Brandon	1.74	7.68	4.01	12	16
	Cypress River	.95	5.95	3.82	12	16
9	Gladstone	.72	4.62(2)	3.97	..	15
10	Birtle	1.73	6.02	3.69	11	14
	Rosburn	..	1.40(2)	3.31	..	14
	Russell	1.66	6.13	2.96	12	14
11	Dauphin	.60	4.00	4.01	12	15
12	Arborg	..	3.02(2)	3.79	..	15
	Gimli	.60	3.51	3.91	12	15
13	Swan River	1.37	4.58	3.29	12	14
	The Pas	.66	4.36	3.30	11	14
14	Grass River	.73	4.51	4.09	12	15
AVERAGE — MANITOBA — MOYENNE		.83	5.00	3.81	12.7	15.4
SASKATCHEWAN						
1A	Carlyle	2.90	8.72	3.18	13	14
	Estevan	2.49	9.15	3.60	14	16
	Oxbow	2.86	9.37	3.13	13	14
	Willmar	..	7.33(2)	3.56	..	14
1B	Broadview	.61	5.07	3.66	12	13
	Moosomin	1.92	6.44	3.56	12	14
2A	Yellow Grass	..	4.58(2)	3.22	..	14
	Weyburn	.66	5.49	3.19	15	15
	Midale	1.21	5.20	3.10	12	16
	Amulet	.32	4.60	..	15	14

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

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					inches — pouces	degrees — degrés C.
SASKATCHEWAN - Continued - suite						
2B	Moose Jaw	.44	2.91	3.45	14	16
	Regina	.41	3.10	3.28	14	15
	Francis	..	4.12(2)	2.84	..	14
3AS	Indian Head	.48	4.54	3.26	12	14
	Ormiston	.11	1.68	3.39	15	14
	Cardross	.14	3.71	3.44	14	14
3AN	Rock Glen	.49	3.63	3.43	14	14
	Gravelbourg	.72	2.84(2)	2.85	15	15
	Coderre	.83	3.39	3.13	14	14
3BS	Chaplin	.71	3.69	2.72	14	15
	Shaunavon	.07	6.36	3.07	14	14
	Aneroid	.41	4.01	2.99	16	15
3BN	Instow	.24	6.67	2.91	14	14
	Swift Current	.44	4.35	3.40	13	14
	Pemant	..	3.58(2)	2.96	..	15
4A	Elrose	.41	5.61	2.64	13	14
	Maple Creek	.16	6.03	2.96	14	16
	Consul	.05	3.82	2.52	14	14
4B	Leader	..	4.35(2)	2.56	..	16
5A	Cupar	.86	3.82	3.11	13	14
	Balcarres	..	2.80(2)	3.34	..	14
	Lipton	.40	4.41	2.88	12	14
5B	Yorkton	1.86	5.59	3.19	12	14
	Bangor	1.73	6.13	3.52	12	14
	Wynvard	.47	3.91	3.45	12	14
6A	Koroiki	1.01	5.39	3.51	12	13
	Kamsack, Cote	1.71	5.46	2.99	12	14
	Davidson	.65	3.45	3.16	13	14
6B	Strasbourg	.64	2.53	3.46	14	14
	Watrous	.97	4.01	2.82	13	14
	Liberty	.53	2.03	3.16	14	14
7A	Harris	.53	3.71	2.61	13	14
	Outlook	.58	2.98	2.49	14	15
	Saskatoon	.80	4.97	2.85	13	15
7B	Elbow	.60	2.45	3.16	14	14
	Tugaske	.54	3.53	3.24	14	14
	Dundurn	.39	2.28	2.51	18	14
7A	Alsask	.73	6.76	2.87	13	15
	Kindersley	.51	4.36	2.21	14	14
	Rosetown	.54	2.99	2.74	14	14
7B	Macklin	1.09	6.23	2.57	14	14
	Denzil	.63	4.67	2.68	13	14
	Scott	.64	3.39	2.96	12	14
	Biggar	.47	4.74	2.83	13	15

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SASKATCHEWAN — Concluded — fin						
8A	Hudson Bay	.89	5.52	3.35	11	14
	Prairie River	1.39	3.70	3.55	10	13
	Nipawin	.54	5.22	..	10	..
8B	Humboldt	.79	4.52	2.83	12	14
	Melfort	.38	4.39	3.08	13	14
9A	North Battleford	1.06	3.81	2.73	13	14
	Prince Albert	1.08	4.73	3.30	11	14
9B	Meadow Lake	.90	5.06	3.01	13	12
	Waseca	.39	3.14 (2)	2.93	12	13
AVERAGE — SASKATCHEWAN — MOYENNE		.80	4.62	3.07	13.2	14.2
ALBERTA						
1	Empress	.27	4.88	2.72	16	15
	Foremost	.38	7.94	1.26	14	14
	Hanna	1.48	6.38	..	14	13
2	Manyberries	.22	6.14	2.85	14	15
	Medicine Hat	.09	5.61	3.31	15	16
	Brooks	.25	7.28	3.12	15	15
	Gleichen	.16	5.66	3.49	13	14
	Vauxhall	..	7.61 (2)	2.90	..	14
3	Raymond	.62	7.92	3.96	14	15
	Lethbridge	.28	5.97	4.29	15	14
	Trochu	.22	4.83	3.42	..	13
	Queenstown	.11	6.93 (2)	3.30	12	14
	Calgary	.24	3.28	4.42	13	12
4	Cardston	trace	3.82	4.80	14	13
	Pincher Creek	.80	6.66	5.38	13	12
	Fort MacLeod	.32	5.60	4.70	14	14
	High River	.38	3.27	4.41	13	12
	Olds	.22	3.94	4.17	13	12
4	Alliance	.55	5.21	2.53	13	13
	Coronation	.70	6.11	2.59	14	13
	Hughenden	1.06	5.04	2.66	18	14
	Lloydminster	.52	4.13	2.76	13	14
	Sedgewick	..	1.32 (2)	14
	Stettler	.54	4.97	3.24	12	14
	Vegreville	.94	3.03	2.90	13	13
	Ranfurly	.82	3.43	3.11	13	13
Vermilion	.55	3.83	2.63	13	13	

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



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					inches — pouces	degrees — degrés C.
ALBERTA — Concluded — fin						
5	Edmonton	.64	3.85	3.81	13	14
	Lacombe	.56	4.03	4.23	12	13
	Red Deer	.64	5.03	5.19	12	13
	Rocky Mountain House	.37	4.50	4.67	12	12
	Wetaskiwin	..	1.25(2)	3.77	11	13
6	Campsie	.58	2.44	3.51	13	13
	Edson	1.03	3.39	4.05	10	12
	Elk Point	.52	3.76	2.88	13	13
	Whitecourt	1.03	2.80	3.79	13	12
7	Beaverlodge	.16	1.85	3.06	10	12
	Chipewyan	.48	2.57	1.97	13	13
	Ft. Vermilion	..	1.16(2)	2.39	..	13
	Grande Prairie	.21	1.77	3.01	12	13
	High Prairie	.83	2.05	3.16	12	13
	Peace River	.29	1.47	2.25	11	13
	Rycroft	..	2.78(2)	2.85	..	13
AVERAGE — ALBERTA — MOYENNE		.50	4.44	3.40	13.2	13.3

(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.