CATALOGUE 22-002

Statistics Canada
Statistique Canada

For Release
July 10, 1975, 3 p.m.

Price: $5.60 for series of 20 Crop Reports

Field Crop Reporting Series – No. 10

TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT – PRAIRIE PROVINCES

This is the sixth 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.

Special note. – Due to some changes in survey scheduling within the Agriculture Division of Statistics Canada it is possible to publish only summary reports in the Telegraphic Crop Reporting Series for the month of July. It is anticipated that regular service will be resumed in August.

SUMMARY

Prairie Provinces. – Recent growing conditions have been very favourable throughout most of the Prairies. Hot weather has caused good plant growth. Moisture supplies are sufficient in most places and indeed some instances of flooding have occurred. However, there are some districts including the Peace River area where more rain in the immediate future would help maintain optimum growth. Crop stands are heavy with cereal either headed or in the flag leaf stage. Oilseeds are in bloom. In summary, the outlook at this time is promising. Insect and disease damage to date has been quite limited. Haying is general with good yields being obtained in most districts.

Agriculture Division
Crops Section

5-3102-508

RUST REPORT

Wheat leaf rust was first observed in western Canada in plots of susceptible varieties south of Winnipeg on June 27 when isolated infection centres with secondary infections were found. A few primary and secondary infections were observed on most of the lower leaves of the susceptible variety, Marquis, at Morden, Manitoba on July 4. Neepawa and Manitou had about the same number of infections but they were of a more resistant type. Rust was much scarcer in wheat fields west of Morden and northwest of Winnipeg, at least as far as Yorkton, Saskatchewan. Leaf rust appears to be widespread in western Canada but infections are light. There is ample time for severe infections to develop if the weather is favourable. The other cereal rusts have not been found yet.

MANITOBA

Cereal and feed grain crops are in good condition with most fields either headed or in the shotblade. Rapeseed is in bloom and flax is commencing to bloom. Moisture supplies are generally adequate. However some small areas in western parts of the province are in need of rain while relatively small areas in eastern districts along the Red River Valley and in the south west corner around Melita, have experienced flooding. Weed spraying operations are generally completed and there are no reports of serious insect damage. In the area around Selkirk, however, wild millet is becoming a major problem. Haying operations are well under way throughout the province and both good yields and quality of this crop are reported. In the Winnipeg area some farmers are harvesting a record hay crop with yields running as high as three tons per acre. Pasture conditions remain good throughout most of the province. Sugar beet thinning is nearing completion. Sunflowers are in good condition. The only hail storm reported was in the area around Swan River where damage was light.

SASKATCHEWAN

Recent warm weather has brought along all crops in Saskatchewan very well and conditions are described as good to excellent. Early-sown cereals are heading in most parts of the province and late-sown grain is in the shotblade stage. Stands are heavy. At Saskatoon and Melfort rapeseed is in flower. Haying is under way in most districts and good yields are reported. In the southeast, at Indian Head, although there is sufficient moisture for the present, more rain will be needed soon to prevent crop deterioration. Similarly, in the northeast, reports indicate that frequent rains will be needed to bring the crop to maturity. In the west-central part of the province, there have been heavy rains since the last report and, as a result, pastures are exceptionally green for this time of year. Insect and disease damage is generally quite limited although spraying for grasshoppers is under way in several districts. There have been numerous hail storms but in most cases damage was estimated to be light.

ALBERTA

Crop prospects throughout Alberta remain very favourable as a result of June rains followed by recent warm, sunny weather. Many areas received greater than two inches of precipitation since June 15 replenishing soil moisture reserves. Many early-seeded crops are heading out or in the flag leaf stage. Rapeseed fields are blooming. Cereal crops are between six and thirteen inches in height and are growing rapidly. Spraying is advancing reasonably well with farmers in many areas

completing operations. There are few reports of pest damage. Grasshopper infestations have been light as yet but recent hot weather may increase the hatch. The incidence of hail is up this year as several storms caused severe damage to crops in the areas hit. Although the amount of crop damage is a small portion of the provincial total, acreage losses to farmers involved were substantial.

Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces(1)

	Per cent deviation from normal(2)			°C. deviation from normal(2)		
	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.
	Precipitation			Temperature(3)		
April 1, 1975 — July 7, 1975 ...	+ 27	+ 27	+ 30	+ 2.5	+ 3.6	+ 3.7
April 1, 1975 — June 30, 1975 ..	+ 34	+ 34	+ 36	+ 3.5	+ 0.8	— 2.1
April 1, 1974 — July 8, 1974 ...	+ 15	+ 8	+ 17	+ 1.6	— 0.5	— 2.8

(1) Source: Atmospheric Environment Service.
(2) Positive sign indicates above normal and negative sign indicates below normal.
(3) Temperature data is not cumulative from April 1. These figures relate to °C. deviation from normal for the weeks ending July 7, 1975; June 30, 1975; and July 8, 1974, respectively.