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## Field Crop Reporting Series - No. 5

### TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT - PRAIRIE PROVINCES

This is the second of the 1976 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. - Strong winds are depleting surface moisture supplies and causing some soil drifting throughout the Prairie Provinces. Conditions, particularly in Alberta and Saskatchewan are dry and rain is needed almost everywhere. Seeding is under way with good progress reported. Early-sown crops are emerging. Hay and pastures as well as weed growth are slow due to dry weather.

Manitoba. - Seeding is general, with some areas reporting up to 90 per cent, while most areas range from 30 to 60 per cent completed. Parts of the Interlake and southwest regions are still too wet to cultivate. Sub-soil moisture is good but topsoil is drying and rain is needed. Weed and pasture growth is improving with the warm weather. Some early-seeded cereals are emerging and planting of special crops is well advanced.

Agriculture Division  
Crops Section

5-3102-508

Saskatchewan. - Seeding is almost completed throughout most areas of the province with early-sown fields emerging. Moisture conditions are generally sufficient for germination although rain is desired in most areas. Strong winds throughout most of the province have caused some soil drifting and depleted surface moisture. Pasture and haylands are generally dry.

Alberta. - With the exception of the extreme southwest corner, conditions throughout Alberta are dry. Strong winds with drifting soil are reported and rain is needed. Seeding is progressing well in practically all parts of the province with early-seeded crops having emerged. Pastures and haylands on the other hand are developing slowly due to the lack of moisture. In irrigated areas some irrigation has started.

#### GRASSHOPPERS

Light, spotty hatching of grasshopper eggs has taken place along road sides in the Red River Valley during the past several days. This is approximately two weeks earlier compared with 1975. The hatch is furthest advanced in the area south of Lowe Farm and Kane. With continued warm dry weather emerging crops will be subject to marginal damage unless prompt control measures are taken. Large populations of flea beetles have now emerged. Reduced rapeseed acreage and dry weather may combine to cause the flea beetle problem to be more severe in southern Manitoba than last year.

The progress of the grasshopper hatch has been examined at several locations in Saskatchewan by Saskatoon entomologists. On May 10, hatching had begun in the Swift Current area where high grasshopper infestation levels exist. In the Outlook area of central Saskatchewan, young grasshoppers were observed on May 17. The grasshopper hatch is much earlier than normal. This indicates that damage could be severe, particularly in areas where moisture is below normal and last fall's grasshopper survey showed a high potential.

Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces(1)

	Unweighted Average Precipitation		
	Per cent variation from normal(2)		
	Man.	Sask.	Alta.
April 1, 1976 - May 3, 1976 .....	- 13	- 28	- 38
April 1, 1976 - May 10, 1976 .....	- 32	- 44	- 39
April 1, 1976 - May 17, 1976 .....	- 35	- 40	- 31
April 1, 1975 - May 19, 1975 .....	+ 50	+ 86	+ 60

  

	Mean Temperature		
	°C. variation from normal(2)		
	Man.	Sask.	Alta.
For the week ending May 3, 1976 .....	- 3.3	- 1.5	+ 0.4
For the week ending May 10, 1976 .....	- 2.0	- 0.1	+ 1.7
For the week ending May 17, 1976 .....	+ 0.2	+ 1.6	+ 1.1
For the week ending May 19, 1975 .....	+ 1.7	+ 0.9	+ 0.7

(1) Source: Atmospheric Environment Service.

(2) Positive sign indicates above normal and negative sign indicates below normal.

MANITOBA

In the Morden area 50 to 60 per cent of the crop is seeded with a major shift to wheat apparent. Soil moisture conditions range from fair to dry. Weed growth is good and there is a need for wild oat control. Pastures are slow and generally dry.

At Melita in the southwest of the province 45 per cent of the crop is seeded. Soil moisture is adequate but rain is required in some areas. Some land in the Souris valley is still flooded and probably will not be seeded again this year. Chemicals are being applied to wheat and barley for wild oat and wild millet control. Pastures and hayland are improving.

At Beausejour in the area east of Winnipeg seeding ranges from 30 to 50 per cent completed. Soil moisture conditions are good but will require more rain. Weed growth is showing good activity and control measures are being taken. Pasture growth is variable but feed supplies are good.

Good seeding progress has been made in the Brandon area. Some planting has been delayed waiting for wild oat emergence which is now taking place. Forage growth is only average.



Reports from Teulon in the southern Interlake Region indicate approximately 15 per cent of the crop seeded. Moisture conditions are good and weed control is under way. Pasture growth is adequate. At Arborg, in the northern Interlake, good drying weather last week resulted in increased activity of land preparation. Only a small percentage of farmers have any seed in the ground but continued good weather would permit seeding later this week.

In the west-central area at Neepawa seeding is 25 per cent completed. Weed growth is satisfactory but rain is needed for pasture growth and early-seeded crops. Sub-soil moisture is good and early-seeded crops have germinated and are above the ground. In the Minnedosa area wheat is 50 to 60 per cent seeded while oats and barley are 10 to 20 per cent. Sub-soil moisture is good but dry, windy weather has dried the topsoil. Weed and pasture growth is slow. Seeding operations are progressing favourably at Shoal Lake with some farmers 75 per cent completed although others are just starting. Sub-soil moisture is good but rain is needed for surface soil and to promote pasture growth. In the Russell district soil and moisture conditions are good for seeding which is well under way on the lighter soil but still delayed on the heavier land. Weed growth is good and wild oats are at the one and two leaf stage. Pasture and legume crops have started but a warm rain is required to promote growth. Livestock feed supplies are low.

At Dauphin in the northwest seeding is 30 per cent completed with good germination of the early-seeded crops reported. Some farmers are waiting for wild oats to develop. Pasture and hay growth is fair and a good general rain is needed. In the Swan River district seeding is approximately 30 per cent completed with about 60 per cent of the wheat seeded. Wild oats are prevalent and pre-emergent chemicals have been slow in becoming activated. Fall rye is growing well. Most cattle are now on pasture and a general rain would be beneficial.

#### SASKATCHEWAN

In the Indian Head area about 50 per cent of the seeding operations have been completed. Weeds are showing a good growth. Several farms have delayed seeding to obtain a better weed kill with pre-seeding cultivation. A half inch of rain occurred on May 12 and as a result the surface soil moisture is ideal for germination. Pasture and hay crops are showing good growth.

In south central Saskatchewan, Gravelbourg reports that 98 per cent of all crops are seeded. Continuing strong winds have caused drifting in some areas. Rain is required to give even growth especially in areas of later seeding. Sub-soil moisture is, however, good. Pastures are dry.

In the Shaunavon area seeding is 99 per cent completed. There is some crop germination. Livestock is in good condition. Pastures and forage crops need rain. However crop land has sufficient moisture for germination. There are a few grasshoppers hatching; several areas may require treatment.

In the Swift Current area all fields are green. Germination has been good. Summerfallow has been worked for the first time.

At Melville, in the east central region, seeding is 50 per cent completed. The topsoil could use rain, otherwise moisture is good. Forage crops are coming well.

At Drake, in the central area, seeding is progressing rapidly and is two-thirds completed. Continuous strong winds have caused some soil drifting and depleted surface moisture. Winds have also hindered spraying for wild oats. Germination is good. Early-sown cereal crops are emerging. Rain is required soon. Pasture and hay growth is slow. In the Saskatoon area, seeding is almost completed and over half of the crop has emerged. The crop is in two weeks earlier than last year. Rain is required soon, particularly for stubble which has barely enough moisture for germination. Strong winds on May 17 caused severe soil erosion in some seeded fields.

At Rosetown, in the west-central area, seeding is now 95 per cent completed. Very high winds this past week have reduced spraying for wild oats. There is a fair per cent of stubble being seeded this spring. Pastures and hayland need moisture now as there has only been 0.10 inch of rain since May 1. Some summerfallow has been worked for the first time.

In the northeast, at Melfort, dry, windy weather has persisted and fields have dried up. About 70 per cent of the crop is seeded and the earlier seeded grain is now up. Soil moisture is sufficient for germination but rain is needed, especially for hay and pasture fields. Wild oats are becoming a problem on many fields.

#### ALBERTA

Farmers at Lethbridge are delaying finishing seeding of cereal crops in order to achieve wild oat control. High winds have occurred and an estimated one thousand acres of sugar beets have had to be re-seeded because of soil drifting; otherwise all of this crop has been sown. Potato planting is also completed as is rapeseed seeding. Irrigation has been started and control measures for flea beetles on rapeseed and sugar beets have commenced. Grasshoppers are hatching. Reports from Cardston indicate good moisture conditions with seeding having been slowed down due to rain and snow. However, about 35 per cent of the crop is in the ground. Pastures and hayland are in good condition and livestock is also doing well. Approximately ten days of warm, dry weather are required to complete seeding. So far there has been no damage reported due to insects. In the Claresholm district seeding of all crops is in full swing. Winds of up to 60 miles per hour are reported and soil drifting has taken place. Pastures are in good condition after the recent rain which also benefited the winter wheat and rye. These crops have now been sprayed for weeds and appear promising. More rain would be welcome however and the overall conditions in the district are described as fair to good.

Warm, dry winds have dried out the land at Brooks in south-central Alberta. Most crops have been seeded and a general rain is needed. Some irrigation is now being done and will become general in a week to ten days.

In the northeast-central district, farmers at Sedgewick have completed about 75 per cent of their seeding operations. Rainfall is needed for good germination. High winds are moving soil and sapping the moisture. At Vermilion one half of the seeding has been completed. Wheat acreage has been increased to compensate for smaller areas sown to oilseeds. Moisture is needed very badly with winds moving the topsoil to quite an extent. Acreage which was treated with pre-emergent chemicals are especially bad.

Red Deer district farmers have seeded 90 per cent of the wheat crop, an estimated 20 per cent of which is now up and in good condition. One-half of the barley

and 40 per cent of the rapeseed have also been sown. Surface moisture supplies are very poor and reserve moisture is only fair. Generally conditions are very dry with some soil drifting taking place. It is estimated that 90 per cent of all crops will be seeded within two weeks. At Lacombe there has been no further precipitation since last week so that seeding has proceeded rapidly with 60 to 70 per cent of the crop in the ground. On some individual farms seeding has been completed and some early wheat has emerged. Strong winds are depleting surface moisture and causing some erosion. Hay and pasture have made good growth but need rain. At Eckville seeding is progressing rapidly with all the wheat and oats now in the ground and 70 per cent of the barley crop also seeded. Early-seeded crops are three inches high. Pasture and hay growth is slow however due to a lack of moisture. High winds continue to drain moisture supplies and rain is needed.

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. May 17 — Température moyenne semaine se terminant 8 a.m. le 17 mai — Normal — Normale	
		Week ending 8 a.m. May 17 — Semaine se terminant 8 a.m. le 17 mai 1976	Total since April 1 — Total depuis le 1er avril	Normal since April 1 — Normales depuis le 1er avril	1976	degrees — degrés C.
			mm			
<u>MANITOBA</u>						
1	Boissevain	3.6	54.6	64.1	13	12
	Pierson	2.5	52.4	60.2	14	12
2	Baldur	4.8	29.4	86.8	13	12
	Pilot Mound	3.5	47.6	72.6	13	12
3	Altona	3.3	54.8	60.0	13	13
	Deerwood	..	45.5(2)	77.3	..	13
	Graysville	9.4	48.5	66.9	12	12
	Morden	1.8	37.7	69.5	13	13
	Morris	4.8	47.5	64.9	12	13
	Plum Coulee	3.3	56.4	77.6	13	13
	Portage la Prairie	9.4	44.5	73.7	12	13
	Roland	7.1	71.1	62.0	11	13
4	Stonewall	8.4	48.0	71.1	12	12
5	Emerson	15.5	54.3	64.3	13	12
	Steinbach	3.8	29.2	72.4	12	12
	Winnipeg	9.4	41.0	65.9	12	12
	Starbuck	8.4	49.5	81.1	11	13
6	Pinawa	13.7	54.4	64.7	11	11
	Sprague	18.0	49.3	70.2	11	11
7	Virden	N	39.1	52.8	14	12
8	Brandon	3.6	30.3	55.4	12	12
	Cypress River	5.6	38.1	61.7	12	12
9	Gladstone	2.5	54.3	69.6	..	12
10	Birtle	1.3	27.0	54.4	12	11
	Rosburn	2.0	32.7	61.1	12	12
	Russell	2.3	23.8	43.2	12	11
11	Dauphin	6.1	32.3	59.7	12	12
12	Arborg	5.8	48.3	60.1	11	11
	Gimli	6.6	47.3	61.5	11	11
13	Swan River	3.8	20.9	55.2	13	12
	The Pas	8.8	26.1	44.7	11	10
14	Grass River	3.0	40.3	54.8	12	12
AVERAGE — MANITOBA — MOYENNE		6.1	42.0	64.4	12.2	12.0

SASKATCHEWAN

1A	Carlyle	1.5	31.4	50.8	12	12
	Estevan	4.3	58.9	53.7	14	13
	Oxbow	..	28.2(2)	45.6	..	12
	Willmar	3.6	32.8(2)	49.9	..	12
1B	Broadview	7.1	34.3	47.6	13	11
	Moosomin	0.3	20.9	54.8	12	12



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		Week ending 8 a.m. May 17 1976 — Semaine se terminant 8 a.m. le 17 mai 1976	Total since April 1 — Total depuis le 1 <sup>er</sup> avril	Normal since April 1 — Normales depuis le 1 <sup>er</sup> avril	1976 — Normale	degrees — degrés C.
			mm			
SASKATCHEWAN — Continued — suite						
2A	Yellow Grass	10.4	42.5	48.9	14	12
	Weyburn	8.4	41.9	53.9	13	12
	Midale	5.1	40.5	49.6	13	12
	Amulet	12.4	38.4	72.1	14	12
2B	Moose Jaw	8.1	35.9	46.3	15	13
	Regina	12.7	30.8	45.0	14	12
	Francis	..	25.2(2)	43.8	..	11
	Indian Head	15.2	38.3	48.4	13	12
3AS	Ormiston	7.9	34.6	46.0	13	13
	Cardross	7.6	39.6	51.1	14	12
	Rock Glen	3.8	22.0	74.7	14	12
3AN	Gravelbourg	2.0	9.1(2)	45.8	15	12
	Coderre	0.5	9.4	41.9	13	12
	Chaplin	2.3	15.5	38.1	14	13
3BS	Shaunavon	4.8	10.9	40.4	14	12
	Aneroid	2.3	13.5	44.2	17	12
	Instow	5.1	18.1	43.8	13	12
3BN	Swift Current	2.3	13.3	44.6	13	12
	Pennant	..	..	42.9	..	12
	Elrose	6.1	7.1(2)	36.7	14	12
4A	Maple Creek	3.0	12.4	43.6	14	13
	Consul	1.3	5.6	35.2	13	12
4B	Leader	3.6	12.2	36.9	14	13
5A	Cupar	15.2	50.8(2)	47.8	13	12
	Balcarres	14.5	28.0(2)	38.3	..	12
	Lipton	15.0	35.8	47.2	13	12
	Yorkton	8.6	21.1	44.2	13	12
	Bangor	..	2.33(2)	47.1	..	12
5B	Wynyard	15.8	37.3	43.8	13	11
	Foam Lake	12.4	39.8(2)	43.8	13	11
	Kuroki	11.9	38.9	47.3	13	11
	Kamsack, Cote	7.6	15.3	39.4	12	12
6A	Davidson	2.8	34.3	44.2	13	12
	Strasbourg	13.2	31.8	48.5	15	12
	Watrous	8.4	44.0	48.9	14	11
	Penzance	11.7	30.5	44.7	14	12
6B	Harris	3.0	24.9(2)	38.4	14	12
	Outlook	0.8	18.3	35.9	14	13
	Saskatoon	2.1	26.5	38.5	14	12
	Elbow	2.5	26.7	42.8	14	12
	Tugaske	1.5	21.1	46.5	14	12
	Dundurn	2.5	25.6	39.0	15	12
7A	Alsask	2.8	14.7(2)	21.7	13	13
	Kindersley	8.6	25.6	33.1	15	12
	Rosetown	0.5	13.5	40.4	13	12



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			mm		degrees	— degrés C.
<u>SASKATCHEWAN — Concluded — fin</u>						
7B	Macklin	6.3	29.4	35.3	13	12
	Denzil	9.4	32.5	41.5	12	12
	Scott	9.9	18.1	40.1	13	12
	Biggar	3.1	26.6	40.3	14	12
8A	Hudson Bay	11.0	27.3	46.3	12	11
	Prairie River	11.7	31.0(2)	46.6	11	11
	Nipawin	16.8	28.0	46.4	13	11
8B	Humboldt	10.2	23.8	36.3	14	11
	Melfort	12.5	26.7	41.1	14	12
9A	North Battleford	5.5	17.3	37.5	14	12
	Prince Albert	10.4	16.5	42.2	13	11
9B	Meadow Lake	13.0	26.9	38.8	14	10
	Waseca	9.7	19.6	44.4	13	11
AVERAGE — SASKATCHEWAN — MOYENNE		7.2	26.7	44.3	13.5	11.9
<u>ALBERTA</u>						
1	Empress	trace	4.6	23.1	14	11
	Foremost	6.3	56.1	46.7	14	12
	Hanna	3.8	21.8(2)	35.3	13	11
	Manyberries	5.6	34.4	48.1	13	12
2	Medicine Hat	1.8	29.0	44.6	15	13
	Brooks	8.2	36.2	41.8	14	12
	Gleichen	6.9	32.8	52.4	13	12
	Vauxhall	10.7	33.0(2)	42.4	14	12
	Raymond	..	15.5(2)	65.6	..	13
	Lethbridge	19.8	56.1	61.9	14	12
	Trochu	5.8	6.3(2)	47.4	..	12
	Queenstown	..	21.5(2)	56.9	..	12
3	Calgary	6.6	24.8	55.3	13	11
	Cardston	22.3	77.9	72.1	13	11
	Pincher Creek	23.6	65.4	86.6	11	10
	Fort MacLeod	29.0	67.2	63.7	13	12
	Claresholm	32.5	71.9	66.9	12	12
	High River	24.4	68.1	72.2	10	10
	Olds	4.3	14.0	52.1	11	11
	Alliance	6.6	21.6	35.7	12	12
4	Coronation	7.6	36.5	37.4	13	11
	Hughenden	6.3	45.2	35.5	12	12
	Lloydminster	22.9	41.0	38.9	13	12
	Sedgewick	..	..	40.6	..	12
	Stettler	6.1	8.2	39.2	13	12



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Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces(1)

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			mm			

ALBERTA — Concluded — fin

4	Vegreville	7.3	17.1	35.3	12	11
	Ranfurly	12.2	20.8(2)	40.2	12	12
	Vermilion	11.0	33.6	36.8	13	11
5	Edmonton	10.7	22.4	40.5	12	12
	Lacombe	6.6	21.4	51.7	12	11
	Red Deer	7.1	20.1	48.6	12	11
	Rocky Mountain House	10.7	21.4	64.5	12	10
	Gwynne	7.1	22.9	48.5	12	11
6	Campsie	..	29.1	43.4	..	11
	Edson	10.6	34.9	58.8	10	10
	Elk Point	9.7	16.8	38.5	12	11
	Whitecourt	2.0	26.6	54.2	12	10
7	Beaverlodge	5.3	13.2	43.9	11	11
	Chipewyan	7.2	18.9	27.4	12	10
	Ft. Vermilion	5.8	24.6	33.6	14	11
	Grande Prairie	4.6	23.1	41.4	11	11
	High Prairie	2.0	16.5(2)	41.0	12	11
	Peace River	4.4	11.0	30.6	12	11
	Rycroft	7.4	21.4	41.8	11	11
AVERAGE — ALBERTA — MOYENNE		9.8	32.5	47.3	12.4	11.3

(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.

N. Nil. — Néant.