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TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT - PRAIRIE PROVINCES

This is the second of the 1977 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. - Further precipitation since the last report one week ago has continued to improve conditions in the Prairies. The unweighted average precipitation for both Saskatchewan and Alberta since April 1 is now considerably above normal. However, the very low carryover of moisture supplies in the soil at the beginning of the season has not yet been compensated for. Accordingly, although moisture conditions are much improved from what they were and the immediate outlook is favourable, crops are dependent upon continued, timely precipitation during the growing season.

Seeding is progressing in spite of delays in some districts due to rain and snow. The percentage seeded varies from near completion in Saskatchewan to less than 50 per cent in Alberta. Early-seeded crops are emerging. Pastures and hay are recovering.

Agriculture Division
Crops Section

4-3102-508

Manitoba. - Scattered showers have further improved moisture supplies. Seeding is well advanced with from 50 to 80 per cent completed in most regions. Early crops are emerging well and pasture and hay growth is much improved, although more rain is needed. Farmers are now planting flaxseed and rapeseed. The main weed problems are wild oats and green foxtail and flea beetles are active.

Saskatchewan. - Seeding is nearly completed throughout most areas of the province with early-sown fields emerging. Moisture conditions are generally sufficient for good germination. Pastures and haylands are rated from poor to fair. Wild oat growth has become a significant problem.

Alberta. - Rainfall greatly improved crop prospects throughout the province, although moisture is still low in the southwestern sections. Snow and rain temporarily halted seeding operations for several days; however, nearly 55 per cent of the wheat, 25 per cent of the oats, 26 per cent of the barley, 15 per cent of the rapeseed and 50 per cent of the flaxseed have been seeded. The recent moisture improved the condition of the fall-seeded crops which had suffered from the dry weather. Low livestock water supplies are still a concern to many livestock producers.

INSECT PESTS

Grasshoppers. - Light spotty hatching of grasshopper eggs has taken place along roadsides in the Red River Valley during the past week. This is approximately a week earlier compared with 1976. Some desiccation of eggs has occurred. Recent rains have improved vegetation growth along roadsides and should delay movement of hoppers into adjacent emerging crops.

Crucifer Flea Beetles. - Over wintering population of the crucifer flea beetle has been out for the last three weeks and numbers at present appear to be of the same magnitude as in 1976. Rapeseed crops generally have not yet emerged.

Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces(1)

	Unweighted Average Precipitation		
	Per cent variation from normal(2)		
	Man.	Sask.	Alta.
April 1, 1977 - May 16, 1977	- 9	+ 34	+ 53
April 1, 1977 - May 9, 1977	- 14	+ 12	- 16
April 1, 1977 - May 2, 1977	- 85	- 70	- 65
April 1, 1976 - May 17, 1976	- 35	- 40	- 31

	Mean Temperature		
	°C variation from normal(2)		
	Man.	Sask.	Alta.
For the week ending May 16, 1977	+ 9.7	+ 6.4	+ 0.9
For the week ending May 9, 1977	+ 2.4	+ 2.3	+ 1.4
For the week ending May 2, 1977	+ 3.7	+ 3.8	+ 3.3
For the week ending May 17, 1976	+ 0.2	+ 1.6	+ 1.1

(1) Source: Atmospheric Environment Service.

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

MANITOBA

In the Altona district scattered showers are reported and there is now estimated to be enough moisture for seeding. Over 70 per cent of the crop is now in the ground with grain seeded after the first rain showing better stands than the earlier seeded crop. Farmers are spraying for wild oats. At Melita most cereals have been seeded and crops are now coming up. Most of the corn acreage has also been planted and farmers are now sowing oilseeds. Weed control from Treflan and Avadex is adequate. Fall rye is developing well. The recent 50 mm rainfall has been very favourable for hay and pasture crops and alfalfa stands are now ten inches high, although native pastures are still short but growing. Most cattle are still getting supplementary feed. No insect damage on field crops is reported but some forest tent caterpillars have been noted.

Reports from Selkirk indicate considerably improved moisture conditions. Weeds are now growing rapidly and post emergent herbicides will be widely used towards the end of the week. Some 55 per cent of the seeding has been completed. Hay is showing excellent growth and the pasture situation has improved.

Farmers in the Arborg district have about 70 per cent of their seeding completed. Some 30 to 70 mm of rain on May 5 followed by scattered showers has provided uniform germination and emergence. Pastures have improved with this moisture and hay crops are advancing rapidly. The outlook is generally good but continued precipitation is required to overcome the depleted supplies of sub-soil moisture.

At Neepawa scattered showers during the week brought 10 to 20 mm of moisture. Some 50 per cent of the crop has been seeded and early-seeded rapeseed is being sprayed for flea beetles. Pasture growth is slow. Reports from Minnedosa indicate that showers have improved the moisture situation. An estimated 70 per cent of the grain has been seeded with early crops germinating well; 50 per cent of the rapeseed has also been seeded. Control measures will be needed for flea beetles on rapeseed while spraying for wild oats has already begun. Pastures and hay are beginning to grow but need more rain. Shelter belt spraying has begun to control tent caterpillars.

At Shoal Lake in the west-central part of the province seeding is progressing favourably and most farmers should be finished this week, although spotty showers may delay operations somewhat. Flea beetles are reported in a number of fields. Pasture growth has improved but more moisture is required and some farmers are still feeding hay to beef cattle. In the Russell district soil and moisture conditions are good and over 70 per cent of the crop has been seeded. Large increases in rapeseed area are reported in this district. Weed growth is good but control methods are being taken. Pastures are also growing well and cattle have been turned out to pasture.

Around Dauphin 75 per cent of the seeding is completed with good germination reported. Farmers are getting good weed growth kill. Surface moisture is satisfactory but will need more rain to maintain growth. Hay and pastures have improved since recent rains and livestock are going out to pasture. At Swan River an estimated 70 per cent of the seeding has been completed. Moisture is adequate and good growing conditions have improved pasture and hayland. Early-seeded crops are doing well and weed spraying is under way.

SASKATCHEWAN

In the Indian Head area good progress has been made with the seeding operation and about 75 per cent is completed. Surface moisture conditions are very good with early-sown fields emerging uniformly. Wild oats are numerous in many of the early-sown fields. Some areas have been reseeded. Soil drifting has not been a problem since the rainfall on the fifth. Growth of hay and pasture crops has improved with the recent rainfall.

In the southwest of the province at Shaunavon seeding of cereals is 99 per cent completed and flax is 50 per cent completed. Fall rye is not in good condition. The pasture and hay outlook is poor. Since May 14 50 mm of rain has fallen.

At Leader seeding is now completed and most of the crop is above ground. Rain has changed the situation from fair to good.

At Drake in the central area seeding operations are progressing rapidly with some farmers completed already. The weekend rain of 12 mm produced sufficient moisture to germinate all grains. Chemical spraying is now under way as wild oats and millet are causing considerable problems in early-sown fields. Pastures are improving as are the prospects for the hay crop but these crops will require further rainfall. In the Saskatoon area over half the crops has been planted. Early-seeded fields are up with uniform stands. Further rain this week has provided ample moisture and pastures are starting to improve. Flea beetles are abundant but no damage has been reported to rape seedlings.

At Rosetown in the west-central area seeding is now 95 per cent completed with about 35 per cent of the crop up. Sixty mm of rain has been received this spring. The germination should now be good but some early fields are patchy. More stubble is now being seeded. Pastures and hayland are poor to average. Early-seeded fields which were not sprayed for wild oats will now have to be treated or reseeded. At Scott 30 mm of rain since last report has produced ideal growing conditions for all crops. About 60 per cent have been seeded to date with early-seeded crops emerging rapidly. Wild oat growth is becoming an increasing problem in early-seeded areas. Pastures and haylands now appear promising. In the northeast at Melfort up to 50 mm of rain over the weekend has greatly improved prospects. Seeding is 75 per cent completed. Early-seeded crops are up and looking good. In some early fields where minimum tillage was used, weeds are a problem. Fall rye wintered well but winter wheat is very patchy. The rain should improve hay and pasture crops.

ALBERTA

In the southeast section of the province, around Medicine Hat, 48.7 mm of rain fell from May 10 to May 16. Some hail was received on May 10 but it was patchy and did little damage. Pasture conditions are expected to improve with the increased moisture. Seeding is now completed.

At Lethbridge, in the southwest section of the province, seeding was delayed due to recent rains. Sugar beets required this extra moisture for germination. Winter wheat is approaching the boot stage and some streak mosaic is reported. Fall rye is heading. Grasshoppers are hatching although no spraying is reported to date. Some re-seeding has been necessary in scattered areas.

Land is too wet for seeding in the northeast-central parts of the province after rains of 75 mm during the past week. Approximately 15 per cent of the rapeseed and 10 per cent of the wheat are now seeded and pasture conditions are improving.

Near Red Deer, soil moisture is excellent after recent snow and rains and pastures are starting to recover from the drought. Seeding, which is about 30 per cent complete, has been delayed by the wet soils. Warm, dry weather is needed for continuation of seeding and forage growth. The weather is presently cold and unsettled around Lacombe with a minimum temperature of -1 degree being reported on May 17.

Another 29.5 mm of rain fell in the Peace River District during the past week, giving a total of 91.7 mm for May. Perennial herbage and grass seed crops are now showing excellent growth. Considerable spot flooding has stopped all field work with less than 40 per cent of the spring grains seeded.

The Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation reports a severe storm northwest of Provost which damaged trees and buildings in a six mile wide and 30 mile long strip while heavy rains caused severe soil erosion. An isolated storm at Kitscoty left glare ice, severe soil erosion and some crop damage.



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 16 Température moyenne semaine se terminant 8 a.m. le 16 mai	
		Week ending 8 a.m. May 16 1977 Semaine se terminant 8 a.m. le 16 mai 1977	Total since April 1 Total depuis le 1 ^{er} avril	Normal since April 1 Normales depuis le 1 ^{er} avril	1977	Normal
			mm	degrees - degrés C.		
MANITOBA						
1	Boissevain	26.6	72.0	64.1	22	12
	Pierson	28.7	61.0	60.2	22	12
2	Baldur	15.5	55.7	86.8	22	12
	Pilot Mound	5.9	42.1	72.6	22	12
3	Altona	1.3	23.9	60.0	24	13
	Deerwood	11.7	79.1	77.3	23	13
	Graysville	22.1	82.8	66.9	23	12
	Morden	2.5	48.6	69.5	24	13
	Morris	tr	33.0	64.9	23	13
	Plum Coulee	0.5	48.0	77.6	23	13
	Portage la Prairie	1.7	50.6	73.7	23	13
	Roland	6.3	52.8	62.0	21	13
4	Stoney Mountain	27.4	85.5	71.1	21	12
5	Emerson	22.6	44.9	64.3	24	12
	Steinbach	8.1	42.9	72.4	23	12
	Winnipeg	10.9	86.3	65.9	23	12
	Starbuck	32.8	105.7	81.1	22	13
6	Pinawa	33.8	83.3	64.7	21	11
	Sprague	20.3	53.6	70.2	21	12
7	Viriden	4.3	38.9	52.8	21	12
8	Brandon	13.0	50.2	55.4	22	12
	Cypress River	23.1	82.2	61.7	23	12
9	Gladstone	10.2	46.5	69.6	22	12
10	Birtle	13.7	50.8	54.4	20	11
	Rosburn	8.9	78.0	61.1	21	12
	Russell	8.9	75.2	43.2	21	11
11	Dauphin	12.3	54.8	59.7	21	12
12	Arborg	13.0	54.7	60.1	19	11
	Gimli	27.6	77.7	61.5	17	11
13	Swan River	2.3	27.0	55.2	21	12
	The Pas	11.2	35.9	44.7	18	10
14	Grass River	2.0	2.5(2)	54.8	22	12
AVERAGE - MANITOBA - MOYENNE		13.4	58.8	64.4	21.7	12.0
SASKATCHEWAN						
1A	Carlyle	8.9	71.9	50.8	20	12
	Estevan	14.4	23.7	53.7	21	13
	Oxbow	15.2	63.9	45.6	19	12
	Willmar	23.1	43.2	49.9	..	12
1B	Broadview	14.7	87.4	47.6	20	11
	Moosomin	9.9	58.5	54.8	21	12

Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces(1)

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Province and crop district — Province et district agricole	Station	Precipitation — Précipitations			Mean temperature week ending 8 a.m. May 16 Température moyenne semaine se terminant 8 a.m. le 16 mai	
		Week ending 8 a.m. May 16 1977 Semaine se terminant 8 a.m. le 16 mai 1977	Total since April 1 Total depuis le 1 ^{er} avril	Normal since April 1 Normales depuis le 1 ^{er} avril	1977	Normal
			mm		degrees — degrés C.	
SASKATCHEWAN — CONTINUED — suite						
2A	Yellow Grass	17.0	48.4	48.9	20	12
	Weyburn	20.7	70.2	53.9	19	12
	Midale	9.1	38.5	49.6	21	12
	Amulet	22.4	52.6	72.1	20	12
2B	Moose Jaw	12.6	38.4	46.3	19	13
	Regina	9.9	50.3	45.0	21	12
	Francis	..	12.2(2)	43.8	..	11
	Indian Head	5.8	70.6	48.4	20	12
3AS	Ormiston	9.7	31.2	46.0	19	13
	Cardross	19.0	65.8	51.1	19	12
	Rock Glen	9.0	31.7	74.7	19	12
3AN	Gravelbourg	..	..	45.8	..	12
	Coderre	29.2	41.9	41.9	18	12
	Chaplin	17.3	42.7	38.1	18	13
3BS	Shaunavon	12.6	34.0	40.4	17	12
	Aneroid	15.0	54.6	44.2	10	12
	Instow	..	..	43.8	..	12
3BN	Swift Current	27.0	50.5	44.6	16	12
	Pennant	29.5	40.4	42.9	17	12
	Elrose	36.6	59.0	36.7	18	12
4A	Maple Creek	25.4	35.3	43.6	16	13
	Consul	20.6	27.4	35.2	14	12
4B	Leader	21.3	34.8	36.9	16	13
5A	Cupar	..	..	47.8	..	12
	Balcarres	3.8	104.8	38.3	..	12
	Lipton	3.6	87.7	47.2	20	12
	Yorkton	18.4	74.1	44.2	21	12
	Atwater	9.4	92.4	47.1	21	12
5B	Wynyard	11.8	83.3	43.8	20	11
	Foam Lake	5.8	62.5	43.8	19	11
	Kuroki	4.6	33.2	47.3	21	11
	Kamsack, Cote	7.6	60.5	39.4	21	12
6A	Davidson	6.9	66.4	44.2	18	12
	Strasbourg	2.3	51.1	48.5	20	12
	Watrous	9.1	75.9	48.9	19	11
	Penzance	8.6	8.6(2)	44.7	18	12
6B	Harris	40.6	93.7	38.4	17	12
	Outlook	40.1	85.9	35.9	19	13
	Saskatoon	23.5	80.7	38.5	18	12
	Elbow	13.7	53.9	42.8	14	12
	Tugaske	7.1	37.6	46.5	19	12
	Dundurn	4.3	60.7	39.0	18	12
7A	Alsask	42.2	64.5	21.7	19	13
	Kindersley	54.8	77.0	33.1	16	12
	Rosetown	20.3	56.1	40.4	17	12

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Province and crop district - Station	Precipitation - Précipitations			Mean temperature week ending 8 a.m. May 16 - Température moyenne semaine se terminant 8 a.m. le 16 mai		
	Week ending 8 a.m. May 16 1977 - Semaine se terminant 8 a.m. le 16 mai 1977	Total since April 1 - Total depuis le 1er avril	Normal since April 1 - Normales depuis le 1er avril	1977	Normal - Normale	
			mm	degrees - degrés C.		
<u>SASKATCHEWAN - Concluded - fin</u>						
7B	Macklin	60.2	102.6	35.3	15	12
	Denzil	54.9	115.1	41.5	15	12
	Scott	35.6	67.4	40.1	16	12
	Biggar	36.5	94.9	40.3	17	12
8A	Hudson Bay	16.9	28.2	46.3	19	11
	Prairie River	9.7	23.0	46.6	18	11
	Nipawin	28.8	51.7	46.4	19	11
8B	Humboldt	12.2	60.7	36.3	19	11
	Melfort	16.5	33.6	41.1	20	12
9A	North Battleford	35.5	79.4	37.5	18	12
	Prince Albert	9.9	29.0	42.2	18	11
9B	Meadow Lake	20.3	54.9	38.8	16	10
	Waseca	45.5	102.7	44.4	18	11
AVERAGE - SASKATCHEWAN - MOYENNE		19.6	59.5	44.3	18.3	11.9
<u>ALBERTA</u>						
1	Empress	31.0	50.8	23.1	17	11
	Foremost	45.3	54.7	46.7	13	11
	Hanna	..	..	35.3	..	12
	Manyberries	36.6	46.5	48.1	14	12
	Medicine Hat	62.6	73.0	44.6	15	13
2	Brooks	40.8	56.7	41.8	15	12
	Gleichen	18.3	24.6	52.4	13	12
	Vauxhall	31.0	37.4(2)	42.4	13	12
	Raymond	4.1	13.7	65.6	12	13
	Lethbridge	16.5	27.8	61.9	13	12
	Elnora	28.4	60.0	47.4	..	12
	Queenstown	23.1	30.7	56.9	13	12
3	Calgary	27.7	57.1	55.3	11	11
	Cardston	13.3	23.7	72.1	10	11
	Pincher Creek	5.4	21.6	86.6	10	10
	Fort MacLeod	14.3	17.1	63.7	10	12
	Claresholm	18.3	19.6	66.9	12	12
	High River	24.4	41.7	72.2	9	10
	Olds	42.4	87.9	39.9	10	9
4	Alliance	103.6	151.2	52.1	13	11
	Coronation	64.2	98.6	35.7	13	12
	Hughenden	169.2	197.2	35.5	13	11
	Lloydminster	64.0	143.0	38.9	15	12
	Stettler	36.8	70.1	39.2	13	12



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		Week ending 8 a.m. May 16 1977 - Semaine se terminant 8 a.m. le 16 mai 1977	Total since April 1 - Total depuis le 1er avril	Normal since April 1 - Normales depuis le 1er avril	1977	Normal
			mm	degrees - degrés C.		
<u>ALBERTA - Concluded - fin</u>						
4	Vegreville	49.3	78.2	35.3	13	11
	Ranfurly	80.3	112.8	40.2	14	12
	Vermilion	61.8	110.4	36.8	15	11
5	Edmonton	57.8	108.2	40.5	12	12
	Lacombe	49.5	96.6	51.7	11	11
	Red Deer	48.2	83.8	48.6	12	11
	Rocky Mountain House	46.9	140.6	64.5	10	10
	Gwynne	59.4	118.8	48.5	12	11
6	Campsie	..	15.9	43.4	..	11
	Edson	33.9	115.0	42.4	9	11
	Elk Point	62.2	123.4	58.8	14	10
	Whitecourt	36.2	98.7	38.5	11	10
7	Beaverlodge	..	64.3	43.9	..	11
	Chipewyan	0.2	4.5	27.4	11	10
	Ft. Vermilion	38.9	55.2	33.6	9	11
	Grande Prairie	23.3	61.3	41.4	10	11
	High Prairie	59.2	100.4	41.0	12	11
	Peace River	33.4	46.3	30.6	11	11
AVERAGE - ALBERTA - MOYENNE		42.6	72.5	47.4	12.2	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.