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## Field Crop Reporting Series - No. 10

### TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT - PRAIRIE PROVINCES

This is the sixth 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. - Recent general rains have improved the outlook throughout most of the Prairie Provinces. The situation however, varies considerably throughout the region, with the most favourable outlook reported in Manitoba. In Saskatchewan and Alberta prospects range from average to below average. Crop conditions are near normal for this time of year except in southern Alberta and southern Saskatchewan where our reporters emphasize the important need for continued and timely precipitation. The majority of the cereal crops have headed out and oilseeds are in bloom. Haying operations are nearing completion but poor yields are reported.

Agriculture Division  
Crops Section

4-3102-508

Manitoba. - Most crops are in good condition with moisture supplies excellent to excessive. There is a possibility of bumper crops being harvested. Early crops are well headed with some barley turning colour. Special crops are doing well and fall rye is ripening. Haying has been completed in most districts with below average quality and yields reported but second growth is good. Armyworms and aphids are numerous with spraying under way.

Saskatchewan. - Cooler temperatures and precipitation in most areas of the province last week improved crop conditions and now prospects are for an average crop. Regina, Weyburn, Assiniboia and Moose Jaw districts reported the heaviest rainfall. Other parts of the province received scattered showers and will require additional precipitation for normal crop development. This is especially essential in the western and central districts. Prospects for oilseeds appear less promising than for cereals at the present time. Haying is two-thirds completed but has been temporarily halted by the rains.

Alberta. - Moisture conditions continue to be the dominant factor affecting crop prospects in Alberta. In southern and east-central regions drought conditions have severely reduced the yield potential of most crops although scattered showers have brought temporary relief to a few areas. Irrigated crops are in good condition and are ahead of normal. Fall-seeded crops are being swathed. In the northern and west-central regions widespread showers have produced fair to good moisture conditions. Prospects are currently favourable despite poor germination and poor soil and moisture supplies earlier in the spring. In the Peace River District root development is poor in many rapeseed and barley fields and some root rot is reported. Frequent showers have delayed haying operations in the northern and Peace River regions but yields are reported to be good. In southern areas hay yields are poor and some cereal crops are being baled for feed.

Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces(1)

	Unweighted Average Precipitation		
	Per cent variation from normal(2)		
	Man.	Sask.	Alta.
April 1, 1977 - July 11, 1977 .....	+ 15	+ 13	+ 7
April 1, 1977 - July 4, 1977 .....	+ 13	+ 6	- 1
April 1, 1977 - June 27, 1977 .....	+ 11	+ 13	+ 2
April 1, 1976 - July 12, 1976 .....	- 10	+ 29	+ 1
	Mean Temperature		
	°C. variation from normal(2)		
	Man.	Sask.	Alta.
For the week ending July 11, 1977 .....	- 0.9	- 2.1	- 3.4
For the week ending July 4, 1977 .....	- 2.2	- 1.7	- 2.9
For the week ending June 27, 1977 .....	+ 0.7	+ 1.8	+ 1.8
For the week ending July 12, 1976 .....	- 0.2	+ 0.6	+ 0.3

(1) Source: Atmospheric Environment Service.

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

## RUST REPORT

Leaf rust on wheat is widely distributed in Manitoba and eastern Saskatchewan but is light and will not damage crops now in head. Stem rust on wheat occurs in trace amounts on susceptible wheats in experimental plots but has not been found in commercial fields. The oat rusts are very scarce and oats that are now in head will not be damaged.

## MANITOBA

In the Pilot Mound district moisture conditions are good and crops are above average. Oilseeds and peas are in flower and most of the grains are headed with some barley and rye turning. Some silage corn is tasselling but most of the crop is not yet at this stage. Haying has been delayed due to rain and an average crop is in prospect. There are no severe insect problems in the district. Crops at Melita are improving with rain and cooler weather. Some Glenlea wheat was burnt in the Waskada area. Rapeseed and flaxseed as well as most buckwheat are in flower. Farmers have finished haying except for a few sloughs and yields have averaged about one-third or one-half of those last year. Pastures are improving but more rain is needed.

Reports from Beausejour indicate that crop conditions are very good with a potential bumper crop in prospect. However, armyworms are very serious and spraying is under way. Moderate levels of aphids are also occurring. Hay yields are good and pastures are growing well in the southern part of the district. Corn is slow but mustard, rapeseed and buckwheat are all growing well. In the Selkirk district crop conditions remain very good with yield prospects average to better than average. Most early-seeded barley has now turned. Armyworms are reported in some fields but infestations are not high enough to cause concern. Most of the first-cut hay has been put up with average yields reported. Good regrowth is evident.

At Brandon crop development is excellent. However, heavy showers on July 11 caused severe lodging of grain and there was some hail damage in isolated pockets. Prospects for a second hay crop are excellent and pasture regrowth has been rapid. Overall crop prospects continue to be promising.

In the Interlake district at Teulon crop conditions are excellent. Moisture supplies are adequate for filling of most of the crops. District farmers are spraying for armyworms and are harvesting an average cut of tame hay. Hay crop conditions vary from fair to good and pastures are excellent. At Arbourg 12 to 14 mm of rain fell last week and crop conditions are described as good. There is some armyworm damage on barley and some fields have been sprayed but so far infestations are confined to small areas. An estimated 30 per cent of the hay crop has been harvested but progress has been slow and quality poor because of the wet weather.

Our reporter from Neepawa indicates that the rain of Sunday night which brought from 15 to 80 mm of moisture will improve pasture conditions and help early-sown grains to fill. However, there will be some deterioration in the quality of hay in the swath. Some of the corn is now over six feet high and the fall rye is beginning to ripen. Early-seeded rapeseed has completed flowering. At Minnedosa crops are progressing well with good growing conditions; about 30 per cent of the grain is in head and oilseeds are in flower. Rains during the past week delayed haying operations and caused some lodging in early-seeded crops. Hay is in short supply and farmers are looking forward to a good second cut of alfalfa. Pastures generally are in good conditions.



At Russell in the west-central part of the province there were very heavy showers over the weekend which flattened some late-seeded crops but early-seeded fields stood up better. Although moisture conditions are now excellent yields and quality of hay have been poor.

The Dauphin district received 75 mm of rain over the weekend which caused heavy lodging. There is now enough moisture to carry an above average crop. District farmers have now harvested about 70 per cent of the first cut of hay, having been delayed by the weather. The second growth of alfalfa is good while pastures vary from fair to good. At Swan River showery conditions have prevailed during the past week. The general crop outlook is good to excellent. Haying has been delayed by the wet weather but pasture growth has improved.

#### SASKATCHEWAN

At Indian Head in the southeast of the province grain crops are continuing to make good growth with well above average stands reported. Early-sown crops are in the flower stage with the last of the seeding now in the shotblade. Light rain occurred during the past week but additional moisture will be required to maintain the heavy growth. Haying is well along, although recent rains have caused delays.

In the southwest area of the province at Swift Current 25 mm of rain on July 9 and 10 has greatly improved the potential. Most crops are headed and there is now sufficient moisture to ensure proper filling. Crops are shorter than usual. Haying has been delayed by the wet weather and yields are rated from poor to very good. Our correspondent at Leader reports that continuing dry weather is rapidly reducing crop prospects and some stunting is in evidence.

Around Saskatoon in the central part of the province showers during the past week kept most crops in fair condition but stands on light soil are deteriorating. Wheat is mostly headed and is starting to fill. Early barley is ripening and early rapeseed is fully podded. The diamond-back moth larvae is present in rapeseed but damage has been light to date.

In the west-central part of the province at Rosetown 90 per cent of the wheat and 100 per cent of the cereal crops are headed out. Heavy showers were experienced east and south of town but none were received in the north and west. Rain is urgently needed as crops in the latter two areas are showing extreme moisture stress. Oilseeds look good and are now flowering. Haying is almost completed but a less than average crop is reported. Summerfallow is now being worked throughout the district. Around Scott only 12 mm of rainfall in June and 11 mm to date in July has caused some deterioration in crops although cool weather has helped. All crops are headed out. Rapeseed stands are holding up very well. Haying is under way with low average yields reported and pastures are in poor condition.

In the northeast at Melfort showers ranging up to 40 mm throughout the area during the past week have improved crop prospects. Stands are generally good. Early crops of rapeseed are podding and early-seeded cereals are headed. Haying has progressed well and additional moisture should assure a second cut in many fields.

The Saskatchewan Municipal Hail Insurance Association reports that on July 2, 5 and 6 hail storms caused varying amounts of damage, generally below 50 per cent in the following areas: Wroxton, Yorkton, Rhein, Herbert, Morse, Quill Lake, Daphne, Porcupine Plain, Parkberg, Stranraer, Valley Centre, Lloydminster and Standard Hill. A very severe storm struck at Esterhazy, Stockholm and Lemberg on July 10.

#### ALBERTA

In the southeast region around Medicine Hat approximately 25 mm of rain was received during the weekend; however, areas to the west and north received only traces of precipitation. The rain was too late to be useful and many crops will be used to pasture livestock or cut for feed. No dryland hay was cut this year.

In the southwest region at Lethbridge soil moisture is still variable and temperatures are below normal for this time of year. Showers have prevented further deterioration of dryland crops. Some cereals are being harvested as hay or used to pasture livestock. Around Cardston crop conditions continue to decline as dry weather prevails. Haying is two-thirds completed but is yielding only one-third of normal on dry land. Fall grains are ripening but filling poorly. Pastures are in very poor condition and will require rain within the next two weeks. Spotty rain throughout the Claresholm district has provided some relief; however, more rain is urgently needed. Only a half crop of hay has been harvested. Swathing of rye and winter wheat will start in ten days.

At Sedgewick in the northeast-central region approximately 12 mm of rain fell this week. Cool weather is helping the development of all crops however, moisture is needed to fill heads.

In the west-central region around Red Deer recent rains have brought moisture levels up to normal. Eastern areas still remain dry and need more moisture. Hay crops are below normal and growth and yields of all other crops will be extremely variable. Around Lacombe haying operations have been seriously delayed and quality reduced by cool temperatures and frequent showers of about 19 mm during the past week. Cereals and rapeseed are in good condition while pastures are only fair.

Moisture conditions are now ideal in the district around Eckville, although cool, showery weather during the past week delayed haying operations. Cereal crops are maturing well and pastures are in good condition. Continued warm, dry weather is required.

The Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation reports a late evening storm on July 5 causing pockets of moderate damage between High River and Cheadle and an afternoon storm south of Lloydminster causing light damage in an area four miles wide by six miles long. On July 6 light damage was reported from storms at Fairview, Cremona, and Rolling Hills. On July 9 a light storm was experienced at Evansburg. On July 10 a midnight storm at Fairview inflicted light damage to crops in the township and serious hail damage was reported from an afternoon storm near La Glace which travelled in a northeasterly direction to Wanham.



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. July 11 Température moyenne semaine se terminant 8 a.m. le 11 juillet	
		Week ending 8 a.m. July 11, 1977 — Semaine se terminant 8 a.m. le 11 juillet 1977	Total since April 1 — Total depuis le 1 <sup>er</sup> avril	Normal since April 1 — Normales depuis le 1 <sup>er</sup> avril	1977	Normal — Normale
			mm		degrees	— degrés C.
<b>MANITOBA</b>						
1	Boissevain	79.8	261.5	205.9	20	20
	Pierson	7.1	176.5	181.9	20	20
2	Baldur	25.7	198.0(2)	247.1	20	21
	Pilot Mound	19.4	211.1	233.1	19	20
3	Altona	12.7	220.4	189.9	20	21
	Deerwood	..	238.2(2)	225.4	..	22
	Graysville	10.2	240.8	200.1	19	21
	Morden	16.4	234.0	202.9	21	22
	Morris	6.1	266.6	196.6	21	22
	Plum Coulee	13.2	215.9	217.2	21	19
	Portage la Prairie	26.4	216.2	215.3	20	22
	Roland	14.2	181.6	185.0	21	21
4	Stoney Mountain	14.2	245.8	212.7	19	21
5	Emerson	17.2	244.2	203.4	21	21
	Steinbach	16.3	197.4	218.1	20	21
	Winnipeg	14.1	295.5	202.4	21	21
	Starbuck	23.9	278.4	219.6	19	21
6	Pinawa	3.0	251.9	198.0	19	21
	Sprague	14.7	179.2	220.4	19	19
7	Virden	30.6	163.8	191.3	20	21
8	Brandon	15.0	195.4	179.7	19	20
	Cypress River	21.8	317.4	193.7	20	21
9	Gladstone	37.1	273.0	191.3	19	20
10	Birtle	17.5	191.9	195.1	18	19
	Rosburn	43.9	240.5	221.8	19	19
	Russell	41.9	226.2	159.1	18	19
11	Dauphin	68.7	252.3	199.5	19	20
12	Arborg	14.5	263.9	182.6	19	19
	Gimli	4.0	258.2	192.0	19	21
13	Swan River	53.6	170.1	174.9	17	19
	The Pas	53.8	165.6	148.5	17	19
14	Grass River	19.6	241.1	192.1	19	19

AVERAGE — MANITOBA — MOYENNE

24.4 229.2 199.9 19.5 20.4

**SASKATCHEWAN**

1A	Carlyle	4.3	154.4	179.6	19	19
	Estevan	2.4	136.4	177.0	20	21
	Oxbow	2.3	144.7	164.8	21	19
	Willmar	2.0	124.7	176.3	..	19
1B	Broadview	30.9	241.2	188.1	17	19



Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces(1)

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		Precipitation — Précipitations			Mean temperature week ending 8 a.m. July 11 — Température moyenne semaine se terminant 8 a.m. 1e 11 juillet Normal — Normale	
Province and crop district — Province et district agricole	Station	Week ending 8 a.m. July 11, 1977 — Semaine se terminant 8 a.m. 1e 11 juillet 1977	Total since April 1 — Total depuis le 1er avril	Normal since April 1 — Normales depuis le 1er avril	1977	degrees — degrés C.
			mm			
SASKATCHEWAN — Continued — suite						
1B	Moosomin	40.4	188.6	197.1	18	20
2A	Yellow Grass	18.3	173.9	167.4	18	19
	Weyburn	50.8	228.8	174.1	18	19
	Midale	4.3	170.1	174.6	19	20
	Amulet	49.5	209.6	173.8	18	19
2B	Moose Jaw	62.8	213.3	154.2	18	20
	Regina	53.8	203.0	167.2	18	19
	Francis	..	136.1(2)	162.9	..	19
	Indian Head	19.8	194.6	164.7	18	19
3AS	Ormiston	58.4	184.5	156.8	18	20
	Cardross	47.0	203.8	167.1	17	20
	Rock Glen	41.3	166.8	184.1	17	19
3AN	Coderre	104.4	213.6	148.5	18	19
	Chaplin	22.9	161.9	148.1	17	19
3BS	Shaunavon	16.3	106.2	149.8	15	19
	Aneroid	21.1	179.4	136.5	18	19
3BN	Swift Current	29.4	173.1	157.8	16	20
	Pennant	32.3	145.3	154.4	18	20
	Elrose	39.1	214.7	130.2	17	20
4A	Maple Creek	27.7	118.0	141.5	17	21
	Consul	19.3	99.5	121.8	16	19
4B	Leader	13.5	101.4	132.4	17	21
5A	Balcarres	11.2	202.9	154.3	..	19
	Lipton	19.6	177.9(2)	160.0	17	19
	Yorkton	22.1	171.4	154.7	17	19
	Atwater	52.8	234.1	162.2	17	19
5B	Wynyard	8.6	248.4	153.2	17	18
	Foam Lake	7.6	93.7	146.6	16	19
	Kuroki	15.5	118.1	166.6	17	18
	Kamsack, Cote	32.0	173.9	147.3	17	19
6A	Davidson	34.3	220.0	149.7	17	19
	Strasbourg	42.1	179.2	167.3	19	19
	Watrous	53.8	249.6(2)	166.0	18	19
6B	Harris	17.5	188.7	138.8	17	20
	Outlook	5.9	178.9	132.5	18	21
	Saskatoon	12.4	182.9	131.1	17	20
	Elbow	16.7	153.1	138.8	19	19
	Tugaske	22.6	153.1	159.3	18	19
	Dundurn	6.3	133.5	133.6	19	20
7A	Alsask	9.9	113.8	102.8	16	20
	Kindersley	5.8	142.4	121.7	16	19



Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces(1)

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		Week ending 8 a.m. July 11, 1977	Total since April 1	Normal since April 1	1977	Normal
		Semaine se terminant 8 a.m. le 11 juillet 1977	Total depuis le 1 <sup>er</sup> avril	Normales depuis le 1 <sup>er</sup> avril		Normale
			mm		degrees	— degrés C.

SASKATCHEWAN — Concluded — fin

7A	Rosetown	53.3	180.1	140.0	16	19
7B	Macklin	19.5	174.2	142.6	16	19
	Denzil	9.9	169.2(2)	145.2	14	19
	Scott	10.2	136.8	140.6	15	18
	Biggar	10.7	172.4	141.9	16	19
8A	Hudson Bay	46.4	176.4	160.4	16	18
	Prairie River	20.1	127.6(2)	164.6	15	18
	Nipawin	19.8	210.6	147.0	16	19
8B	Humboldt	29.5	168.6(2)	131.7	16	18
	Melfort	31.4	217.7	136.6	16	19
9A	North Battleford	17.1	184.2	136.2	16	19
	Prince Albert	20.4	216.9	139.8	17	19
9B	Meadow Lake	17.2	179.1	180.1	15	17
	Waseca	8.4	201.5	160.8	14	18

AVERAGE — SASKATCHEWAN — MOYENNE

25.8	173.9	153.4	17.1	19.2
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ALBERTA

1	Empress	15.5	87.9(2)	95.5	17	20
	Foremost	..	101.0(2)	146.9	..	20
	Manyberries	4.8	94.1	146.4	17	21
	Medicine Hat	29.9	135.6	139.4	18	21
2	Brooks	13.3	153.2	139.6	16	20
	Gleichen	..	92.5(2)	176.3	..	19
	Vauxhall	4.8	79.4	138.2	16	19
	Raymond	8.1	78.8(2)	141.5	15	19
	Lethbridge	5.5	90.7	190.0	15	19
	Elnora	17.5	121.2	165.7	..	18
	Queenstown	12.2	114.5	193.9	16	19
3	Calgary	25.4	158.4	194.6	14	18
	Cardston	10.1	104.4	174.3	14	18
	Pincher Creek	15.4	85.8	229.3	14	18
	Fort MacLeod	15.5	94.3	201.8	15	20
	Claresholm	5.9	110.7	200.4	15	18
	High River	25.4	126.2	223.8	13	17
	Olds	28.7	192.6	192.4	12	17
4	Alliance	11.7	204.3	157.5	14	18
	Coronation	14.6	159.4	131.1	15	18
	Hughenden	10.6	249.6	143.6	15	18
	Lloydminster	15.1	269.4	152.4	15	18



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Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces(1)

Données sur les précipitations et la température provinces des prairies(1)

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		Week ending 8 a.m. July 11, 1977	Total since April 1	Normal since April 1	1977	Normal
		Semaine se terminant 8 a.m. 1e 11 juillet 1977	Total depuis le 1er avril	Normales depuis le 1er avril		Normale
			mm			degrees — degrés C.
<u>ALBERTA — Concluded — fin</u>						
4	Stettler	19.1	146.5	163.9	14	18
	Vegreville	21.1	198.8	147.5	14	18
	Ranfurly	18.5	219.7	152.6	15	18
	Vermilion	18.0	178.6	144.9	15	17
5	Edmonton	35.9	198.9	171.0	14	18
	Lacombe	27.2	188.3(2)	186.6	13	17
	Red Deer	29.2	184.1	182.0	13	17
	Rocky Mountain House	46.6	289.4	222.3	13	18
	Gwynne	17.8	216.0	181.0	14	16
6	Campsie	57.7	259.5	172.7	13	17
	Edson	51.5	301.7	209.8	12	15
	Elk Point	23.9	234.6	149.1	12	17
	Whitecourt	70.4	327.7	189.9	13	16
7	Beaverlodge	..	107.2(2)	148.5	..	16
	Chipewyan	1.6	91.2	112.4	16	17
	Ft. Vermilion	7.4	182.7	97.8	16	17
	Grande Prairie	21.1	173.8	145.7	15	16
	High Prairie	..	219.5(2)	149.9	..	16
	Peace River	21.3	197.9	113.5	14	16
AVERAGE — ALBERTA — MOYENNE		21.0	174.8	163.8	14.5	17.9

(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.