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## Field Crop Reporting Series - No. 12

### TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT - PRAIRIE PROVINCES

This is the eighth 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. - Swathing of cereals is under way in most districts and some combining is in evidence. Crop development remains variable throughout the Prairies as a result of the earlier weather conditions. The first yields are reported to be above average in Manitoba and the outlook for that province is generally good. Yields are extremely variable in both Saskatchewan and Alberta, ranging from average to slightly below average in most regions. However, crops in the southern part of Alberta and in some areas of southern Saskatchewan remain in poor condition and yields will be considerably below average.

Manitoba. - Crop conditions are good with most crops expected to yield above average. However, the cool, wet weather is delaying the harvest. Swathing has begun in most areas but little has been combined to date. As a result of recent rains the second-cut hay crop is yielding well and pasture conditions have improved.

Agriculture Division  
Crops Section

4-3102-508

Saskatchewan. — Cool, cloudy weather accompanied by scattered showers this past week has slowed crop maturity and prevented full scale swathing. Varying amounts of precipitation were received in all parts of the province. The additional moisture should improve the yield potential of late-seeded crops. Fall rye swathing is virtually completed and 90 per cent of this crop is combined in the southwest region. Although yields of fall rye have been variable and generally below average, quality has been good. Harvesting of cereals will be general as soon as the weather clears.

Alberta. — Rainfall in the western Alberta and Edmonton areas assured adequate filling of all crops so that prospects are now very good in these regions. Warm, dry conditions in the Peace River District have brought the previously waterlogged crops along quickly during the past two weeks. Although scattered showers occurred in the southern regions, some further deterioration has been experienced and prospects are still very poor. Harvesting of winter wheat and fall rye is nearly completed. Swathing of spring wheat is now general while that of rapeseed and barley is just beginning.

#### RUST REPORT

The incidence of oat stem rust in Manitoba and Saskatchewan has increased sharply. The variety Hudson is providing some protection but other varieties, especially late-seeded ones, may be severely damaged. Crown rust has not developed extensively. Wheat leaf rust and wheat stem rust will have little effect on the wheat yield this year.

Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces(1)

	Unweighted Average Precipitation		
	Per cent variation from normal(2)		
	Man.	Sask.	Alta.
April 1, 1977 - August 8, 1977 .....	+ 18	+ 8	+ 1
April 1, 1977 - August 1, 1977 .....	+ 19	+ 8	+ 1
April 1, 1977 - July 25, 1977 .....	+ 15	+ 7	- 4
April 1, 1976 - August 9, 1976 .....	- 19	+ 19	+ 10
Mean Temperature			
	°C variation from normal(2)		
	Man.	Sask.	Alta.
For the week ending August 8, 1977 .....	- 3.1	- 3.2	- 1.0
For the week ending August 1, 1977 .....	- 3.4	- 0.3	- 0.8
For the week ending July 25, 1977 .....	- 0.1	+ 0.1	- 0.4
For the week ending August 9, 1976 .....	0.0	+ 1.3	+ 2.1

(1) Source: Atmospheric Environment Service.

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



MANITOBA

At Vita intermittent showers are interfering with the harvest. Only 40 per cent of the barley and smaller amounts of oats and wheat have been swathed. Wheat yields are expected to be average with barley and oats yields average to above average. Some rust is evident on oats. At Altona hot, dry weather affected the flowering of buckwheat, sunflowers and beans. Present shower activity should improve the situation for these crops. Most of the rapeseed, mustard and field peas are ready for cutting. European Corn Borer has been reported in a few fields. At Morden 35 per cent of the fields have been swathed. Rust is prevalent on late-seeded barley. The second-cut hay crop is below average in this area.

At Somerset the wet weather has delayed harvesting. Swathing of cereals and rapeseed will be general when weather permits. Very little combining has been reported to date and lodging is a problem in some crops. Light hail damage has been reported in Erickson area. Pastures are in good condition. In the southwestern area of the province swathing and combining of cereals and rapeseed are under way. Yields are ranging from average to above average. The fall rye harvest has been completed and yields were reported to be well above average. Due to improved moisture conditions during the latter part of last week the second cut alfalfa crop is better than the first and the pasture situation has improved.

East of Winnipeg at Beausejour most of the barley has been swathed. Combining has begun but there have been delays due to the intermittent rains and some lodging has been reported. Second-cut hay is showing improved yields over the first. All pasture conditions will be adequate. At Selkirk crop prospects remain excellent but swathing in some fields was delayed due to rain over the weekend. Moisture conditions are more than adequate. The second harvest of tame hay is now general with better than average yields.

West of Winnipeg at Portage La Prairie 75 per cent of the barley and wheat is ready to swath. Intermittent heavy rains have delayed combining, reduced grades, and resulted in forage losses. Blackbird damage is a problem on corn and oats. Some rapeseed and buckwheat are being swathed. Yields are expected to be above average on all oilseed crops. In the Brandon area timely rains have benefited all crops. A good second-cut of hay is expected. Special and oilseed crops are developing well and above average yields are expected for all crops.

In the Interlake area around Teulon swathing of barley is well under way. Combining has been delayed due to rains. Second-cut hay is yielding well and pastures are in good condition. At Arborg the timothy crop has been swathed and 50 per cent of the fields have been harvested with average yields reported. Twenty per cent of the barley has been swathed and average to above average yields are expected. Some rapeseed has been swathed but only small amounts have been combined to date. Crop conditions are generally good in this area but lodging has been reported on heavy crops.

At Neepawa rain has hampered the harvest. Some barley, wheat and rapeseed has been swathed. Yields are expected to be above average. Corn and sunflowers are progressing favourably but warm, sunny weather is required for harvesting to begin.

In the northwest area of the province at Dauphin the above average crop is ready to harvest. With good weather swathing should be general this week. The wet weather has delayed and lowered the quality of second-cut alfalfa. Pasture conditions are ranging from fair to good. At Swan River the wet weather continues to delay harvest. Less than five per cent of the fall rye has been combined. General crop conditions are good but some improvement in weather is urgently required.

#### SASKATCHEWAN

In the southwest of the province at Swift Current combining of rye is now under way with good yields reported. Some barley and early-seeded wheat has been swathed. Swathing will be general in about ten days, but will be extended as some late-seeded crops are still green. Yields will be variable but are generally expected to be average to slightly above average. At Leader swathing has begun and is now general throughout the area. Extensive sawfly damage has been reported. The crop is short and reported to be light in some places.

Reports from Saskatoon in the central part of the province indicate swathing of cereals and rapeseed has started and should be general next week. The recent showers will help fill late-seeded crops. A substantial acreage of rapeseed has been sprayed during the past two weeks for diamondback moth larvae. Flea beetles are abundant on rapeseed pods in some areas.

In the west-central part of the province around Scott 28 mm of rain was received since the last report and, this combined with the cool weather, has helped to fill the crops. Only a small amount of swathing has been completed to date, as some crops are maturing slowly. There has been a slight improvement in pasture conditions.

Damp, cool weather has delayed swathing in the northeast of the province at Melfort. The early-seeded barley fields are ripe and will be swathed shortly. There has been some spraying for diamondback moths and a few fields of rapeseed have a heavy infestation of ring spot. There will be a good second cut of hay, provided ample moisture is received.

The Saskatchewan Municipal Hail Insurance Association reports that hail storms from July 29 to August 3 have caused widespread damage at Carnduff, Alida, Benson, Griffin, Radville, Cedoux, Truax and Ogema. A 20 by 80 mile strip from Avonhurst to Brownlee was also affected. A large number of claims were received from D'Arcy, Kindersley, Flaxcombe, Marengo, Donavon, Delisle, Asquith, Langham, Dalmeny, Warman, Borden, Lemberg, Grayson, Blucher, Canwood and North Battleford.

#### ALBERTA

Weather in the Medicine Hat area of southeastern Alberta continues to be warm and dry. Considerable acreages have been cut for feed or are being used for pasture. Swathing of spring wheat is general with yields of 10 to 15 bushels per acre reported.

Around Lethbridge, the harvest of winter wheat and fall rye is nearly complete with yields in the 30 to 45 bushel range reported. Summer-sown cover crops have emerged. Swathing of spring-sown cereals and rapeseed and digging of early potatoes are beginning. Fall pastures are still in critically short supply.



Cool weather and 20 mm of rain helped to fill the crops and improve pastures in the Sedgewick area of northeast-central Alberta. Cereal crops are now starting to ripen and some swathing of rapeseed and barley has begun. Some rapeseed and rye have been combined with yields of 20 to 25 bushels and 24 bushels reported respectively.

Rain of 75 mm during the past two weeks is helping to mature the heavy cereal and rapeseed crops around Lacombe. All crops are yielding above average.

Continuing wet weather has delayed haying, summerfallowing and the fescue seed harvest in the Peace River District. Early-seeded barley is maturing well but heads are short. Oats are showing good potential. Stem eye spot disease is causing some seed losses in older stands of fescue.

The Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation reports moderate damage from a storm on July 31 in a six mile wide strip between Caroline and Didsbury; an evening storm on August 2 severely damaging a strip six miles long and one mile wide between Chipman and Ryley; an evening storm on August 2 damaging crops north of Hythe at Valhalla Centre and at La Glace; an isolated afternoon storm on August 5 causing minor damage to crops between Jarvie and Clyde, Legal and Gibbons in the Islay district; and a severe storm on August 7 causing heavy damage over a strip varying from two to eight miles in width between Fort Assiniboine and Barrhead on way to Stony Plain, Calmar and Pipestone.

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.	
		Week ending 8 a.m. August 8, 1977	Total since April 1	Normal since April 1	August 8 — Température moyenne semaine se terminant 8 a.m. le 8 août	1977 Normal — Normale
		Semaine se terminant 8 a.m. le 8 août 1977	Total depuis le 1er avril	Normales depuis le 1er avril		degrees — degrés C
<b>MANITOBA</b>						
1	Boissevain	4.1	293.0	266.3	16	18
	Pierson	4.1	225.0	235.5	16	18
2	Baldur	3.6	289.6	325.3	15	19
	Pilot Mound	17.2	297.3	309.0	15	18
3	Altona	..	305.7(2)	250.7	..	19
	Deerwood	..	258.5(2)	294.0	..	20
	Graysville	15.5	315.2	262.1	16	19
	Morden	27.7	303.4	271.1	17	20
	Morris	7.1	337.3	261.2	17	20
	Plum Coulee	32.8	303.3	275.2	16	20
	Portage la Prairie	11.7	298.8	288.0	16	19
	Roland	15.5	245.7	245.2	17	19
4	Stonewall	17.3	322.0	295.0	16	19
5	Emerson	33.8	324.7	274.7	17	19
	Steinbach	..	266.4(2)	287.1	..	19
	Winnipeg	29.9	386.5	273.0	16	19
	Starbuck	32.3	356.7	293.2	15	19
6	Pinawa	35.1	355.9	265.6	16	19
	Sprague	7.1	239.9	298.7	15	18
7	Virden	3.0	251.7	257.2	14	19
8	Brandon	11.9	332.5	238.5	15	18
	Cypress River	36.6	477.0	257.1	15	19
9	Gladstone	21.6	371.8	251.3	16	18
10	Birtle	8.6	271.4	265.8	13	17
	Rosburn	11.2	310.1(2)	298.5	14	17
	Russell	12.5	354.3	214.9	13	17
11	Dauphin	17.7	395.8	261.9	15	18
12	Arborg	..	328.9(2)	240.9	..	18
	Gimli	13.7	358.5	260.1	16	18
13	Swan River	19.4	275.6	238.1	14	18
	The Pas	3.1	225.7	210.3	14	17
14	Grass River	11.4	290.5	254.5	15	18
AVERAGE — MANITOBA — MOYENNE		16.6	314.8	266.3	15.4	18.5

SASKATCHEWAN

1A	Carlyle	2.8	215.9	239.9	14	17
	Estevan	10.6	166.0	229.8	16	19
	Oxbow	..	198.0(2)	217.8	..	18
	Willmar	0.5	133.8(2)	232.8	..	18
1B	Broadview	9.1	294.3	244.8	13	17
	Moosomin	6.1	251.5	265.2	14	18

Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces(1)

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Precipitation — Précipitations					Mean temperature week ending 8 a.m.	
Province and crop district	Station	Week ending 8 a.m. August 8, 1977	Total since April 1	Normal since April 1	August 8 — Température moyenne semaine se terminant 8 a.m.	
Province et district agricole		Semaine se terminant 8 a.m. 1e 8 août 1977	Total depuis le 1er avril	Normales depuis le 1er avril	1977	Normal — Normale
					degrees — degrés C	
SASKATCHEWAN — Continued — suite						
2A	Yellow Grass	11.7	251.3	219.1	15	18
	Weyburn	6.1	289.5	219.9	13	18
	Midale	2.5	184.2	228.0	15	18
	Amulet	13.0	269.4	215.3	15	18
2B	Moose Jaw	19.5	259.7	199.6	15	18
	Regina	7.4	235.4	217.6	14	19
	Francis	..	140.4(2)	217.4	..	18
	Indian Head	15.5	238.3	213.8	14	18
3AS	Ormiston	..	219.9(2)	202.0	..	18
	Cardross	10.9	252.0	211.4	14	18
	Rock Glen	7.3	199.1	227.4	15	18
	Coderre	2.8	244.6(2)	195.5	15	18
3AN	Chaplin	..	196.2(2)	195.9	..	18
	Shaunavon	3.3	140.0	192.8	15	18
3BS	Aneroid	7.1	206.8	174.0	17	18
	Swift Current	4.1	226.2	203.5	15	18
	Pennant	..	188.2(2)	193.4	..	18
	Elrose	0.8	250.0	170.6	16	18
4A	Maple Creek	9.9	153.0	178.1	16	18
	Consul	0.5	111.4	156.7	15	18
4B	Leader	0.8	125.3	172.5	17	19
5A	Balcarres	10.7	229.6(2)	208.9	..	18
	Lipton	10.7	222.1	215.5	13	18
	Yorkton	12.8	215.2	211.8	14	18
	Atwater	11.7	316.4	216.3	13	17
5B	Wynyard	12.7	299.2	206.9	13	17
	Foam Lake	5.8	126.9	195.8	12	17
	Kuroki	7.4	137.9	223.8	13	16
	Kamsack, Cote	20.9	269.7	200.5	13	18
6A	Davidson	14.5	247.9	195.8	15	18
	Strasbourg	5.6	216.8	216.6	14	17
	Watrous	14.7	287.6(2)	212.4	14	18
	Harris	..	194.5(2)	179.9	..	18
6B	Outlook	4.3	214.1	174.7	16	18
	Saskatoon	10.8	215.1	168.4	15	18
	Elbow	5.8	180.0	177.1	16	18
	Tugaske	2.0	180.2	204.9	14	18
7A	Dundurn	7.4	144.2	181.4	16	18
	Alsask	..	117.6(2)	143.4	..	17
	Kindersley	tr	178.9	161.7	16	18
	Rosetown	1.8	206.8	187.9	15	18



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. August 8 — Température moyenne semaine se terminant 8 a.m. le 8 août	
Province and crop district — Province et district agricole	Station	Week ending 8 a.m. August 8, 1977 — Semaine se terminant 8 a.m. le 8 août 1977	Total since April 1 — Total depuis le 1er avril	Normal since April 1 — Normales depuis le 1er avril	1977 — Normal Normale	degrees — degrés C
SASKATCHEWAN — Concluded — fin						
7B	Macklin	13.5	199.5	199.9	15	17
	Denzil	9.4	231.2	196.2	15	17
	Scott	9.7	164.3	192.1	14	16
	Biggar	9.2	205.3	190.9	16	18
8A	Hudson Bay	18.0	259.4	222.9	12	17
	Prairie River	16.8	223.6	224.5	12	16
	Nipawin	32.0	288.0	201.8	14	17
8B	Humboldt	12.1	209.1	179.4	13	17
	Melfort	14.5	271.6	186.7	14	17
9A	North Battleford	4.8	210.0	190.5	15	17
	Prince Albert	16.5	274.3	194.4	13	17
9B	Meadow Lake	27.6	242.1	251.1	14	15
	Waseca	4.3	224.4	225.6	14	16
AVERAGE — SASKATCHEWAN — MOYENNE		9.4	218.2	202.9	14.4	17.6

ALBERTA

1	Empress	tr	90.0	126.7	17	18
	Foremost	5.9	126.1	178.3	16	19
	Manyberries	4.8	151.8	175.2	17	19
	Medicine Hat	1.9	143.1	175.2	17	19
2	Brooks	8.2	180.9	181.3	17	18
	Gleichen	17.8	113.9(2)	225.0	16	17
	Vauxhall	3.0	84.7	172.2	17	18
	Raymond	14.2	96.3	232.9	16	18
	Lethbridge	10.0	109.5	230.2	17	18
	Elnora	8.4	151.1	225.3	..	17
	Queenstown	7.6	142.7	239.7	16	17
3	Calgary	19.2	214.5	252.9	15	16
	Cardston	13.0	138.2	208.3	15	17
	Pincher Creek	14.5	114.1	265.5	15	16
	Fort MacLeod	9.7	121.9	240.6	15	18
	Claresholm	11.1	133.5	240.4	14	17
	High River	34.5	172.1	273.5	14	15
	Olds	..	201.7(2)	260.2	..	15
4	Alliance	13.5	224.9	221.2	15	16
	Coronation	5.5	178.3	187.3	15	16
	Hughenden	6.9	268.7	204.7	15	16
	Lloydminster	12.2	351.4	217.5	15	17
	Stettler	15.6	185.6	228.6	14	16



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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. August 8 — Température moyenne semaine se terminant 8 a.m. 1e 8 août	
		Week ending 8 a.m. August 8, 1977	Total since April 1	Normal since April 1	1977	Normal
		Semaine se terminant 8 a.m. 1e 8 août 1977	Total depuis le 1er avril	Normales depuis le 1er avril		Normale
			mm		degrees	— degrés C
ALBERTA — Concluded — fin						
4	Vegreville	10.7	285.3	220.0	14	16
	Ranfurly	8.1	239.7(2)	222.4	15	16
	Vermilion	7.0	253.8	208.4	15	15
5	Edmonton	14.7	265.9	249.1	14	16
	Lacombe	9.4	285.2	252.2	14	16
	Red Deer	16.7	278.2	248.5	15	16
	Rocky Mountain House	21.0	396.1	300.7	15	14
	Gwynne	16.5	287.6	253.1	14	16
6	Campsie	6.9	362.7	243.1	14	14
	Edson	19.7	401.6	294.7	14	14
	Elk Point	6.9	350.2	213.4	14	15
	Whitcourt	9.6	450.8	274.6	15	14
7	Beaverlodge	18.8	190.6(2)	204.5	16	14
	Chipewyan	25.9	202.4	137.1	13	16
	Ft. Vermilion	2.5	214.9	163.1	16	15
	Grande Prairie	18.9	289.7	197.9	16	15
	High Prairie	..	219.5(2)	208.6	..	14
	Peace River	1.2	217.3	161.0	15	14
AVERAGE — ALBERTA — MOYENNE		11.6	220.1	219.9	15.2	16.2

(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.