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TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT - PRAIRIE PROVINCES

This is the second of the 1978 series of twelve 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. - Farmers in most parts of Saskatchewan and Manitoba are progressing with field operations. Although somewhat later than last year, the seeding progress is normal. In Alberta cool, wet weather has delayed field work and seeding is later than normal. Moisture supplies remain good throughout the Prairies but temperatures still are cooler than normal. Weed growth is heavy.

Manitoba. - Precipitation since April 1 has been below normal throughout most of Manitoba. Although there has been warm weather, temperatures were lower last week. As a result, the land is drying and seeding is in progress in practically all areas except for points north and east of Winnipeg where conditions are still too wet. Progress with seeding varies with up to 40 per cent of the crop in the ground in some southern districts. As a result of the weather conditions, pasture growth has been slow and, in many cases, weed growth also has been delayed. Cattle are not generally yet out on pasture.

Agriculture Division
Crops Section

4-3102-508

Saskatchewan. - Cool, showery weather this past week prevented significant progress of seeding. Seeding is about half completed in some southern districts while just beginning in most northern areas. Seeding is approximately two weeks later than last year but similar to the long term average. Soil moisture conditions are good throughout the province.

Alberta. - Alberta farmers were able to progress with their spring field operations due to the generally favourable weather during the past week. Cultivation, fertilization, seeding and chemical applications are now common throughout the province. About 20 per cent of the crop is now in the ground but showery weather during the past two days has slowed field work. The Edmonton and Peace River regions are the furthest advanced while the slowest areas are in the southwest corner of the province where cold weather and slowly drying fields are hampering seeding progress.

Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces(1)

	Unweighted Average Precipitation		
	Per cent variation from normal(2)		
	Man.	Sask.	Alta.
April 1, 1978 - May 15, 1978	- 20	+ 34	+ 28
April 1, 1978 - May 8, 1978	- 34	+ 37	+ 43
April 1, 1978 - May 1, 1978	- 31	+ 31	+ 61
April 1, 1977 - May 16, 1977	- 9	+ 34	+ 53
	Mean Temperature		
	°C variation from normal(2)		
	Man.	Sask.	Alta.
For the week ending May 15, 1978	- 2.3	- 1.2	- 1.5
For the week ending May 8, 1978	+ 2.2	- 0.1	- 2.4
For the week ending May 1, 1978	+ 3.2	+ 4.1	+ 3.5
For the week ending May 16, 1977	+ 9.7	+ 6.4	+ 0.9

(1) Source: Atmospheric Environment Service.

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

MANITOBA

In the Altona district the topsoil is dry but there is good moisture underneath and seeding is in full swing. Germination of the early-seeded crop is excellent while wild oat growth is widespread especially in stubble. Some recently seeded fields have been harrowed to break the crust and control small weeds. Farther west around Morden soil conditions are described as good to excellent with volunteer grain and weed growth heavy. Some 30 to 35 per cent of the land has been seeded and in many cases the farmers planting corn have 50 per cent of the crop in the ground. Pea acreage is increased and pastures are coming along well but are not yet ready to carry livestock. Forage crops look promising.

Our reporter in Pilot Mound indicates that district farmers have seeded 30 per cent of their crops and soil moisture conditions are good. Wild oats are growing well but broadleaf weeds are slow. Acreage seeded to special crops has increased including corn, rapeseed, sunflower, buckwheat and flax, with some reduction in acreage devoted to cereals, hay and pasture. Plant growth has started but is slow. At Somerset conditions will be nearly ideal if warm weather continues. More rapeseed has been sown with a decrease in grains and flax. Pastures are growing well but growth is not yet adequate. Some seeding was undertaken last week and activity will soon be general. Melita district farmers are progressing with seeding activities with an estimated 35 to 40 per cent of the crop in the ground, although in some instances considerably more has been accomplished. Rain last weekend greatly improved moisture conditions and hay and pastures are now doing better, although still lacking vigor. The fall rye crop is 15 cm tall and healthy. Some soil erosion due to high winds is reported.

Near Winnipeg at Beausejour soil and moisture conditions are good, although low areas are still quite wet. Weed growth is good, especially broadleaf weeds and wild oats. Some five per cent of the crop has been seeded. Pasture growth is very good. Feed supplies are low. Reports from the Selkirk district indicate minimal field work due to wet fields. Weeds are showing rapid growth and control measures will start when fields can support spray equipment. Less than five per cent of the seeding has been done, but pastures and hay crops are showing excellent growth. Nevertheless, most cattle are still on dry feed in the yards. Around Portage la Prairie seeding is in full swing with nearly all fields suitable for field work. Rain last week was most welcome. Windy conditions have prevented farmers from applying pre-emergence herbicides. Pastures are green and some cattle have been put out to pasture. Forage crops have responded well to winter and spring moisture and to the warm weather during the past two weeks. Sugar beets and potatoes are being seeded, although growing conditions are not yet suitable for the latter.

Rain has held up field work in the Brandon district. However, forage crops continue to make good progress and wild oats are beginning to emerge.

In the Interlake district around Teulon weather is ideal for seeding and operations are under way with ten to 20 per cent of the crop in the ground. Grass growth is starting but some showers would be beneficial. No insect problems have been reported to date. Farther north at Arborg dry weather prevailed last week and, except for some small amounts of precipitation, has continued into this week. Seeding is general in most of this district except for the Lakeshore and Washow Bay. Favourable weather conditions have enabled farmers to prepare excellent

seedbeds which are in most cases ideal for incorporating pre-emergence herbicides. Indications are that more rapeseed and less feed grains are being sown this year.

In the west-central part of the province at Neepawa 25 mm of rain on May 8 and showers on May 12 hampered seeding operations. Weed growth is good but seeding is being delayed to control wild oats. With good weather seeding will be general this week. Pasture growth is improving and some cattle are now out on pasture. In the Minnedosa district cool, wet weather has delayed field operations. With 25 mm of rain recently moisture conditions are good but warm weather is needed to promote growth. Farmers were able to resume seeding operations on the weekend and activity will soon be general. Less than 20 per cent of the land has been seeded. Pasture growth is slow.

Rain and snow halted seeding operations last week at Shoal Lake. By the weekend, however, farmers were back on the land and seeding operations are now general, except for a few farmers who are still waiting for wild oats to emerge. Early-seeded wheat has emerged and pastures are looking better after the rains but cool weather is delaying growth. Progress with seeding ranges from nil to 75 per cent completed with an overall average of about 35 to 40 per cent of the crop in the ground. At Russell sub-soil moisture is good and surface moisture fair to good with lighter texture soils realizing some stress. Weed growth is vigorous with the major control method in use being in the incorporation of herbicides into the soil. Seeding is 30 to 35 per cent completed with most of the wheat and rapeseed already sown. Most farmers are using high levels of fertilizer application on stubble. A reduction of summerfallow acreage is anticipated in the district. Seed supplies are fair and, with pasture growth ahead of normal, farmers are already utilizing native pastures.

At Dauphin in the northwest of the province farmers have seeded 25 per cent of the crop. Surface moisture is fair and sub-soil moisture good while soil tilth is excellent. There is a heavy weed growth, especially wild oats, but pastures are slow and need a good rain. Feed supplies are low in the district.

SASKATCHEWAN

At Weyburn in the southeast part of the province rain delayed seeding. Moisture conditions are moderate to good in this area. Weather conditions have been warm with general showers this past week.

In the southwest at Swift Current seeding has been delayed by cool, wet weather with only approximately 25 per cent completed. Moisture conditions are good and more stubble is being seeded. Grass growth is excellent and weeds are prevalent. In the Leader district seeding is about 75 per cent completed although it has been interrupted by rain. Soil moisture is much above average for this area and grass growth is very good.

Our correspondent at Melville reports high winds since the weekend have speeded drying of the land. Most farmers have commenced field operations and many started seeding early this week. Seeding is more advanced in the Fort Qu'Appelle area. Pastures are in good condition. Around Canora seeding is under way with about 10 to 20 per cent of the crop planted. Moisture levels are adequate and

pastures and haylands have made a good start. At Watson localized heavy showers halted seeding which had commenced May 4. Seeding is about 35 per cent completed in this area. Grasses are developing well.

In the central area at Drake seeding operations are progressing rapidly with nearly 50 per cent completed. Wild oat growth is extensive. Rain is required for germination and pasture growth. Cattle are in good condition and are going to pasture now. At Saskatoon warm, dry weather during the past week has permitted seeding to progress rapidly with 65 to 75 per cent of the spring wheat now seeded. Early-seeded fields of wheat have emerged and appear good. Some farmers are delaying seeding slightly in order to use cultivation to kill wild oats which are germinating well.

Our correspondent at Rosetown in the west-central area reports seeding about 50 per cent completed although the weather has been showery this past week. Wild oats are growing well which is causing some producers to delay seeding. Large quantities of wild oat spray and fertilizer are being used in this district. Topsoil moisture conditions are very good which will assist germination. Pastures and haylands have made a good start and prospects for all crops are good. At Scott 88 mm of precipitation since April 1 has produced ideal moisture conditions. However, it has delayed seeding operations with only approximately 25 per cent of the crop planted. Weed growth is fairly extensive but there is no emergence of grain. Drier weather is urgently needed to complete seeding operations. Pastures and haylands are excellent.

In the northeast area at Melfort with only about 15 per cent of the crop planted a shortage of fertilizer and weed control chemicals is developing. There is adequate soil moisture for good germination. Winter wheat and fall rye are good and weeds are growing well. Rapeseed acreage is expected to be increased in this area. Hay and pastures are fair. At Tisdale warm, dry weather this past week has permitted favourable progress of seeding which is now general. In the Hudson Bay area conditions have improved considerably this past week with seeding operations only slightly behind schedule. The previous cool weather had delayed weed germination and some farmers are delaying seeding for weed control.

At Shellbrook seeding is under way with no crop emergence to date. Growers are using large quantities of fertilizers, herbicides and seed treatments. Pastures and haylands are satisfactory with excellent growing conditions. In the Big River-Spiritwood area field operations have commenced but little seeding has been done.

The Saskatchewan Municipal Hail Insurance Association reports no storms to date.

ALBERTA

Moisture conditions throughout Alberta range from good to excellent for seed germination. However, a good rain in the Peace River and northern regions would encourage hay and forage growth which has been slow to date. The fall rye and winter wheat crops are rated as very good with little winterkill reported. Hay and pastures are generally in good condition. Some areas are experiencing shortages of certain chemicals and fertilizers.

In the area around Medicine Hat seeding of dryland is between one-third to one-half completed while seeding of irrigated land is just commencing. During the past week frequent showers have delayed field work. Moisture conditions in general are excellent and native ranges and pasture are all green.

In the southwest of the province around Lethbridge seeding is about three weeks behind normal. Dryland seeding is more advanced than on the irrigated lands. Seeding completions range from five per cent or less west of Lethbridge to 50 per cent at Brooks and Hanna. Approximately 50 per cent of the potatoes and sugar beets have been planted. The winter wheat crop is in excellent condition but some fields are heavily infested with weeds, such as wild oats and wild buckwheat. Pastures and range lands in southern Alberta continue to be excellent. Soil moisture is good with sufficient precipitation to offset evaporation losses. Sub-soil moisture conditions are only fair in the east-central region of Alberta with water supplies for livestock below normal. At Cardston field work is now general with the application of fertilizer 50 per cent completed. Some seeding is being done and should be general by the weekend. Spraying of fall grains is under way. Pasture and grasslands are excellent and livestock are in good condition. Seeding of oilseed crops should be completed in two weeks.

In the northeast-central part of the province at Vermilion seeding is 25 per cent completed. Rain every day for the past five days has stopped field operations. Warm weather is needed to promote plant growth which has been very slow to date. Large increases in the rapeseed acreage are reported this year.

In the west-central part of the province at Red Deer 75 per cent of the wheat, 33 per cent of the barley, 10 per cent of the oats and 40 per cent of the rapeseed have been seeded to date. The weather has been cool and the recent rain stopped all operations. Hay and pastures as well as weed growth is slow. Our reporter at Lacombe indicates that 16 mm of rain on May 9 and 10 halted field operations for several days. Seeding is only five to ten per cent completed. The moisture situation is good with warm, dry weather needed for seeding and good forage growth.

Our correspondent at Eckville reports that field work is still being delayed due to cool, showery weather. Seeding of wheat has been completed but only small acreages of oats and barley have been seeded. However, seeding will not be general until weather improves. Hay and pasture growth is slow.

In the Peace River Region almost one-third of the cereal crops have been seeded. Very cool weather has resulted in little germination. Forage growth has been slow although winter survival is generally good.

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. May 15 — Température moyenne semaine se terminant 8 a.m. le 15 mai	
Province and crop district — Province et district agricole	Station	Week ending 8 a.m. May 15, 1978 — Semaine se terminant 8 a.m. le 15 mai, 1978	Total since April 1 — Total depuis le 1 ^{er} avril	Normal since April 1 — Normales depuis le 1 ^{er} avril	1978	Normal
					degrees — degrés C.	
MANITOBA						
M1	Boissevain	15.0	32.7	64.1	11	12
	Pierson	12.7	49.9	60.2	11	12
M2	Virden	23.3	53.5	52.8	10	12
	Brandon	21.7	49.0	55.4	10	12
	Cypress River	9.4	46.1	61.7	10	12
M3	Birtle	21.1	54.7	54.4	7	11
M4	Rossburn	16.8	51.8	61.1	9	12
	Russell	16.4	55.6	43.2	10	11
M5	Swan River	t	22.3	55.2	11	12
M6	Dauphin	4.8	35.2	59.7	11	12
M7	Gladstone	27.9	54.5	69.6	10	12
	Starbuck	19.0	58.3	81.1	9	13
	Portage la Prairie	11.3	54.4	73.7	10	13
M8	Altona	20.1	68.9	60.0	9	13
	Baldur	4.8	35.6	86.8	9	12
	Pilot Mound	9.2	42.5	72.6	10	12
	Graysville	13.5	43.2	66.9	10	12
	Morden	25.2	65.5	69.5	11	13
	Roland	22.6	48.7	62.0	9	13
	Morris	17.5	68.3	64.9	10	13
M8	Plum Coulee	25.4	87.4	77.6	11	13
	Emerson	15.2	65.7	64.3	12	12
M9	Winnipeg	20.8	50.8	65.9	10	12
M10	Pinawa	23.6	47.2	64.7	9	13
	Sprague	4.8	46.2	70.2	9	12
M11	Stoney Mountain	8.9	36.8	71.1	9	12
M12	Arborg	..	32.0(2)	60.1	..	11
	Hodgson	..	20.3(2)	67.8
	Gimli	22.9	64.5	61.5	9	11
	The Pas	1.6	31.2	44.7	9	10
	Grass River	22.9	50.6	54.8	10	12
	Thompson	..	36.5(2)	47.6
AVERAGE — MANITOBA — MOYENNE		15.8	50.7	63.3	9.8	12.1

SASKATCHEWAN

1A	Carlyle	17.8	51.6	50.8	11	12
	Estevan	19.1	87.9	53.7	11	13
	Oxbow	..	34.0(2)	45.6	..	12
	Willmar	10.9	52.5	49.9	..	12
1B	Broadview	19.9	69.2	47.6	10	11

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 15 Température moyenne semaine se terminant 8 a.m. le 15 mai	
			Week ending 8 a.m. May 15, 1978	Total since April 1	Normal since April 1	1978	Normal
			Semaine se terminant 8 a.m. le 15 mai, 1978	Total depuis le 1er avril	Normales depuis le 1er avril	degrees — degrés C.	
			mm				
SASKATCHEWAN — Continued — suite							
1B	Moosomin	17.8	54.4	54.8	10	12	
2A	Yellow Grass	20.0	65.5	48.9	11	12	
	Weyburn	27.2	75.5	53.9	11	12	
	Midale	6.6	48.8	49.6	11	12	
	Amulet	27.4	68.6	72.1	12	12	
2B	Moose Jaw	15.1	67.1	46.3	11	13	
	Regina	10.0	66.7	45.0	12	12	
	Francis	43.8	..	11	
	Indian Head	11.2	54.8	48.4	10	12	
3AS	Ormiston	26.4	40.2(2)	46.0	11	13	
	Cardross	24.6	61.3	51.1	13	12	
	Rock Glen	17.6	63.4	74.7	11	12	
3AN	Coderre	22.1	35.8	41.9	10	12	
	Chaplin	15.7	38.6	38.1	11	13	
3BS	Shaunavon	13.2	53.2	40.4	11	12	
	Aneroid	21.6	54.6	44.2	12	12	
3BN	Swift Current	13.6	69.3	44.6	11	12	
	Pennant	8.5	73.7	42.9	11	12	
	Elrose	10.2	81.1	36.7	11	12	
4A	Maple Creek	6.3	87.8	43.6	12	13	
	Consul	7.7	48.1	35.2	10	12	
4B	Leader	6.4	98.5	36.9	12	13	
5A	Balcarres	..	27.2(2)	47.8	..	12	
	Lipton	9.4	47.1	38.3	10	12	
	Yorkton	0.4	37.1	47.2	10	12	
	Atwater	9.7	38.2	47.1	10	12	
5B	Wynyard	0.8	41.6	43.8	11	11	
	Foam Lake	11.1	54.2	43.8	11	11	
	Kuroki	3.0	45.6	47.3	10	11	
	Kamsack, Cote	t	23.8	39.4	11	12	
6A	Davidson	4.1	23.9(2)	44.2	12	12	
	Strasbourg	4.8	29.8	48.5	11	12	
	Watrous	..	14.2(2)	48.9	..	11	
6B	Harris	1.5	58.8	38.4	11	12	
	Outlook	18.7	47.5	35.9	11	13	
	Saskatoon	t	32.8	38.5	12	12	
	Elbow	5.3	24.1	42.8	10	12	
	Tugaske	4.6	38.6	46.5	10	12	
	Dundurn	t	28.9	39.0	6	12	
7A	Alsask	6.3	94.9	21.7	11	13	
	Kindersley	10.0	65.4	33.1	11	12	

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		Precipitation — Précipitations			Mean temperature week ending 8 a.m. May 15 — Température moyenne semaine se terminant 8 a.m. le 15 mai	
		Week ending 8 a.m. May 15, 1978 — Semaine se terminant 8 a.m. le 15 mai, 1978	Total since April 1 — Total depuis le 1 ^{er} avril	Normal since April 1 — Normales depuis le 1 ^{er} avril	1978	Normal — Normale
Station		mm			degrees — degrés C.	
<u>SASKATCHEWAN — Concluded — fin</u>						
7A	Rosetown	13.0	73.5	40.4	11	12
7B	Macklin	23.7	109.6	35.3	11	12
	Denzil	17.3	121.4	41.5	11	12
	Scott	11.9	86.0	40.1	10	12
	Biggar	2.8	47.7	40.3	11	12
8A	Hudson Bay	0.4	47.5	46.3	10	11
	Prairie River	N	63.6	46.6	9	11
	Nipawin	0.6	47.4	46.4	11	11
8B	Humboldt	0.4	28.3	36.3	11	11
	Melfort	1.9	56.6	41.1	10	12
9A	North Battleford	2.7	61.8	37.5	11	12
	Prince Albert	1.5	44.9	42.2	11	11
9B	Meadow Lake	4.2	80.7	38.8	9	10
	Waseca	7.6	94.5	44.4	10	11
AVERAGE — SASKATCHEWAN — MOYENNE		10.2	59.2	44.3	10.7	11.9

ALBERTA

1	Empress	4.1	85.6	23.1	13	11
	Foremost	2.1	104.4	46.7	13	11
	Manyberries	..	91.4(2)	48.1	..	12
	Medicine Hat	6.7	81.8	44.6	13	13
2	Brooks	3.9	71.4	41.8	12	12
	Gleichen	12.2	81.7	52.4	10	12
	Vauxhall	4.2	71.0	42.4	12	12
	Raymond	0.5	76.2	65.6	12	13
	Lethbridge	6.3	144.7	61.9	12	12
	Elnora	6.6	53.6	47.4	..	12
	Queenstown	..	25.4(2)	56.9	..	12
3	Calgary	12.2	96.6	55.3	9	11
	Cardston	N	104.5	72.1	11	11
	Pincher Creek	4.4	89.5	86.6	10	10
	Fort MacLeod	1.6	84.0	63.7	11	12
	Claresholm	13.2	102.7	66.9	12	12
	High River	6.6	106.4	72.2	8	10
	Olds	8.0	31.0	52.1	9	9
4	Alliance	19.6	79.6	35.7	11	11
	Coronation	2.3	47.7	37.4	10	12
	Hughenden	22.8	95.2	35.5	11	11
	Lloydminster	5.6	100.0	38.9	9	12



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Province and crop district	Station	Week ending 8 a.m. May 15, 1978	Total since April 1	Normal since April 1	— Température moyenne semaine se terminant	
Province et district agricole		— Semaine se terminant 8 a.m. 1e 15 mai, 1978	— Total depuis le 1er avril	— Normales depuis le 1er avril	8 a.m. 1e 15 mai	
					1978	Normal
						—
						Normale
			mm		degrees — degrés C.	
ALBERTA — Concluded — fin						
4	Stettler	11.4	50.4	39.2	9	12
	Vegreville	7.4	15.4	35.3	9	11
	Ranfurly	7.5	27.7	40.2	10	12
	Vermilion	9.5	44.7	36.8	11	11
5	Edmonton	7.5	28.7	40.5	10	12
	Lacombe	..	27.6(2)	51.7	..	11
	Red Deer	7.7	46.8	48.6	10	11
	Rocky Mountain House	10.4	55.6	64.5	8	10
6	Gwynne	12.2	40.8	48.5	9	11
	Campsie	2.5	14.6	43.4	8	11
	Edson	3.8	45.3	58.8	7	11
	Elk Point	1.5	25.6	38.5	8	10
7	Whitecourt	2.4	19.1	54.2	8	10
	Beaverlodge	3.8	33.5	43.9	7	11
	Chipewyan	t	38.8	27.4	3	10
	Ft. Vermilion	0.5	15.8	33.6	10	11
	Grande Prairie	1.2	27.3	41.4	7	11
	Hign Prairie	..	64.0(2)	41.0	..	11
	Peace River	6.4	23.3	30.6	8	11
AVERAGE — ALBERTA — MOYENNE		6.4	61.1	47.9	9.7	11.2

(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.

T. Trace.