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TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT - PRAIRIE PROVINCES

This is the fourth 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. - Seeding is virtually completed in Saskatchewan and rapidly nearing completion in Manitoba and Alberta. Total precipitation is above normal and moisture supplies are generally good. Hay and pasture conditions are reported to be excellent. Flea beetles are causing damage in some rapeseed fields. Weed growth continues to be heavy. Some reseeding of oilseed crops is occurring in Manitoba due to flooding and soil crusting. In Alberta and Saskatchewan germination of all crops has been good and crop growth appears promising.

Manitoba. - Seeding is 80 to 90 per cent completed throughout the province. Heavy rains have caused some flooding and soil crusting in many districts. Frost has caused some damage to rapeseed and alfalfa fields in the Interlake Region. Considerable reseeding of flax and rapeseed is occurring. Weed growth is heavy due to delays in spraying. Flea beetles and cutworms are active. Forages are in good condition and fall rye has headed.

Agriculture Division
Crops Section

4-3102-508

Saskatchewan. - The wheat crop is all seeded but some oats, barley, flaxseed and rapeseed are still to be planted in districts where rain prevented completion last week and in the south-central region where fields are excessively wet. Germination of all crops has been excellent. Early stands in the southwest have reached the five to six leaf stage and in all other areas early crops are in the four leaf stage. Wild oats are a problem and many farmers are waiting for improved weather to apply post-emergent chemicals. Infestations of flea beetles are reported in all rapeseed growing areas but damage has been minimal. Fall rye is in the boot to heading stage. Hay fields are in good condition with the first cut about ten days to two weeks away. Summerfallow operations have commenced throughout the province.

Alberta. - Seeding of the major grains and oilseeds is nearing completion in most areas of the province as over 90 per cent of the crops are now in the ground. The latest areas are in the Claresholm, Pincher Creek and Cardston district of southern Alberta and in the Manning area of the Peace River District. All areas should be finished seeding by mid-June if good weather continues. Excellent moisture conditions and warm weather have promoted rapid crop growth. Early-seeded spring crops, fall-seeded crops and hay and pasture are in very good condition. Weed growth has been heavy and spraying operations are now under way. Flea beetles are numerous and have infested many rapeseed fields.

RUST REPORT

The trend of rust development in 1978 is not evident. Reports from the south do not indicate a particularly threatening situation but the severity of infection can change suddenly for any of the rust varieties which are important in Western Canada. Wheat stem rust is widely distributed in the far south but up to the present has not been reported north of southern Kansas. Light infections of wheat leaf rust are present in the southern states and traces have been observed as far north as southern South Dakota. Oat stem rust is present in central Texas but infections are not as severe as in 1977. Traces of oat crown rust have been reported as far north as northern Oklahoma.

Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces(1)

	Unweighted Average Precipitation		
	Per cent variation from normal(2)		
	Man.	Sask.	Alta.
April 1, 1978 - June 5, 1978	+ 6	+ 21	+ 31
April 1, 1978 - May 29, 1978	+ 3	+ 24	+ 36
April 1, 1978 - May 22, 1978	- 25	+ 14	+ 25
April 1, 1977 - June 6, 1977	+ 9	+ 45	+ 35
	Mean Temperature		
	°C variation from normal(2)		
	Man.	Sask.	Alta.
For the week ending June 5, 1978	- 2.6	- 0.9	+ 0.6
For the week ending May 29, 1978	+ 4.2	+ 2.0	- 2.4
For the week ending May 22, 1978	+ 3.5	+ 2.8	+ 1.5
For the week ending June 6, 1977	+ 1.1	+ 1.6	+ 0.9

(1) Source: Atmospheric Environment Service.

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

MANITOBA

In the Altona district crops are growing satisfactorily. A few flax fields have been reseeded after rain damage. Mustard, wild oats and green foxtail have infested some fields and chemical spraying is in progress. No insect activity has been reported in the area.

Seeding is nearing completion in all parts of the Morden area, in the south-central part of the province. Crop emergence is generally good although there have been scattered problems due to drowning. Flea beetles are a problem in most rapeseed fields. Pastures and hay crops are in excellent condition with some cutting about to begin.

In the Brandon area seeding has been completed and emerged stands are in good condition. Pastures and hay are developing well. Winds and rain have hampered spraying operations for weed and insect control.

Around Somerset conditions are near ideal and 85 per cent of crops have been seeded although some soil drift has occurred due to heavy rains. Hayland and pastures are doing well. Flea beetle infestations are moderate to heavy. In the Melita district most farmers have completed seeding or are nearing completion. Some rapeseed and flaxseed fields have been reseeded due to heavy rains that crusted soil surfaces. Fall rye is flowering and hay and pasture conditions are good. Spraying for all types of weeds is in full progress.

Near Winnipeg at Beausejour excess moisture has been reported. Some field work has been done and 50 to 60 per cent of the crops have been seeded. Weed growth is good although little spraying is under way. No major shifts have occurred in planting with the exception of increased acreages of rapeseed sown in the south Beausejour area. Pasture growth and livestock feed supplies appear good.

The Selkirk area received about 21 mm of rain in the last week. Field conditions are still too wet and up to one week of dry weather is needed for seeding to be general. About 60 per cent of the seeding has been completed. Wild oat and broad-leaf weed control has been undertaken by some farmers but wet conditions are slowing spraying operations. Hay and pastures are excellent. Most cattle are out on pastures and appear to be in good condition.

In the Stonewall area soil moisture conditions are good, although heavy rain has hampered seeding operations somewhat, particularly in the low lying areas. Approximately 70 per cent of the crops have been seeded and good drying weather is now needed. Rains have caused some yellowing in seeded crops. Frost has occurred but no significant damage has been reported. Pasture growth is good and haying operations should start within the next two weeks. Flea beetles are causing some damage to rapeseed fields and control measures are being taken. Weed growth is good but spraying operations are hampered by damp fields. At Portage la Prairie heavy rainfall has delayed completion of seeding and some fields will be re-seeded because of surface soil crusting. Spraying of the heavy weed growth has been delayed due to wet conditions. Pastures and forages are developing well.

At Neepawa in the west-central part of the province showers this past week delayed field work. Seeding is now about 85 per cent complete. Flea beetles are being controlled in some rapeseed fields and post-emergence weed control is under way. Fall rye is in head and pastures and hay fields are in good condition. Around Minnedosa seeding is 95 per cent completed. The 15 mm of rainfall received during the week and heavy rains of the previous week caused emergence difficulties with flax and rapeseed and has resulted in some reseeded. Cereals are emerging well, weed growth is heavy and pastures and hay crops are in good condition. Flea beetles are attacking rapeseed and control measures are under way.

Sowing is complete in the Russell area in the west-central part of the province. Soil moisture conditions are fair to good. A moderate infestation of broad-leaf weeds has occurred and post-emergent herbicide spraying is under way on early-seeded cereals. Flea beetle and forest tent caterpillar activity has been low. Most pastures are being utilized although rain is needed to maintain pasture growth.

In the northwest part of the province at Dauphin seeding is almost complete. Germination is good and alfalfa is starting to flower. Spraying has started on heavy weed growth especially wild oats. Pasture and moisture conditions range from fair to good. Around Swan River seeding is complete with the exception of the Birch River area where there was excessive moisture last fall. Some reseeded is being done due to soil blowing. Most crops are up and doing well but need rain. Pastures and forage crops are maturing rapidly.

SASKATCHEWAN

In the Indian Head district seeding has been completed and the early-sown crops are in the three leaf stage and making good progress. Moisture conditions are very good with recent heavy rains causing flooding in some low lying areas. First summerfallow operations should be completed this week. Forage crops are making very good growth and the hay yield will be well above average.

At Shaunavon in the southwest moisture conditions are generally good. Seeding is 98 per cent completed with good germination. Early crops are in the four to five leaf stage and most crops in the three leaf stage. Winter wheat has wintered well and is now growing and tillering rapidly. Native pastures are showing excellent regrowth following the heavy over-grazing last year.

Seeding is completed in the Swift Current area with stands varying from just emerging to the three to four leaf stage. Weather conditions have caused fields to be very weedy and most grain stands are too young to spray. More stubble has been seeded than usual in this area because of the good moisture conditions. Pastures are excellent and prospects are for an above average hay crop. At Leader recent rains have increased moisture supplies and crops are developing favourably. Pastures are better than normal.

Our correspondent at Melville reports seeding almost completed and farmers busy with summerfallow operations. Weed infestations are heavy. Windy conditions are causing rapid moisture depletion in some areas. Pastures and forage crops range from good to excellent.

Crop development is proceeding satisfactorily in the Canora district. Moisture conditions are generally fair to good; however, rain is still needed especially in the area to the north. Weather has been variable in the Watson area changing from unseasonably hot to cold with high winds and limited precipitation. Spraying for weeds is progressing. Prospects for hay are good.

At Drake in the central region 35 mm of rain was received in the past week. First summerfallow operations are nearly completed and some rapeseed acreage is being sprayed for beetles. Chemical weed spraying will begin this week. Hay prospects in this area are not good because of insufficient rain in May.

In the Saskatoon district moisture conditions are still good in spite of the hot, windy weather. Germination has been good and crops are growing well. Flea beetles are causing some damage to rapeseed but control measures are under way. Summerfallow operations are progressing. Hay and pastures are good.

Our correspondent at Rosetown in the west-central region reports crops about three inches in height and growing well. Farmers are now summerfallowing or spraying. Most fields will have to be sprayed for wild oats and other weeds. Pastures are very good and prospects are for a better than average hay crop. At Scott hot, dry weather the past four days has promoted growth of cereals. Early-seeded fields are now being sprayed for weeds. Flea beetles are causing damage to rapeseed and spraying for control is general with some severely damaged fields being reseeded. Pasture conditions remain excellent and an above average hay crop is expected.

In the northeast at Tisdale seeding is completed except for some wet areas. Conditions are good for crop emergence. Some flea beetles are reported in rapeseed. First cutting of alfalfa for dehydration has begun.

At Shellbrook in the north-central area seeding is virtually finished with emerging crops progressing favourably. Rapeseed fields are excellent with a few reports of wild oat infestation, emergence problems or flea beetle activity. Post-emergence spraying for wild oats is widespread and spraying for broad-leaf weeds in early wheat and barley is about to commence. Fall rye is well headed and looks promising. The hay stand is good with moisture conditions varying from fair to excellent.

In the extreme northwest at Meadow Lake seeding is 90 per cent completed with only some oats and rapeseed to be planted. Growing conditions have been good this past week and crops are progressing well. Some flea beetle damage is reported in rapeseed. Fall-seeded crops are heading well and hay and pastures are in good condition.

The Saskatchewan Municipal Hail Insurance Association reports no claims this past week.

ALBERTA

In the southwestern part of the province surface moisture is in excess of crop needs and sub-surface moisture is excellent. Range and pasture conditions are very good. Seeding completion rates are approximately: wheat 75 per cent, rapeseed 75 per cent, flax 75 per cent, oats 50 per cent and barley 40 per cent. Several farmers in the Fort McLeod area have no seeding done to date. Some streak mosaic is appearing in wheat and yellowing of winter wheat has occurred due to the wet soil and cool weather. Flea beetles and cutworms are reported in a few fields of rapeseed. Yields of sugar beets, potatoes and silage corn could be down due to the late seeding. In the Medicine Hat area conditions are generally excellent.

In the south-central part of the province at Vulcan cool, rainy weather from May 30 through June 2 had slowed field operations. However, the subsequent sunny, warm weather has enabled farmers to complete seeding. Hay and pastures are in good condition. Continued good weather is needed to advance crops.

In the area around Calgary both surface and sub-soil moisture conditions are good. If the weather stays good, seeding will be completed by the end of the week. Winter wheat appears to be in good condition. Hay and pasture lands are reported to be in excellent condition.

In the northeast-central region seeding is completed with the exception of some silage and green feed crops. Moisture conditions are above average due to 50 mm of rain received last week. Early-seeded crops look very promising. Some reports of flea beetles in rapeseed fields have been received. Pastures are developing rapidly and are in excellent condition.

In the west-central part of the province around Red Deer seeding is nearing completion with 100 per cent of the wheat and 85 per cent of the barley, oats and rapeseed seeded. Hay and pastures are growing rapidly. Flea beetles are

widespread but very little damage has been reported to date. Crops are germinating well but are growing slowly. Our reporter at Lacombe indicates that seeding is nearly completed as a result of the improved weather conditions during the past week. Spraying operations are now commencing on some early-seeded crops. Hay and pasture conditions are excellent. At Eckville hay and cereal crops are progressing rapidly under ideal growing conditions. Early crops are in the two and three leaf stage. Seeding is 90 per cent completed and weed spraying will commence soon.

In the Peace River District at Beaverlodge weather conditions have been variable as hot weather was followed by wet weather and some hail. Seeding is generally completed throughout most of the area and growing conditions are good.

The Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation reports hail storms on May 28 at Innisfail but no crop damage was reported; June 5 a short evening storm dropped hail on Barrhead, Alcomdale, Morinville, Edmonton and St. Paul areas.

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. June 5 — Température moyenne semaine se terminant 8 a.m. le 5 juin	
		Week ending 8 a.m. June 5, 1978 — Semaine se terminant 8 a.m. le 5 juin, 1978	Total since April 1 — Total depuis le 1 ^{er} avril	Normal since April 1 — Normales depuis le 1 ^{er} avril	1978	Normal
			mm		degrees	— degrés C.
<u>MANITOBA</u>						
M1	Boissevain	19.1	103.1	114.7	14	14
	Pierson	21.1	128.6	103.6	14	16
M2	Virden	39.4	122.9	98.0	14	15
	Brandon	14.6	106.8	96.2	14	16
	Cypress River	13.2	101.0	105.8	14	16
M3	Birtle	6.9	73.0	98.6	14	14
M4	Rosburn	6.9	89.2	110.5	13	14
	Russell	1.2	79.0	80.4	14	14
M5	Swan River	2.0	34.2	92.5	14	14
M6	Dauphin	15.4	78.6	106.0	14	15
M7	Gladstone	31.8	125.1	111.0	13	15
	Starbuck	17.3	176.2	127.8	12	16
	Portage la Prairie	25.8	117.8	122.6	13	16
M8	Altona	9.9	128.3	103.2	13	17
	Baldur	26.4	102.6	140.2	13	16
	Pilot Mound	19.3	112.9	125.0	13	16
	Graysville	30.7	152.6	111.5	13	16
	Morden	50.2	181.9	116.2	13	17
	Roland	..	94.9(2)	104.2	..	17
	Morris	9.1	116.8	109.2	13	17
M8	Plum Coulee	17.0	156.3	127.4	14	17
	Emerson	5.1	97.2	110.2	13	16
M9	Winnipeg	13.5	149.9	111.0	13	16
M10	Pinawa	33.5	132.8	111.9	11	14
	Sprague	13.2	111.7	119.9	11	15
M11	Stoney Mountain	0.8	101.4	117.9	11	16
M12	Arborg	18.0	89.1	101.7	11	15
	Hodgson	..	65.8(2)	98.3
	Gimli	23.5	135.0	105.4	11	15
	The Pas	11.3	43.4	76.2	11	14
	Grass River	23.4	152.4	98.4	13	15
	Thompson	..	65.7(2)	67.3
AVERAGE — MANITOBA — MOYENNE		17.9	113.8	107.0	12.9	15.5
<u>SASKATCHEWAN</u>						
1A	Carlyle	23.1	120.4	92.5	12	14
	Estevan	63.8	188.6	94.3	13	16
	Oxbow	32.1	90.0	83.5	12	14
	Willmar	36.8	109.9	91.1	..	14
1B	Broadview	4.0	86.6	93.9	13	13

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		Precipitation — Précipitations			Mean temperature	
					week ending	
					8 a.m.	
Province and crop district	Station	Week ending 8 a.m. June 5, 1978	Total since April 1	Normal since April 1	June 5	
Province et district agricole		Semaine se terminant 8 a.m. 1e 5 juin, 1978	Total depuis le 1er avril	Normales depuis le 1er avril	Température moyenne semaine se terminant 8 a.m. 1e 5 juin	
					1978	Normal
					Normale	
					degrees — degrés C.	
SASKATCHEWAN — Continued — suite						
1B	Moosomin	16.5	88.2	100.2	13	14
2A	Yellow Grass	26.2	134.3	87.3	13	14
	Weyburn	31.8	126.9	95.8	12	15
	Midale	..	70.9(2)	91.3	..	16
	Amulet	18.5	88.1	111.0	13	14
2B	Moose Jaw	21.4	106.3	82.0	14	16
	Regina	31.6	133.9	84.7	13	15
	Francis	N	N	81.3	..	14
	Indian Head	33.6	126.0	87.8	13	14
3AS	Ormiston	23.9	88.7	82.6	14	14
	Cardross	15.2	106.0	92.1	14	14
	Rock Glen	22.0	117.5	120.6	11	13
3AN	Coderre	..	75.7(2)	77.5	..	14
	Chaplin	11.9	91.7	72.5	13	14
3BS	Shaunavon	7.9	90.5	75.3	12	14
	Aneroid	14.0	107.0	74.1	12	15
3BN	Swift Current	11.9	112.8	81.2	13	14
	Pennant	12.4	102.4	79.4	13	15
	Elrose	17.3	131.2	65.8	15	15
4A	Maple Creek	12.2	126.9	76.3	13	16
	Consul	10.7	130.5	63.2	12	14
4B	Leader	15.0	136.5	67.2	14	16
5A	Balcarres	..	27.2(2)	74.3	..	14
	Lipton	26.6	119.5	82.5	13	14
	Yorkton	1.1	58.2	79.8	14	14
	Atwater	3.0	65.7	84.7	14	14
5B	Wynyard	9.8	72.3	78.5	13	14
	Foam Lake	11.6	88.0	79.1	14	14
	Kuroki	..	71.6(2)	84.9	..	13
	Kamsack, Cote	2.3	37.3	72.9	14	14
6A	Davidson	26.3	66.8	78.4	13	14
	Strasbourg	25.6	74.4	88.9	14	14
	Watrous	33.0	68.2	88.0	13	14
6B	Harris	16.5	100.2	70.8	14	14
	Outlook	12.4	75.8	66.5	14	15
	Saskatoon	11.4	70.9	68.3	14	15
	Elbow	12.2	49.5	74.2	14	14
	Tugaske	16.0	67.3	84.0	13	14
	Dundurn	11.8	56.7	68.1	13	14
7A	Alsask	..	119.5(2)	44.4	..	15
	Kinderslev	13.4	101.6	60.1	15	14

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Precipitation — Précipitations				Mean temperature week ending 8 a.m. June 5 — Température moyenne semaine se terminant 8 a.m. le 5 juin	
Province and crop district — Province et district agricole	Station	Week ending 8 a.m. June 5, 1978 — Semaine se terminant 8 a.m. le 5 juin, 1978	Total since April 1 — Total depuis le 1er avril	Normal since April 1 — Normales depuis le 1er avril	1978 — Normale
			mm	degrees — degrés C.	
SASKATCHEWAN — Concluded — fin					
7A	Rosetown	18.5	116.6	71.3	15 14
7B	Macklin	9.9	155.1	66.5	14 14
	Denzil	11.9	163.9	74.6	15 14
	Scott	6.9	111.6	71.6	14 14
	Biggar	14.9	84.9	73.9	14 15
8A	Hudson Bay	4.9	57.2	81.0	12 14
	Prairie River	5.8	85.9	83.4	12 13
	Nipawin	7.4	57.3	78.7	14 15
8B	Humboldt	5.8	56.5	65.5	13 14
	Melfort	4.5	71.3	70.2	13 14
9A	North Battleford	10.4	98.0	66.7	15 14
	Prince Albert	8.0	77.3	72.1	13 14
9B	Meadow Lake	4.3	134.1	79.8	14 12
	Waseca	..	123.7(2)	79.5	.. 13
AVERAGE — SASKATCHEWAN — MOYENNE		15.9	96.0	79.5	13.3 14.2
ALBERTA					
1	Empress	10.2	122.4	46.0	15 15
	Foremost	24.1	141.7	82.4	14 14
	Manyberries	10.7	101.5	83.5	12 15
	Medicine Hat	11.9	128.3	77.6	14 16
2	Brooks	9.2	115.9	75.9	14 15
	Gleichen	12.0	148.7	93.8	13 14
	Vauxhall	16.0	120.4	76.1	13 14
	Raymond	35.1	142.5	113.0	12 15
	Lethbridge	31.3	220.4	107.5	13 14
	Elnora	..	77.2(2)	82.9	.. 13
	Queenstown	..	27.5(2)	103.4	.. 14
3	Calgary	18.6	155.0	101.1	13 12
	Cardston	13.4	131.4	114.2	13 13
	Pincher Creek	24.9	155.1	142.8	12 12
	Fort MacLeod	24.5	177.7	115.0	13 14
	Claresholm	11.6	180.5	115.8	13 14
	High River	..	140.2(2)	126.1	.. 12
	Olds	3.3	90.3	96.7	13 12
4	Alliance	N	121.0	70.9	15 13
	Coronation	7.2	92.1	64.0	14 13
	Hughenden	12.8	146.2	66.6	14 14
	Lloydminster	15.4	165.6	72.5	15 14



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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. June 5		
Province and crop district	Station	Week ending 8 a.m. June 5, 1978	Total since April 1	Normal since April 1	Température moyenne semaine se terminant 8 a.m. le 5 juin	
Province et district agricole		Semaine se terminant 8 a.m. le 5 juin, 1978	Total depuis le 1 ^{er} avril	Normales depuis le 1 ^{er} avril	Normal — Normale	
				mm	degrees — degrés C.	
ALBERTA — Concluded — fin						
4	Stettler	17.4	120.4	76.0	13	14
	Vegreville	18.8	57.0	66.7	12	13
	Ranfurly	22.4	80.3	72.7	16	13
	Vermilion	18.8	122.4	68.5	15	13
5	Edmonton	18.6	80.3	76.2	14	14
	Lacombe	16.6	72.5	94.5	13	13
	Red Deer	16.4	107.5	89.6	13	13
	Rocky Mountain House	27.5	124.5	114.2	12	12
6	Gwynne	20.1	90.2	87.6	14	13
	Campsie	..	78.6(2)	82.4	..	13
	Edson	5.7	86.6	106.3	13	12
	Elk Point	16.8	125.9	71.3	14	13
7	Whitecourt	8.1	63.3	94.6	14	12
	Beaverlodge	N	52.6	77.4	16	12
	Chipewyan	4.5	56.2	48.8	15	13
	Ft. Vermilion	2.9	53.2	57.5	18	13
	Grande Prairie	1.0	39.5	74.2	16	13
	High Prairie	..	64.0(2)	73.6	..	13
	Peace River	N	51.8	54.7	17	13
AVERAGE — ALBERTA — MOYENNE		14.1	112.2	85.7	13.9	13.3

(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.

T. Trace.