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Field Crop Reporting Series - No. 10

TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT - PRAIRIE PROVINCES

This is the sixth 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. - Crop development is generally ahead of normal for this time of year and is continuing to progress favourably throughout the Prairie Provinces. The majority of cereal crops have headed and oilseeds are in bloom. Scattered rain and hail damage has been reported but this has been limited. Haying operations are well advanced with generally above average yields reported. Spraying operations have for the most part been completed.

Manitoba. - Moisture conditions are favourable throughout the province. All cereals are generally in good condition with fall rye beginning to mature. Most special crops are in bloom. Flax, rapeseed and sunflowers are in good to excellent condition. Peas, buckwheat, mustard, potatoes and sugar beets are doing well, while corn is late and in need of hot weather. Weed spraying operations are almost complete. Hay yields and quality as well as pastures are good.

Agriculture Division  
Crops Section

4-3102-508

Disponible aussi en français

Saskatchewan. - Slightly cooler weather and scattered thunder showers prevailed most of last week maintaining favourable crop development. Parts of the south-central and southeastern districts received heavy rain and now report excessive soil moisture. This contrasts with the Saskatoon, Outlook and Davidson areas which remain extremely dry with stubble crops beginning to show signs of stress. Some west-central and northwestern localities are also becoming very dry and urgently require moisture. Crops in all other parts of the province are progressing well with cereals in the heading stage and most oilseeds in bloom. Diamondback moths have damaged some rapeseed fields in the northeastern districts but aerial spraying has been used for control. Grasshoppers are numerous in the Fox Valley area and some spraying has been done. Haying is well under way and progressing rapidly in the drier areas. Yields are variable but generally above average.

Alberta. - The weather has been unsettled the past week but crops are generally in good condition. Crop development has been favourable in most areas and indications are still for above average yields for the major grains and oilseeds. Haying is well under way throughout the province with good yields and quality reported.

#### Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces(1)

	Unweighted Average Precipitation		
	Per cent variation from normal(2)		
	Man.	Sask.	Alta.
April 1, 1978 - July 10, 1978 .....	- 3	+ 16	+ 13
April 1, 1978 - July 3, 1978 .....	- 13	+ 15	+ 13
April 1, 1978 - June 26, 1978 .....	- 9	+ 19	+ 17
April 1, 1977 - July 11, 1977 .....	+ 15	+ 13	+ 7
	Mean Temperature		
	°C variation from normal(2)		
	Man.	Sask.	Alta.
For the week ending July 10, 1978 .....	- 2.7	- 3.0	- 2.6
For the week ending July 3, 1978 .....	+ 2.0	+ 2.0	+ 1.4
For the week ending June 26, 1978 .....	+ 0.1	+ 0.7	+ 0.1
For the week ending July 11, 1977 .....	- 0.9	- 2.1	- 3.4

(1) Source: Atmospheric Environment Service.

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



## RUST REPORT

The Winnipeg Research Station reports that a moderate infestation of leaf rust has occurred in parts of southern Manitoba and southeastern Saskatchewan. Rust has been found on the wheat varieties Neepawa, Napayo and Manitou but not on the Glenlea or Sinton varieties. Neither stem rust of wheat nor oat rust has been observed.

## MANITOBA

In the Brandon area recent rains have improved crop prospects although summerfallowing operations have been delayed. Haying is nearly completed. Cereal and rapeseed crops are developing well and pastures are in satisfactory condition. No insect or disease problems have been reported.

In the southwest part of the province at Melita most cereals are in head and rapeseed and flax are flowering. Fall rye is beginning to turn and some may be cut next week. Pastures are growing well although the weather has not been optimum for the drying of hay. Spraying operations have been completed and no major insect problems have arisen.

In the Beausejour area around Winnipeg crops appear good although drowning has occurred in low spots due to recent rains. Hay yields and pastures are good although haying has been delayed due to rain. Special crops are in good condition despite the appearance of weeds and pests. Lady's thumb and millet are showing up in special crops and diamondback moths have appeared in rapeseed and mustard fields. In the Selkirk area early-seeded cereals are beginning to head. Flax and rapeseed are flowering. Haying and summerfallow work has been hampered by the rainfall of about 55 mm during the past week. Rain on the swaths may cause some deterioration in the quality of hay. Spraying for weeds is almost complete. Pasture and livestock conditions remain very good.

At Teulon in the southern Interlake Region crop conditions are good. Much of the barley has headed. Excessive moisture drowned out crops in some low areas and some yellowing of fields has occurred. Yields of tame hay appear good although native hay has been poor. The condition of special crops is good. Weed spraying is nearing completion. Around Arborg crop conditions are reported to be excellent. Hay yields are good and pastures are excellent. Special crops are in good condition. Some flood damage has occurred to fields in the northern areas. Heavy weed infestations have appeared in some fields. Some rapeseed fields in the Vidor area have been invaded by diamondback moths.

In the west-central area rain showers this past week have hampered haying operations but have improved pastures and crops around Neepawa. Early cereals are in head with fall rye beginning to ripen. Rapeseed is podding and flax is in bloom. Insects have appeared in rapeseed fields but no significant damage is evident. In the Minnedosa area rapeseed and flax are in full bloom. Later-seeded cereal crops are nearing the shotblade stage and earlier cereals have headed. Weed spraying operations have been completed. Haying is progressing well and yields are fair. Moisture conditions and pastures are good.

Further west at Shoal Lake crops are advancing rapidly. Early-seeded rapeseed is beginning to pod although later crops are still in early growth stage. Soil moisture is adequate. Haying operations are in full swing but yields appear below normal. Crops in the Russell area appear to be of average quality and stand. Pasture growth has been fair to good while hay yields are slightly below average. Rainfall has been in the form of scattered showers. Weed control has been generally good.

In the northwest at Dauphin cereals, special crops and pastures are in fair to good condition. Moisture levels have been satisfactory although adverse weather has delayed haying operations of an average crop. No major insect or disease problems have arisen. Around Swan River barley and wheat development ranges from shotblade to fully headed. Rapeseed is in full bloom with some podding. The 22 mm of rain received in the past week has helped maintain excellent crop conditions and yield prospects appear to be near or above average. However, some instances of root rot and poor germination have appeared in wheat and barley. First cut hay crops are now 50 per cent off with yields average.

#### SASKATCHEWAN

Our correspondent at Indian Head reports that field crops are making good growth with early-seeded fields heading and some oilseeds flowering. Most crops in this area are approximately ten days later than normal. Spraying for weed control has been completed. Haying operations are in progress with above average yields reported. Cool, unsettled weather in the Moose Jaw area is maintaining favourable crop development. Haying operations are progressing rapidly. Fall rye is filling well and will be ready for swathing by the end of this month. Early-seeded cereals have headed and others are in the flag leaf stage. Prospects are for a better than average crop.

Heading of cereals is almost completed on excellent stands in the Swift Current area. Present conditions would indicate that better than average yields can be anticipated. There has been some local damage due to heavy downpours and also some hail damage in limited areas. Summerfallows are generally in good condition. Haying operations have been hampered by showery weather but excellent yields are reported. Pastures are in excellent condition and no insect or disease problems have been reported.

All crops are now headed at Leader in the southwest part of the province. Wheat is about 80 cm in height. Showers have maintained the moisture supply. No insect or disease damage is reported.

The weather has been generally dry with cooler temperatures at Melville. Haying is general with good to excellent yields reported. Cereal crops are heading and fall rye is turning and almost ready for harvest. Rapeseed fields are flowering and spraying operations for diamondback moth larvae are in progress.

In the east-central area at Canora rapeseed is in full bloom and many cereals are beginning to head. Haying operations are in full swing. Moisture conditions are generally adequate but more rain would be welcome.



At Saskatoon most cereal crops have headed and rapeseed is starting to pod. Scattered showers this past week have helped to maintain the stand of summerfallow crops but stubble crops are short, patchy and starting to deteriorate. Diamondback moth larvae are present in most rapeseed stands but have caused little damage.

Rosetown received over 25 mm of rain this past week which was the first rainfall this month. Early crops are headed and rapeseed is in bloom. Some crops on stubble have been turned under. An average crop of hay is 75 per cent harvested. At Scott the critical moisture stress of last week has been temporarily relieved by approximately seven mm of rainfall. Cereal crops are beginning to head and rapeseed is in bloom. Haying is approximately 50 per cent completed. Pastures are deteriorating rapidly.

At Hudson Bay in the northeast warm, dry conditions continue. Both oilseed and cereal crops are in the flowering and heading stage and are growing well. A light infestation of diamondback moth larvae are now under control. Haying is 40 per cent completed with above average yields reported. Crops in the Melfort area are making good growth with rapeseed flowering and cereal crops heading. Some rapeseed fields damaged earlier by hail storms have recovered well. Haying is in full swing and other crop prospects are excellent at this time.

In the north-central region at Shellbrook all crops are above average and progressing satisfactorily although moisture is needed throughout the area. Summerfallows are in good shape and haying is well under way.

At Meadow Lake in the extreme northwest hot, dry weather has caused considerable crop deterioration. Cereals are heading and rapeseed is in full bloom. Fall-seeded crops are beginning to ripen. The hay crop is excellent and is 30 per cent harvested.

The Saskatchewan Municipal Hail Insurance Association reports the following storms: June 26 to July 1, each day with losses at Bengough to Rockglen, Hodgeville to Wymark and north of Swift Current, also at Leross, Raymore, Kelvington, Spalding, Arborfield, Domremy, Bruno, Rosthern, Hafford, Canwood, Debden, Hudson Bay and Choiceland.

#### ALBERTA

In southern Alberta unsettled weather during the past week has provided excellent soil moisture conditions. Crop growth is heavy and most cereal and oilseed crops are heading or in flower. Fall-seeded crops are also in excellent condition although severe local rain and hail storms have caused substantial damage in a few areas. Hay and pasture growth have been very good but the weather has been unfavourable for haying operations.

Several communities in the extreme southern part of the province received extensive rain during the past week causing damage to hay crops lying in swath. Localized hail storms caused severe losses to winter wheat crops. In the Claresholm and Taber areas farmers reported receiving good rainfall in the past week. The Lethbridge Research Station indicates that precipitation to date is 33 per cent greater than normal. Winter wheat is reported to be lodging in some districts.

First cut alfalfa has been very good with an average of three tons per acre reported in the Brooks area. Hills throughout the rangeland areas which are normally brown in colour this time of the year, continue to be green with some grass a foot or more in height. Despite the problems in haying operations a bumper crop seems likely in southern Alberta. At Cardston moisture conditions are good. Early spring grains are heading and oilseeds are blooming. Haying is now general throughout the area with good yields reported. Spraying for weeds has been completed. No insect damage to oilseed crops is evident. Pastures and livestock are in good condition.

In central Alberta crops are also in very good condition. Warm weather and adequate moisture have promoted rapid crop growth and yield prospects are good. Haying is progressing well with production and quality rated as better than average.

In the west-central part of the province at Red Deer crop development is good. Those areas which have been excessively wet are now recovering. Above average hay yields have been reported. In the area around Lacombe cool, damp weather and rain over the past week has stopped haying operations. Cereal crops are coming into head and most rapeseed fields are now in bloom. Our correspondent at Eckville reports that cool showery weather the past week has stopped haying operations. Crops are generally looking good but most areas will need more rain soon. Pastures are holding up well.

In the northern areas of the province many crops were beginning to show stress from lack of moisture. However recent showers have improved crop prospects. In the Edmonton area heavy rains caused some flooding. The weather conditions until just recently have been ideal for haying and average yields are reported in most areas. In the Peace River region crop conditions are variable. In the area around Grande Prairie and High River excellent crops are evident. However further north in the Fairview and Manning districts dry conditions have adversely affected many crops. Showers have provided some relief but additional rainfall is needed in these areas.

The Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation reports hail activity July 5 at Warner and Bow Island, extensive hail damage July 7 north of Foremost, scattered hail activity with moderate damage July 9 at Claresholm and Fort MacLeod, extensive hail damage July 10 around Lethbridge, Vauxhall, Bow Island, Warner and Foremost and scattered storms at Ryley, Tilley and Bodo.

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. July 10	
		Week ending 8 a.m. July 10, 1978	Total since April 1	Normal since April 1	— Température moyenne semaine se terminant 8 a.m. le 10 juillet	
Station		Semaine se terminant 8 a.m. 1e 10 juillet, 1978	Total depuis le 1er avril	Normales depuis le 1er avril	1978	Normal
			mm		degrees — degrés C	
MANITOBA						
M1	Boissevain	10.1	185.4	205.9	18	20
	Pierson	16.2	204.4	181.9	18	20
M2	Virden	28.7	207.2	191.3	18	21
	Brandon	24.8	162.1	179.7	17	20
	Cypress River	39.6	166.4	193.7	18	21
M3	Birtle	37.1	166.1	195.1	16	19
M4	Rosburn	38.9	216.2	221.8	16	19
	Russell	14.8	176.2	159.1	16	19
M5	Swan River	t	82.9	174.9	17	19
M6	Dauphin	49.6	260.8	199.5	17	20
M7	Gladstone	20.8	179.9	191.3	18	20
	Starbuck	32.0	252.1	219.6	18	21
	Portage la Prairie	36.9	219.7	215.3	18	22
M8	Altona	57.9	194.0	189.9	19	21
	Baldur	26.4	182.3	247.1	18	21
	Pilot Mound	65.1	255.6	233.1	17	20
	Graysville	36.1	217.4	200.1	18	21
	Morden	36.2	227.3	202.9	19	22
	Roland	37.8	154.3	185.0	18	21
	Morris	66.0	184.8	196.6	19	22
M8	Plum Coulee	47.8	205.2	217.2	19	19
	Emerson	41.2	161.3	203.4	19	21
M9	Winnipeg	23.8	221.3	202.4	18	21
M10	Pinawa	59.2	230.9	198.0	17	21
	Sprague	40.1	199.0	220.4	17	19
M11	Stoney Mountain	11.7	150.7	212.7	18	21
M12	Arborg	16.0	176.8	182.6	17	19
	Hodgson	6.3	173.4	..	18	..
	Gimli	35.9	217.5	192.0	17	21
	The Pas	t	105.4	148.5	17	19
	Grass River	20.6	212.7	192.1	17	19
	Thompson	..	98.3(2)	..	..	..
AVERAGE — MANITOBA — MOYENNE		31.5	191.9	198.4	17.6	20.3

**SASKATCHEWAN**

1A	Carlyle	..	184.6(2)	179.6	..	19
	Estevan	42.5	351.1	177.0	18	21
	Oxbow	49.0	180.4	164.8	16	19
	Willmar	54.6	182.3	176.3	..	19
1B	Broadview	25.0	145.2	188.1	15	19



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Province and crop district — Province et district agricole	Station	Week ending 8 a.m. July 10, 1978 — Semaine se terminant 8 a.m. le 10 juillet, 1978	Total since April 1 — Total depuis le 1 <sup>er</sup> avril	Normal since April 1 — Normales depuis le 1 <sup>er</sup> avril	1978	Normal — Normale
			mm		degrees — degrés C	
SASKATCHEWAN — Continued — suite						
1B	Moosomin	30.9	213.3	197.1	19	20
2A	Yellow Grass	51.4	263.5	167.4	19	19
	Weyburn	84.3	341.8	174.1	18	19
	Midale	66.0	223.8	174.6	17	20
	Amulet	59.2	259.6	173.8	17	19
2B	Moose Jaw	1.2	154.7	154.2	17	20
	Regina	2.7	191.0	167.2	17	19
	Indian Head	12.6	202.5	164.7	16	19
3AS	Ormiston	45.3	154.3	156.8	17	20
	Cardross	31.8	196.6	167.1	16	20
	Rock Glen	52.2	246.7	184.1	17	19
3AN	Coderre	5.8	142.4	148.5	17	19
	Chaplin	23.4	180.5	148.1	17	19
3BS	Shaunavon	37.1	174.7	149.8	18	19
	Aneroid	33.0	231.8	136.5	18	19
3BN	Swift Current	0.7	163.0	157.8	16	20
	Pennant	5.8	156.7	154.4	16	20
	Elrose	3.6	169.5	130.2	17	20
4A	Maple Creek	9.1	183.0	141.5	17	21
	Consul	39.8	174.7	121.8	17	19
4B	Leader	12.1	197.4	132.4	16	21
5A	Lipton	28.4	230.3	160.0	16	19
	Yorkton	2.4	118.0	154.7	16	19
	Atwater	31.0	173.7	162.2	15	19
5B	Wynyard	63.6	205.3	153.2	16	18
	Foam Lake	48.4	177.2	146.6	15	19
	Kuroki	16.0	192.0	166.6	16	18
	Kamsack, Cote	3.0	127.2	147.3	16	19
6A	Davidson	t	127.5	149.7	21	19
	Strasbourg	32.0	172.2	167.3	17	19
	Watrous	..	160.8(2)	166.0	..	19
6B	Harris	1.0	145.3	138.8	17	20
	Outlook	N	106.0	132.5	17	21
	Saskatoon	3.2	113.8	131.1	16	20
	Elbow	t	110.1	138.8	18	19
	Tugaske	19.6	136.2	159.3	16	19
	Dundurn	17.5	103.6	133.6	14	20
7A	Alsask	N	163.0	102.8	17	20
	Kindersley	N	121.8	121.7	17	19



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			mm	degrees — degrés C			
SASKATCHEWAN — Concluded — fin							
7A	Rosetown	t	145.4	140.4	16	19	
7B	Macklin	8.2	193.6	142.6	16	19	
	Denzil	..	200.0(2)	145.2	..	19	
	Scott	7.8	172.8	140.6	16	18	
	Biggar	1.1	109.3	141.9	15	19	
8A	Hudson Bay	N	126.3	160.4	16	18	
	Prairie River	N	167.2	164.6	14	18	
	Nipawin	N	180.2	147.0	14	19	
8B	Humboldt	..	145.8(2)	131.7	..	18	
	Melfort	N	188.2	136.6	18	19	
9A	North Battleford	t	139.9	136.2	16	19	
	Prince Albert	N	201.8	139.8	15	19	
9B	Meadow Lake	1.0	163.1	180.1	16	17	
	Waseca	0.5	163.3	160.8	14	18	
AVERAGE — SASKATCHEWAN — MOYENNE			19.7	176.9	153.2	16.2	19.2
ALBERTA							
1	Empress	4.0	220.3	95.5	16	20	
	Foremost	41.0	218.5	146.9	16	20	
	Manyberries	..	155.8(2)	146.4	..	21	
	Medicine Hat	14.6	197.3	139.4	18	21	
2	Brooks	6.6	185.1	139.6	17	20	
	Gleichen	7.2	218.5	176.3	15	19	
	Vauxhall	10.2	171.1	138.2	17	19	
	Raymond	56.9	263.5	141.5	16	19	
	Lethbridge	68.8	309.4	190.0	16	19	
	Elnora	4.8	196.4	165.7	..	18	
	Queenstown	5.1	197.0	193.9	16	19	
3	Calgary	10.4	227.0	194.6	14	18	
	Cardston	38.5	205.9	174.3	16	18	
	Pincher Creek	40.6	254.9	229.3	15	18	
	Fort MacLeod	15.2	237.7	201.8	16	20	
	Claresholm	43.2	224.9	200.4	16	18	
	High River	25.7	252.0	223.8	13	17	
	Olds	7.2	199.2	192.4	13	17	
4	Alliance	1.0	162.1	157.5	15	18	
	Coronation	N	131.4	131.1	16	18	
	Hughenden	8.0	184.8	143.6	16	18	
	Lloydminster	0.2	193.1	152.4	16	18	

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					degrees — degrés C	
ALBERTA — Concluded — fin						
4	Stettler	2.4	218.8	163.9	16	18
	Vegreville	0.8	106.0	147.5	15	18
	Ranfurly	1.1	116.9	152.6	16	18
	Vermilion	1.2	154.6	144.9	15	17
5	Edmonton	3.2	124.1	171.0	16	18
	Lacombe	12.2	163.2	186.6	15	17
	Red Deer	10.3	221.4	182.0	16	17
	Rocky Mountain House	40.4	219.8	222.3	14	18
	Gwynne	14.5	130.3	181.0	15	16
6	Campsie	1.0	102.3	172.7	15	17
	Edson	16.5	206.0	209.8	14	15
	Elk Point	N	155.9	149.1	15	17
7	Whitecourt	5.9	167.2	189.9	15	16
	Beaverlodge	27.2	131.3	148.5	15	16
	Chipewyan	5.0	118.5	112.4	12	17
	Ft. Vermilion	..	88.1(2)	97.8	..	17
	Grande Prairie	13.5	167.1	145.7	15	16
	High Prairie	..	64.0(2)	149.9	..	16
	Peace River	0.4	73.0	113.5	15	16
AVERAGE — ALBERTA — MOYENNE		14.9	184.9	163.8	15.3	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.

T. Trace.