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TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT - PRAIRIE PROVINCES

This is the eighth 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 conditions are generally good throughout the Prairie Provinces however, the lack of rainfall in northern Alberta has reduced crop prospects in that region. Swathing of spring cereals is commencing in most districts. Combining of fall rye is general and good yields are reported. Some light frost occurred in low lying areas. Hay and pasture conditions are generally good.

Manitoba. - Crops are generally in good condition throughout the province and moisture supplies are adequate. The harvesting of fall rye is general with good yields being reported. Some early-seeded cereals are being swathed. The barley crop is well advanced with some combining now in progress. Growth of second cut hay is developing well and pastures are good.

Agriculture Division
Crops Section

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Saskatchewan. - Crops continue to mature rapidly under warm, dry and windy conditions. Some light frost was reported last Tuesday and Wednesday in low lying areas of western and northern parts of the province. Combining of fall rye is general with good to excellent yields reported. Some barley and rapeseed crops have been swathed as have some early fields of spring wheat in the drier areas. Full scale harvesting of most grains is still a week to ten days away. Farmers are summerfallowing and completing haying operations before harvest.

Alberta. - Crop conditions in southern and west-central Alberta are fair to good. Swathing of winter wheat and fall rye is in full swing and harvesting of the hay crop is nearly complete. Crops throughout the rest of the province are extremely variable. Lack of rainfall has caused a reduction in expected yields with the northernmost areas of the Peace River most severely affected. Several instances of hail and frost have been reported throughout the province but overall damage appears moderate.

RUST REPORT

Wheat leaf rust is widely distributed in Manitoba and southeastern Saskatchewan but is not expected to cause significant losses. Traces of wheat stem rust are present on susceptible wild grasses and wheat varieties in experimental plots but has not been observed in farm fields. Small amounts of oat stem rust are present in Manitoba but significant losses are unlikely. Oat crown rust is widely distributed and moderate amounts of the disease are present in late-sown fields.

Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces(1)

	Unweighted Average Precipitation		
	Per cent variation from normal(2)		
	Man.	Sask.	Alta.
April 1, 1978 - August 7, 1978	- 5	+ 11	+ 9
April 1, 1978 - July 31, 1978	- 1	+ 12	+ 10
April 1, 1978 - July 24, 1978	+ 2	+ 19	+ 12
April 1, 1977 - August 8, 1977	+ 18	+ 8	+ 1
	Mean Temperature		
	°C variation from normal(2)		
	Man.	Sask.	Alta.
For the week ending August 7, 1978	- 1.9	- 1.0	+ 0.4
For the week ending July 31, 1978	- 2.0	- 0.5	+ 1.1
For the week ending July 24, 1978	- 3.0	- 6.1	- 1.6
For the week ending August 8, 1977	- 3.1	- 3.2	- 1.0

(1) Source: Atmospheric Environment Service.

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

MANITOBA

At Altona swathing and harvesting of barley is now in progress with better than average yields reported. Lentils are ready for cutting and most of the special crops are in excellent condition, however, flaxseed stands appear thin and light. No serious insect or disease problems have been reported.

At Selkirk early-planted cereals are ripening with some barley fields ready for harvest. The quality of first cut hay has been generally good and regrowth is excellent. Some hay fields are ready for a second cut and pastures are in excellent condition. At Stonewall crop conditions are good. Weed control has been fairly satisfactory. Moisture conditions are excellent but dry weather is needed for combining. Swathing has already started on early-seeded crops. Good yields have been reported on second cut hay. Special crops are in good condition but continued warm weather is needed for good corn yields. There has been some hail damage in the region but it has not been severe. Some cereal leaf diseases and root rot problems have been reported.

In the west of the province at Brandon moisture supplies are adequate and crop prospects range from good to very good. The fall rye harvest is almost completed and swathing of barley is under way. The weather has been cool and dry and pastures are doing well.

In the Interlake district around Teulon crop conditions are excellent and yield prospects appear very good. No major weed or insect problems have been reported. Moisture is adequate. Hay and pasture conditions are excellent. Swathing has now started on early-seeded fields and will be general next week. At Arborg early barley fields have been swathed and above average yields are predicted. Rapeseed flowering is complete. No frost damage has been reported to date despite low temperatures last week. Harvesting of second cut hay is now under way with average yields reported. Pastures are good.

In the west-central part of the province at Neepawa early-seeded barley, oats and rapeseed are being swathed. Second cut alfalfa is being harvested. A general rain is needed to fill late crops and to improve pastures. Insects have not been a problem in the crops this year. In the area around Minnedosa moisture conditions are fair. Swathing of fall rye and early barley has begun but little combining has been done to date. Cereals are filling well and the rapeseed crop is in good condition. Pastures appear only fair. At Russell crop conditions are generally good with many fields approaching maturity. Harvesting of fall rye is under way. Swathing of rapeseed, mustard and barley is just starting. Wild oat infestations appear light to moderate. Haying is completed with yields ranging from average to below average. Pasture growth is fair to good but some rain is needed.

In the northwest of the province at Dauphin harvesting of a good fall rye crop is nearing completion. Swathing of cereal grains commenced this week. Fodder supplies have been put up in excellent condition, and pastures are holding up well.

SASKATCHEWAN

Field crops are maturing rapidly at Indian Head with above average yields expected. The cereals are filling well with early-sown barley in the late dough stage. Most fall rye has been swathed. Haying operations are completed and summerfallow fields are in good condition. In the Moose Jaw area some early-seeded fields have been swathed but the majority of spring-seeded crops are just ripening as a result of the recent warm weather. Above average yields are expected in this area. Some frost damage was reported in low lying areas last week.

In the southwest part of the province at Shaunavon 70 per cent of the fall rye is swathed and approximately ten per cent is combined. Some frost damage was reported in low lying areas last week which could result in lower grades of cereals. A general rain is needed in this area.

At Swift Current crops continue to be extremely variable, depending on local rains. Yields are expected to be higher than normal for this district. There was some light frost damage in small localized areas on August 1 and 2. Most fall rye is now harvested with good to excellent yields reported. Barley and early-sown wheat will be ready for swathing this weekend. Pastures vary from poor to good, depending on the rainfall pattern. Crops are maturing rapidly in the Leader district and swathing should begin next week. Frost was evident on weeds but damage to crops appears light.

At Melville in the east-central district weather has been unseasonably cool. There is a lack of moisture in the area north of town and a general rain is required to fill heads. Haying operations are progressing rapidly and nearing completion. Most fall rye and early rapeseed fields have been swathed while later rapeseed fields are well into the flowering stage.

Grain crops are maturing rapidly at Drake in the central area under warm, dry conditions. Fall rye is being harvested and considerable barley is now swathed. Swathing of wheat and rapeseed could be general this weekend. Summerfallow conditions are good and pastures are quite dry.

At Saskatoon crops are ripening rapidly and swathing has started. Above average yields are expected although stands are variable. Summerfallows are in good condition while pastures are very dry.

Our correspondent at Rosetown in the west-central area reports crops are beginning to ripen. The weather has been hot and dry for the past three weeks. Some light frost was reported in low lying areas on August 3. A good rain is now needed for filling. At Scott the hot, dry weather hastened maturity and swathing of rapeseed and barley is now general. Some later-seeded rapeseed fields are being sprayed for diamondback moth. Frost was reported on August 1 but there are few reports of damage. Pastures are very dry.

Crops are progressing rapidly at Tisdale in the northeast, with fall rye being swathed and the earlier-seeded spring cereals turning. Some barley has also been swathed and rapeseed and flaxseed fields have finished blooming.

At Shellbrook in the north-central district all early-seeded crops are beginning to turn and some barley is ready to be swathed. About 25 per cent of

the fall rye is already swathed. Prospects for yields in this area range from average to above average. Some crops in the drier areas have suffered from heat and moisture stress.

The Saskatchewan Municipal Hail Insurance Association reports the following storms: July 27 at Regina, Lemberg, Earl Grey, Elrose, Eston, Eatonia, Conquest, Dinsmore, Spalding, Quill Lake and Hepburn; August 1 at Churchbridge, Markinch, Semans, Rama, Blaine Lake, Hafford, Glaslyn and Bjorkdale.

ALBERTA

Swathing of fall wheat has begun in the foothills region and is in full operation in all other regions of southern Alberta. Southern and eastern districts have begun combining. In the Pincher Creek area a hailstorm caused severe losses for about one hundred farmers. In general all crops are in good condition although some dryland crops need rain. Spring-seeded crops will be later than usual. Numerous alfalfa pests have forced growers to spray to prevent an unacceptable level of damage.

In southeastern Alberta around Medicine Hat crop development has been generally good. In the Hilda and Schuler areas the crops have not developed as well due to the lack of rain. Swathing of winter wheat and fall rye is in full swing and combining is under way. Excellent yields are expected. Two nights of frost on August 2 and 3 caused some damage to crops in the area, however, the extent of the damage is not yet known.

In the southwest hay crops are heavy but of poor quality. Range conditions continue to be excellent. The Lethbridge area had 8.8 mm of precipitation during the past two weeks and corn, sugar beets and other special crops seem to be doing well. Some cereal crops need moisture but growers are reluctant to irrigate because of lodging. Moisture conditions around Cardston are good. Swathing of fall grain is expected to begin in about one week with harvesting of oilseeds and early spring grains to follow. Haying is complete and yields are above average. Pastures and livestock are in excellent condition. Slight crop damage to fall grains and barley has occurred due to root rot.

Our correspondent at Lacombe reports that below normal rainfall and only scattered showers in July left some areas dry. Haying is nearing completion and silage making is under way. A general rain is needed to maintain good growth of hay and pasture crops. At Eckville the weather has been hot and dry during the past week although a few scattered showers did occur. Haying has been completed and pastures are holding up well. Crops generally appear to be surviving very well. Swathing of barley has just commenced.

Our correspondent at Hanna reports that very little rain has fallen over the grain belt from Kindersley to the edge of Calgary over the past month and crop deterioration is continuing. Crops can still be classified as good east of Hanna and fair to good or excellent east of Calgary. All crops are now heading. Swathing and combining of fall rye is in full swing although yields will be less than expected. Harvesting of an excellent hay crop is complete. Frost that hit a large area from just east of Hanna to Kindersley on August 1, blackening many gardens, will have an effect on crops in that area. The extent of damage will not

be known until the first threshing is done although some fields are turning white or not filling. Most crops not affected by the frost are filling well despite the long hot and dry period.

Crops in the west-central area around Red Deer are extremely variable. Rain is needed to fill the crops. Average yields are expected. Silage making is well under way as is harvesting of high moisture barley. Swathing should start this week on early crops and those damaged by lack of rainfall. Moisture levels in the area around Edmonton have been unseasonably low and yields have been reduced.

Much of the Peace River region continues to suffer from abnormally low levels of precipitation with the northernmost areas most severely affected.

The Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation reports that storms occurred on six days during the two week period ending August 7. On July 27 hail caused moderate to severe damage in the Wardlow, Gem and Rosemary areas. On July 28 scattered storms at Vulcan, Claresholm, Nanton and Cochrane caused moderate damage in small areas. On July 29 Vulcan and Picture Butte reported minor damage. On July 31 severe storm activity occurred in the Pincher Creek and Lundbreck areas, causing extensive damage over five townships. On August 4 moderate to severe damage over 4,500 acres in six townships occurred in the Hythe area. Provincially, crops are beginning to suffer from lack of moisture particularly in the Peace River District and eastern regions.

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 7 — Température moyenne, semaine se terminant à 8 h le 7 août	
		Week ending 8 a.m. August 7, 1978 — Semaine se terminant à 8 h le 7 août 1978	Total since April 1 — Total depuis le 1 ^{er} avril	Normal since April 1 — Normales depuis le 1 ^{er} avril	1978	Normal — Normale
		mm			degrees — degrés C	
<u>MANITOBA</u>						
M1	Boissevain	N	249.1	266.3	18	18
	Pierson	N	222.4	235.5	17	18
M2	Virden	N	321.2	257.2	17	19
	Brandon	0.4	218.6	238.5	16	18
	Cypress River	6.0	276.2	257.1	18	19
M3	Birtle	1.8	205.6	265.8	16	17
M4	Rosburn	1.5	255.5	298.5	16	17
	Russell	1.0	231.0	214.9	16	17
M5	Swan River	2.5	142.7	238.1	16	18
M6	Dauphin	9.6	303.4	261.9	17	18
M7	Gladstone	1.0	218.7	251.3	17	18
	Starbuck	3.0	310.5	293.2	16	19
	Portage la Prairie	3.8	266.9	288.0	18	19
M8	Altona	1.5	261.5	250.7	18	19
	Baldur	..	223.4(2)	325.3	..	19
	Pilot Mound	N	285.0	309.0	16	18
	Graysville	2.8	295.9	262.1	18	19
	Morden	0.8	253.1	271.1	19	20
	Roland	2.0	219.0	245.2	17	19
	Morris	2.3	234.4	261.2	17	20
M8	Plum Coulee	0.8	269.0	275.2	18	20
	Emerson	1.3	220.7	274.7	18	19
M9	Winnipeg	7.8	262.7	273.0	17	19
M10	Pinawa	7.4	287.1	265.6	16	19
	Sprague	4.8	295.2	298.7	16	18
M11	Stoney Mountain	2.5	204.0	295.0	14	19
M12	Arborg	2.4	227.0	240.9	16	18
	Hodgson	8.9	237.0	..	14	..
	Cimli	8.7	302.7	260.1	16	18
	The Pas	8.5	178.4	210.3	16	17
	Grass River	t	240.4	254.5	18	18
	Thompson	22.8	263.5	..	13	..
AVERAGE — MANITOBA — MOYENNE		3.7	250.3	264.6	16.6	18.5
<u>SASKATCHEWAN</u>						
1A	Carlyle	t	264.6	239.9	16	17
	Estevan	0.4	359.7	229.8	17	19
	Oxbow	N	231.3	217.8	16	18
	Willmar	N	254.9	232.8	..	18
1B	Broadview	N	183.5	244.8	16	17

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		mm			degrees — degrés C	
<u>SASKATCHEWAN — Continued — suite</u>						
1B	Moosomin	N	300.2	265.2	16	18
2A	Yellow Grass	2.6	312.1	219.1	17	18
	Weyburn	N	363.0	219.9	17	18
	Midale	N	244.7	228.0	17	18
	Amulet	N	283.2	215.3	17	18
2B	Moose Jaw	N	173.7	199.6	18	18
	Regina	0.8	219.7	217.6	17	19
	Indian Head	N	257.9	213.8	17	18
3AS	Ormiston	N	252.8	202.0	17	18
	Cardross	..	205.9(2)	211.4	..	18
	Rock Glen	N	264.3	227.4	17	18
3AN	Coderre	..	199.4(2)	195.5	..	18
	Chaplin	0.5	208.2	195.9	17	18
3BS	Shaunavon	N	212.2	192.8	16	18
	Aneroid	N	247.0	174.0	16	18
3BN	Swift Current	0.3	179.6	203.5	18	18
	Pennant	N	170.5	193.4	17	18
	Flrose	t	220.0	170.6	18	18
4A	Maple Creek	0.5	221.3	178.1	18	18
	Consul	1.0	217.4	156.7	16	18
4B	Leader	0.8	217.1	172.5	17	19
5A	Lipton	N	272.1	215.5	18	18
	Yorkton	5.8	201.2	211.8	19	18
	Atwater	t	202.3	216.3	17	17
5B	Wynyard	1.5	243.7	206.9	16	17
	Foam Lake	N	246.5	195.8	15	17
	Kuroki	7.1	277.3	223.8	14	16
	Kamsack, Cote	0.6	155.8	200.5	16	18
6A	Davidson	..	164.9(2)	195.8	..	18
	Strasbourg	2.4	226.4	216.6	18	17
	Watrous	5.8	207.8	212.4	16	18
6B	Harris	t	192.8	179.9	17	18
	Outlook	N	168.2	174.7	19	18
	Saskatoon	5.2	163.5	168.4	16	18
	Elbow	1.5	149.6	177.1	15	18
	Tugaske	N	154.8	204.9	17	18
	Dundurn	1.2	136.2	181.4	17	18
7A	Alsask	..	202.9(2)	143.4	..	17
	Kindersley	N	159.1	161.7	18	18

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			mm	degrees — degrés C		
<u>SASKATCHEWAN — Concluded — fin</u>						
7A	Rosetown	N	193.6	187.9	19	18
7B	Macklin	1.0	242.5	199.9	17	17
	Denzil	t	243.6	196.2	17	17
	Scott	0.4	189.0	192.1	17	16
	Biggar	1.0	156.3	190.9	16	18
8A	Hudson Bay	10.1	272.4	222.9	15	17
	Prairie River	10.6	240.9	224.5	14	16
	Nipawin	16.0	240.8	201.8	15	17
8B	Humboldt	1.4	169.4	179.4	17	17
	Melfort	6.3	235.0	186.7	15	17
9A	North Battleford	4.4	177.4	190.5	17	17
	Prince Albert	7.1	257.6	194.4	15	17
9B	Meadow Lake	6.0	232.0	251.1	15	15
	Waseca	3.3	238.0	225.6	16	16
<u>AVERAGE — SASKATCHEWAN — MOYENNE</u>		2.0	224.2	202.6	16.6	17.6
<u>ALBERTA</u>						
1	Empress	..	243.5(2)	126.7	..	18
	Foremost	N	270.6	178.3	17	19
2	Manyberries	1.2	221.1	175.2	18	19
	Medicine Hat	N	226.2	175.2	19	19
	Brooks	N	224.2	181.3	18	18
	Gleichen	t	265.9	225.0	17	17
	Vauxhall	0.6	192.0	172.2	17	18
3	Raymond	5.2	349.3	232.9	18	18
	Lethbridge	8.2	365.9	230.2	19	18
	Elnora	0.5	224.0	225.3	..	17
	Queenstown	t	273.7	239.7	18	17
	Calgary	1.0	271.4	252.9	17	16
	Cardston	12.0	303.6	208.3	19	17
	Pincher Creek	16.4	344.0	265.5	17	16
4	Fort Macleod	11.4	315.7	240.6	18	18
	Claresholm	..	296.3(2)	240.4	..	17
	High River	..	308.6(2)	273.5	..	15
	Olds	5.5	243.6	260.2	17	15
	Alliance	t	204.0	221.2	17	16
4	Coronation	t	179.2	187.3	16	16
	Hughenden	0.6	208.2	204.7	17	16
	Lloydminster	2.0	265.9	217.5	17	17



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		mm			degrees — degrés C	
<u>ALBERTA — Concluded — fin</u>						
4	Stettler	t	285.8	228.6	15	16
	Vegreville	1.6	148.3	220.0	15	16
	Ranfurly	..	148.5(2)	222.4	..	16
	Vermilion	1.5	202.7	208.4	15	15
5	Edmonton	4.1	189.0	249.1	16	16
	Lacombe	..	176.1(2)	252.2	..	16
	Red Deer	2.5	258.9	248.5	16	16
	Rocky Mountain House	2.0	270.0	300.7	16	14
	Gwynne	3.8	157.2	253.1	16	16
6	Campsie	3.0	208.3	243.1	15	14
	Edson	15.1	332.8	294.7	15	14
	Elk Point	4.6	224.2	213.4	15	15
	Whitecourt	2.6	296.2	274.6	16	14
7	Beaverlodge	5.0	169.2	204.5	16	14
	Chipewyan	28.3	174.1	137.1	14	16
	Ft. Vermilion	..	108.7(2)	163.1	..	15
	Grande Prairie	1.1	140.0	197.9	17	15
	High Prairie	..	64.0(2)	208.6	..	14
	Peace River	6.6	112.0	161.0	15	14
<u>AVERAGE — ALBERTA — MOYENNE</u>		4.3	238.7	219.9	16.6	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.

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