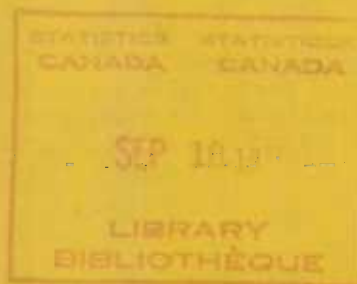


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FIELD CROP REPORTING SERIES - NO. 17 - TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT - PRAIRIE PROVINCES

This is the tenth of the 1979 series of eleven telegraphic reports on crop conditions in the Prairie Provinces issued by Statistics Canada. Crop correspondents from the Federal and Provincial Departments of Agriculture, Federal agencies, and the grain trade as well as private crop observers supply the information on which these reports are based. The weather data included in this release are furnished by the Atmospheric Environment Service, Environment Canada.

SUMMARY

Prairie Provinces. Recent unsettled weather across the Prairie Provinces has caused widespread delays in harvesting operations. Swathing of crops is generally well advanced provincially with over 50 per cent of the crops cut in Manitoba and over 85 per cent in Saskatchewan and Alberta. Combining has just begun in Manitoba and in areas of southeast Saskatchewan and northeast Alberta. Progress is further advanced throughout most of Saskatchewan and Alberta with over 90 per cent of the crops threshed in parts of southwestern Saskatchewan. It is expected that two weeks of warm weather will enable completion of the harvest in most areas. Yields have been reported to be average to slightly below average although some excellent yields are reported in southwestern Alberta and western Saskatchewan. Grades appear to be generally good throughout Alberta and western Saskatchewan. Some deterioration in quality and yields is expected as a result of recent wet weather. Pastures are poor but improving.

Manitoba. Unfavourable weather is delaying harvesting operations throughout the province. Progress is variable with swathing 65 per cent complete in the west-central region and 50 per cent in the remainder. Combining is 40 per cent complete in the southwest but only 15 per cent in the other districts. Frost damage is evident in some rapeseed and barley fields. Yields and grades of all crops are generally below average. The recent hay crop was poor and pasture conditions are only fair.

Saskatchewan. Cool weather and shower activity across the province has brought most harvesting operations to a standstill. Eighty-five to 95 per cent of the crops have been swathed. Progress is the least advanced in the southeastern area with only five to ten per cent of the crop harvested. Yields and grades are down in the southeast with wheat and rapeseed severely affected by frost. Yields have also declined in the northeast and extensive frost damage is evident. Progress is more advanced in the central regions with approximately half the crop combined. Frost damage has been generally light in the region. Harvest is close to completion in the western areas and grades and yields are generally above average with some excellent yields reported. Some deterioration in standing and swathed grain is expected due to the wet weather. Pastures are in generally poor condition.

Alberta. Rain and scattered showers throughout Alberta have brought harvesting operations to a standstill. Several days of dry, sunny weather are needed before combining can resume. Swathing of most crops is well advanced although over one-half of the wheat and oats in the northwest and Peace River regions are still standing. Combining of spring grains has been common in the southern and eastern portions of the province and with another week to ten days of good weather many farmers will complete their harvest. In northern and western areas only a small amount of combining has taken place and this was generally restricted to rapeseed and early barley. Yields are expected to be above the long-

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term average but slightly lower than those of last year. The quality of crops harvested to date has been good although a few northern districts report that barley is weighing less than expected. The recent rains, while hampering harvest progress, will help germinate the fall-seeded crops and maintain fall pastures. Livestock are in good condition and most producers have adequate feed supplies for the winter.

RUST REPORT

The Winnipeg Research Station reports that minor infections of leaf rust of wheat have occurred in western Canada but have caused minor crop losses. Stem and crown rusts of oats were common throughout Manitoba and eastern Saskatchewan by the end of August. Infestations were generally light except in the western part of the Red River Valley where severe damage to some late-seeded fields occurred during the early dough stage.

Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces(1)

Unweighted Average Precipitation			
Per cent variation from normal(2)			
	Man.	Sask.	Alta.
April 1, 1979 - September 10, 1979	- 7	- 15	- 7
April 1, 1979 - September 3, 1979	- 9	- 16	- 11
April 1, 1979 - August 27, 1979	- 9	- 17	- 6
April 1, 1978 - September 11, 1978	- 8	+ 8	+ 30
Mean Temperature			
°C variation from normal(2)			
	Man.	Sask.	Alta.
For the week ending September 10, 1979	- 0.1	+ 1.6	+ 1.6
For the week ending September 3, 1979	+ 1.4	+ 3.3	+ 3.6
For the week ending August 27, 1979	- 0.3	+ 0.1	+ 1.4
For the week ending September 11, 1978	+ 7.2	+ 5.6	+ 3.0

(1) Source: Atmospheric Environment Service.

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

MANITOBA

At Morden in the south-central part of the province harvesting is well under way. Recent rains have caused some delays. The corn and sunflower crops are still late in maturing.

In the area around Selkirk 25 per cent of the crop is in the swath with ten per cent combined. Yields range from average to below average. Fall tillage operations are starting. The second hay crop is almost complete and pastures remain good. At Stonewall wet weather has delayed harvesting operations. Some wheat has been combined and yields range from 25 to 30 bushels. Oat and barley fields are producing good quality crops with average yields. No rapeseed or flaxseed has been combined to date. In the area around Portage la Prairie 10 mm of rain fell last week and harvesting has been delayed. Approximately half of the barley has been combined with only a few fields of wheat swathed. The silage corn harvest has started and combining of buckwheat is well under way.

Harvesting is general throughout the Brandon area. Cold, wet weather is hampering field operations. Crop yields are significantly down from last year. Regrowth of forage crops has been extremely slow due to the hot weather in August.

In the southern Interlake Region around Teulon 50 per cent of the barley and rapeseed have been swathed but only 15 to 20 per cent combined. Mixed grains have been yielding over 50 bushels per acre. Light frost has been reported in some areas but little damage has occurred. Second-cut alfalfa yields are poor. Fall tillage operations are progressing well. At Arborg combining has been delayed by unsettled weather. Most rapeseed fields in the district have been swathed. A few crops are still green and are vulnerable to frost damage. Some fields of early barley are reported to be yielding 60 bushels per acre. Fall tillage operations have just begun.

In the west-central part of the province at Neepawa swathing is 35 per cent complete and combining 15 per cent. Showers have brought harvesting operations to a standstill. Three weeks of good weather are needed to mature crops and to complete harvesting. Yields are estimated to be 25 per cent below last year. Pastures are in poor condition but hay supplies are adequate. At Russell 60 per cent of the crop is in the swath and 25 per cent combined. Yields and grades are well below average as a result of the August frost. Recent rains have stopped harvesting operations. Pastures are poor but hay supplies are adequate.

In the northwest around Dauphin cool, wet weather has halted combining for the last two weeks. Swathing is 60 per cent complete but combining is only five per cent. Hail and heavy rains September 3 damaged crops in the Grandview, Ethelbert and Winnipegosis areas. At Swan River harvesting operations have been halted by cool, damp weather. Swathing of rapeseed is 45 per cent complete, barley 35 per cent and wheat 15 per cent. Only 20 per cent of the crops has been combined. Prior to the rain wheat quality was good and yields were above average. Rapeseed quality has been poor in most areas.

SASKATCHEWAN

In the southeast around Moosomin, very little of the crop has been harvested to date. Oats are approximately ten per cent and wheat, barley and rapeseed are five per cent harvested. Harvesting is not expected to resume for seven to ten days due to rains and the immaturity of swathed grains. Yields are reported to be 50 per cent of those obtained last year. Rapeseed grades are expected to be number two and three. Oats are in fair condition while barley is light. A substantial area of fall rye has been seeded to date. Around Indian Head heavy shower activity has brought local harvesting operations to a standstill. Warm weather is urgently required to ripen swathed grains and to allow the harvest to continue. Reports indicate a wide variability in the yields of wheat and barley and seed quality is well below average.

In the southwest our reporter at Swift Current indicates that harvesting is 85 per cent complete. Yields are variable at ten to 40 bushels per acre depending on local moisture conditions but are better than expected. The average yield is expected to be greater than the long-term average. Samples have contained more wild oats than usual. Moisture conditions are below normal. Around Leader approximately 90 per cent of the cereal grains have been threshed. Local yields are excellent while yields in the general area have been good to excellent. Grain quality appears good.

At Balcarres in the east-central region showers during the past week have delayed harvesting. Approximately 85 per cent of the crop has been swathed with 45 per cent combined. Local yields are expected to be approximately ten bushels per acre for rapeseed, 15 bushels for flaxseed and wheat and 35 bushels for oats and barley. Grain quality is deteriorating due to the rain and yields and grades may be reduced.

In the central area around Drake cool, wet weather in the past two weeks has prevented harvesting. Swathing is approximately 95 per cent complete. Around Chamberlain about 25 per cent of the crop is yet to be combined. The weather has been damp and warm weather is needed. Hail damage of up to 25 per cent has occurred in some areas. Wheat yields are expected to be 18 bushels with barley 30 and oats 40. Around Saskatoon harvesting has been delayed by wet weather during the past week. Most of the wheat and rapeseed has been swathed with about 50 per cent combined. Approximately 25 per cent of the oats has been cut. Some excellent crops have been reported but average yields are expected to be 25 per cent below normal. Frost damage has been light in the district. Pastures are in poor condition.

In the west-central region around Scott harvesting has been slowed by light, scattered showers. Ninety-five per cent of the rapeseed and barley and 75 to 80 per cent of the wheat have been combined. Yields of all crops are well above average with quality reported to be excellent.

Wet weather is hampering harvesting operations at Melfort in the northeast. Very little combining has been done. Crops are maturing slowly. The frost of August 13 caused extensive damage and yields will be considerably lower than expected.

ALBERTA

Harvesting is being delayed this week in many districts of southern Alberta because of cool, damp weather. Harvest completion ranges from 75 per cent in the Brooks region to 20 per cent in the Cardston-Pincher Creek-Claresholm area. In the east, pastures are in excellent condition, with the exception of some districts in the southeast. In the west, pastures and rangelands need more rain. Cereal yields are high at 30 bushels per acre for wheat and 50 bushels per acre for barley in most districts. In central regions swathing has been completed and about 60 per cent of the crop has been combined. Despite a slow start in the spring, corn and sugar beets look good. Seeding of winter wheat is in full swing in all districts with acreages lower than last year. Near Medicine Hat showers this week halted all harvest operations. The harvest of grain on drylands is complete with yields ranging from below average to average. Combining in the Cyprus Hills area is starting on irrigated lands. Combining of wheat and barley is not yet finished. Specialty crops are still maturing.

Near Stettler in east-central Alberta showery weather left up to 38 mm of rain during the past week and stopped harvest operations. Approximately 50 to 60 per cent of the rapeseed has been harvested with average yields of 15 to 25 bushels per acre reported. Small hailstorms in the Stettler and Castor areas did considerable damage to rapeseed crops but light damage to wheat and barley. Moisture conditions are fair and temperatures are ranging between four and 20 degrees Celsius. Near Wainwright good weather prevailed during the last week of August but showers stopped the harvest during the first week of September. Rapeseed is now 80 per cent in the bin with above-average yields of 25 bushels per acre. Barley is about 80 per cent swathed and about 25 per cent combined. Quality is good and yields of about 50 bushels per acre are evident. Most wheat is in the swath and yields of about 22 bushels per acre are anticipated.

In central Alberta near Red Deer swathing is 85 per cent complete while combining is only 30 per cent complete. Yields are slightly below average but grades are good. Rain during the past few days has delayed the harvest. Near Eckville showery weather is hampering harvest operations but swathing is 80 per cent complete. Combined grain is weighing well with yields reported to be 30 bushels per acre for rapeseed, 47 for barley, and 70 for oats. Approximately 25 mm of rain helped pastures but warm, dry weather is needed before harvesting can resume. Summerfallow land is in good condition. Near Lacombe ten to 15 per cent of the barley and five per cent of the rapeseed has been combined. Rapeseed is approximately 75 per cent swathed and yields are 25 to 30 bushels per acre. Barley yields are below average at 50 to 60 bushels per acre. Thirty-six mm of rain during the past week is delaying the harvest but should help pastures and haylands.

Near Athabasca in northeastern Alberta 75 per cent of all crops has been swathed; however, combining of rapeseed and barley has just started due to a general rain on September 9. Early grain samples indicate good quality and average yields. No frost damage has yet been reported.

In the Peace River District near Peace River adverse weather has curtailed all harvest operations and will result in a loss of quality and quantity of grain still to be harvested. Most swathing is complete but only ten per cent of the combining is done. There are reports of lower than expected yields of rapeseed and barley due to hot, dry weather during the filling stage and root rot in rapeseed. Near Grande Prairie swathing is 90 per cent complete and barley and rapeseed are about 20 per cent combined. No wheat has been combined due to cool, damp weather which is delaying further harvesting. Average yields are indicated. Near Fairview swathing is nearing completion and 30 per cent of the combining is complete. Yields are estimated at 35 to 40 bushels per acre for barley, 40 for wheat, and 18 for rapeseed. Yields are not as high as previously anticipated due to a hot, dry spell at the end of July and the beginning of August that caused burning. Rain during the last ten days has brought harvest operations to a standstill.

TABLE 1. Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces(1)

TABLEAU 1. Données sur les précipitations et la température provinces des Prairies(1)

Province and crop district - Station	Precipitation - Précipitations			Mean temperature, week ending 8 a.m. September 10	
	Week ending 8 a.m. September 10, 1979	Total since April 1	Normal since April 1	Température moyenne semaine se terminant à 8 h	
Province et district agricole - Station	Semaine se terminant à 8 h 1e 10 septembre 1979	Total depuis le 1 ^{er} avril	Normales depuis le 1 ^{er} avril	1e 10 septembre	
				1979	Normal
	mm			°C	Normale
Manitoba:					
1:					
Boissevain	8.4	227.5	329.7	15	13
Pierson	5.0	212.7	286.6	16	13
2:					
Virden	20.6	168.4	319.2	13	13
Brandon	6.6	217.3	293.7	13	13
Cypress River	4.8	326.7	318.8	14	14
3:					
Birtle	15.5	236.9	332.8	14	13
4:					
Rosburn	15.4	251.9	363.3	11	13
Russell	8.0	205.4	269.5	12	12
5:					
Swan River	14.5	229.2	298.2	11	13
6:					
Dauphin	14.3	258.0	323.1	12	13
7:					
Gladstone	9.4	290.5	308.9	12	13
Starbuck	5.9	288.7	359.8	14	14
Portage La Prairie	5.9	339.7	361.0	13	14
8:					
Altona	3.0	445.3	312.6	15	14
Baldur	..	195.6(2)	..	..	..
Deerwood	3.4	302.6	358.9	14	15
Pilot Mound	6.8	316.7	374.0	13	13
Graysville	5.0	331.8	324.3	14	14
Morden	5.8	345.0	338.9	15	15
Roland	5.6	310.7	305.2	13	14
Morris	4.0	525.9	324.5	16	15
Plum Coulee	4.6	384.5	332.2	15	16
Emerson	4.1	421.4	343.0	16	14
9:					
Winnipeg	3.2	342.9	342.8	15	14
Steinbach	3.0	300.8	357.5	15	14
10:					
Pinawa	0.8	315.6	335.8	13	13
Sprague	2.5	286.8	380.4	14	13
11:					
Stonewall	2.5	264.6	372.3	13	14
12:					
Arborg	4.3	359.7	305.1	13	13
Hodgson	7.1	274.5	332.0	10	13
Gimli	0.8	382.4	331.4	14	13
The Pas	34.3	271.2	272.6	11	12
Grass River	9.7	341.8	312.3	11	13
Thompson	0.8	278.1	328.5	8	9
AVERAGE - MOYENNE	7.4	304.7	328.8	13.3	13.4

See Footnote(s) at end of table.
Voir note(s) à la fin du tableau.

TABLE 2. Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces(1) - Continued

TABLEAU 2. Données sur les précipitations et la température provinces des Prairies(1) - suite

Province and crop district - Station	Precipitation - Précipitations			Mean temperature week ending 8 a.m. September 10	
	Week ending 8 a.m. September 10, 1979	Total since April 1	Normal since April 1	Température moyenne semaine se terminant à 8 h	
Province et district agricole - Station	Semaine se terminant à 8 h le 10 septembre 1979	Total depuis le 1 ^{er} avril	Normales depuis le 1 ^{er} avril	le 10 septembre	
				1979	Normal
	mm			°C	Normale
Saskatchewan:					
1A:					
Carlyle	28.2	212.0	293.5	14	13
Estevan	-	210.6	277.7	16	14
Oxbow	1.3	206.2	267.1	14	13
Willmar	..	203.4(2)	..	..	..
1B:					
Broadview	10.4	149.3	304.0	14	12
Moosomin	10.6	251.8	325.6	12	13
2A:					
Yellow Grass	13.4	273.4	266.4	15	13
Weyburn	(3)	266.8	263.2	15	13
Midale	1.6	248.8	280.4	15	14
Amulet	3.8	231.5	268.7	16	13
2B:					
Moose Jaw	6.2	234.7	242.0	16	14
Regina	5.6	205.8	264.8	16	13
Indian Head	15.0	238.7	265.0	14	13
3AS:					
Ormiston	..	143.0(2)	..	..	..
Cardross	2.7	160.8	257.4	16	13
West Poplar	-	235.0	266.1	16	13
3AN:					
Gravelbourg	9.8	183.7	232.5	17	14
Coderre	..	173.9(2)	..	..	..
Chaplin	6.6	154.1	241.2	16	13
3BS:					
Shaunavon	14.7	171.4	230.9	17	13
Aneroid	7.0	215.0	208.9	17	13
3BN:					
Swift Current	16.8	250.7	247.6	16	13
Pennant	16.8	224.6	231.6	16	13
Elrose	8.0	191.0	209.4	16	14
4A:					
Maple Creek	14.6	237.7	215.8	18	14
Consul	15.0	197.9	188.0	16	13
4B:					
Leader	1.6	249.8	214.1	17	14
5A:					
Melville	6.6	113.2	255.2	12	13
Lipton	8.8	223.5	262.7	14	13
Yorkton	24.0	135.0	268.6	13	13
Atwater	6.0	109.8	267.2	12	13

See footnote(s) at end of table.
Voir note(s) à la fin du tableau.

TABLE 2. Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces(1) - Continued

TABLÉAU 2. Données sur les précipitations et la température provinces des Prairies(1) - suite

Province and crop district - Station	Precipitation - Précipitations			Mean temperature week ending 8 a.m. September 10	
	Week ending 8 a.m. September 10, 1979	Total since April 1	Normal since April 1	Température moyenne semaine se terminant à 8 h le 10 septembre	
Province et district agricole - Station	Semaine se terminant à 8 h le 10 septembre 1979	Total depuis le 1 ^{er} avril	Normales depuis le 1 ^{er} avril	1979	Normal
	mm			°C	Normale
Saskatchewan - Concluded - fin:					
5B:					
Wynyard	11.8	165.6	257.3	14	12
Foam Lake	17.7	207.4	249.2	12	12
Kuroki	16.5	189.7	279.6	13	11
Kamsack, Cote	22.0	189.3	251.8	12	12
6A:					
Davidson	..	157.9(2)	..	..	..
Strasbourg	14.2	201.6	267.2	15	13
Watrous	10.6	158.3	256.4	15	13
6B:					
Harris	14.3	216.0	214.5	14	12
Outlook	8.2	252.1	212.8	15	13
Saskatoon	16.9	224.2	195.5	15	13
Elbow	10.6	183.2	211.3	16	13
Tugaske	10.4	160.6	249.4	16	13
Dundurn	4.0	270.8	227.4	14	13
7A:					
Alsask	0.4	175.9	183.7	16	13
Kindersley	1.0	214.0	200.7	16	13
Rosetown	10.5	159.9	234.4	14	13
7B:					
Macklin	..	307.2(2)	..	..	..
Denzil	15.8	268.7	246.9	13	12
Scott	2.0	272.3	240.3	12	12
Biggar	2.4	186.5	238.2	13	13
8A:					
Hudson Bay	16.1	218.1	279.6	11	12
Prairie River	15.7	205.0	279.3	11	11
Nipawin	29.6	282.1	254.3	11	12
8B:					
Humboldt	9.0	154.1	225.9	14	12
Melfort	26.2	240.9	235.3	12	12
9A:					
North Battleford	11.2	240.8	235.2	13	12
Prince Albert	22.6	255.6	244.0	12	12
9B:					
Meadow Lake	53.7	300.5	315.0	11	10
Waseca	19.6	252.6	284.3	11	12
AVERAGE - MOYENNE	11.6	207.7	244.4	14.1	12.5

See footnote(s) at end of table.
Voir note(s) à la fin du tableau.



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TABLE 3. Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces(1) - Concluded

TABLEAU 3. Données sur les précipitations et la température provinces des Prairies(1) - fin

Province and crop district - Station	Precipitation - Précipitations			Mean temperature week ending 8 a.m. September 10	
	Week ending 8 a.m. September 10, 1979	Total since April 1	Normal since April 1	Température moyenne semaine se terminant à 8 h le 10 septembre	
Province et district agricole - Station	Semaine se terminant à 8 h le 10 septembre 1979	Total depuis le 1 ^{er} avril	Normale depuis le 1 ^{er} avril	1979	Normal
	mm			°C	Normale
Alberta:					
1:					
Empress	-	192.3	158.4	17	13
Foremost	1.0	193.7	210.7	17	14
Manyberries	..	184.4(2)	..	..	..
Medicine Hat	1.6	203.2	213.9	18	14
2:					
Brooks	2.6	239.0	228.8	18	13
Gleichen	5.2	133.8	269.7	15	13
Vauxhall	1.6	109.1	212.5	19	15
Lethbridge	-	189.1	270.7	17	14
Elnora	6.4	187.6	276.9	12	..
Queenstown	9.7	186.9	288.9	16	13
3:					
Calgary	11.8	212.5	304.0	15	12
Cardston	-	172.6	246.1	16	12
Pincher Creek	-	267.5	315.1	13	12
Fort MacLeod	-	160.9	283.6	16	14
High River	4.0	268.1	324.2	13	11
Olds	10.6	261.2	321.2	14	11
4:					
Alliance	..	287.6(2)	..	..	..
Coronation	12.5	252.8	235.5	14	12
Hughenden	23.4	252.2	259.4	14	12
Lloydminster	20.0	286.2	278.8	11	12
Stettler	28.2	290.6	284.2	14	12
Vegreville	40.5	298.7	288.7	12	12
Ranfurly	26.0	296.6	288.2	11	12
Vermilion	26.1	374.2	269.0	11	11
5:					
Edmonton	29.2	319.0	311.2	12	12
Lacombe	36.2	187.5	310.8	13	12
Red Deer	16.9	198.1	306.1	13	12
Rocky Mountain House	4.2	192.3	368.2	11	11
Gwynne	44.6	409.8	314.0	12	12
6:					
Cold Lake	50.5	308.9	273.2	10	12
Campsie	23.6	385.1	300.8	14	11
Edson	5.2	329.4	364.8	11	10
Elk Point	49.5	344.6	275.0	10	10
Whitecourt	11.7	444.6	343.2	11	10
7:					
Beaverlodge	14.6	257.7	258.2	11	11
Chipewyan	2.6	170.4	175.9	11	10
Ft. Vermilion	34.1	317.1	206.6	13	10
Grande Prairie	8.8	244.0	246.7	12	11
Peace River	11.5	268.8	202.9	12	11
AVERAGE - MOYENNE	15.5	254.2	272.6	13.5	11.9

(1) Source: Atmospheric Environment Service, Environment Canada. - Service de l'environnement atmosphérique, environnement Canada.

(2) Incomplete; not included in average. - Incomplet; non compris dans la moyenne.

(3) Trace

.. Figures not available. - Nombre indisponibles.

- Nil or zero. - Néant ou zéro.