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FIELD CROP REPORTING SERIES, NO. 7 - TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT, PRAIRIE PROVINCES

This is the fourth of the 1979 series of eleven telegraphic reports, covering crop conditions in the Prairie Provinces issued by Statistics Canada. Crop correspondents from the Federal and Provincial Departments of Agriculture, Federal Agencies, private crop observers and the grain trade 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 operations are nearing completion throughout much of Saskatchewan and Alberta. Continuing wet conditions in Manitoba are seriously delaying field operations. Early crops are emerging and germination appears good throughout the Prairies. Hay and pasture conditions are reported to be excellent. Weed growth appears heavy. Minor flea beetle infestations have become evident in some rapeseed fields.

Manitoba. Frequent showers have continued to delay seeding with only 40 per cent completed. Seeding progress varies considerably throughout the province with southern areas 40 to 50 per cent complete, central areas 20 to 40 per cent and northern areas 10 to 40 per cent. The seeding of oilseed crops is well advanced. Fall rye is progressing well and forage growth is good. Early-seeded crops have emerged. Vigorous weed growth is reported. An increased acreage of summerfallow is now anticipated.

Saskatchewan. Seeding is 75 to 100 per cent complete throughout the province. Progress is most advanced in the central and western areas and seeding has been completed in some districts. South-eastern areas will require at least seven to ten days of good weather to finish seeding and some setbacks due to hail and some flooded fields have been reported. Summerfallow operations have begun. Moisture conditions throughout the province are generally good, although northeastern areas are becoming dry. Emergence of spring-seeded crops has been good. Weed growth is heavy and herbicides are being applied.

Alberta. Seeding operations have mostly been completed in central and southern Alberta. A week of good weather will probably ensure that northern areas and the Peace River District should also be finished. At this time about 90 per cent of the crops in the province have been sown. Soil moisture conditions are generally good with excessive moisture reported in the northern Peace River area of Manning and Fort Vermilion. In many districts fields are becoming dry and a general rain would ensure germination of the late-seeded crops and would promote growth of hay and pastures. Early-seeded cereal crops are emerging uniformly and are in good condition. However, low temperatures have slowed crop development and frost on May 30 caused some damage. Flea beetles have been reported on rapeseed and mustard crops and spraying has started. Forage and forage seed crops have been developing slowly and warm weather with precipitation would stimulate growth. Although winterkill in forage crops was light, fall-seeded cereals suffered extensive damage.

Agriculture Division, Crops Section  
4-1102-508

(Disponible aussi en français)

Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces(1)

Unweighted Average Precipitation			
Per cent variation from normal(2)			
	Man.	Sask.	Alta.
April 1, 1979 - June 4, 1979	+ 14	+ 1	- 1
April 1, 1979 - May 28, 1979	+ 29	+ 19	+ 2
April 1, 1979 - May 21, 1979	+ 41	+ 30	+ 25
April 1, 1978 - June 5, 1978	+ 6	+ 21	+ 31
Mean Temperature			
°C variation from normal(2)			
	Man.	Sask.	Alta.
For the week ending June 4, 1979	- 1.4	- 2.1	- 0.6
For the week ending May 28, 1979	+ 0.1	+ 2.2	+ 2.8
For the week ending May 21, 1979	- 3.1	- 0.7	- 1.4
For the week ending June 5, 1978	- 2.6	- 0.9	+ 0.6

(1) Source: Atmospheric Environment Service.

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

MANITOBA

In the Altona district occasional showers have delayed seeding with only 30 per cent completed. Germination of early-seeded crops is good. The occurrence of wild oats and other weeds is widespread. Further seeding delays will cause acreage shifts from special crops to flax and buckwheat.

The area around Somerset received scattered showers June 1 and 3 and moisture and soil temperatures are excellent. Fifty per cent of the crop has been seeded and pastures are excellent. At Melita only 60 per cent of the seeding is complete. Weed growth is substantial on most fields and post-emergence spraying should be under way this week. Pasture and hay growth is good.

At Beausejour excessive moisture conditions have been reported. Seeding progress is extremely variable throughout the district. An increase in the oilseed acreage is now expected. Weed growth is good and wild oat sprays are now being applied. Pasture growth is good. At Selkirk very little field work occurred last week due to the intermittent rain and only five per cent of the area has been seeded. Soil moisture is excessive and a week of dry, hot weather is urgently needed. Wild oat growth has been good. Pastures and hayfields are showing excellent growth. Rains last week again halted seeding operations at Stonewall. Only ten per cent of the crops have been seeded to date. Hay and pasture growth has been satisfactory. In the area around Portage la Prairie the crops are 25 to 30 per cent seeded. Some early-seeded fields have emerged. Significant acreages of cropland are still very wet and probably will not be seeded this year.

Our correspondent at Brandon reports that seeding is nearing completion but recent showers will delay field work for several days. Emergence of early-seeded crops is excellent. Pasture and hay growth has been generally poor. Some winterkill of alfalfa and sweet clover fields has been reported. Flea beetles are evident in some rapeseed fields.

In the Interlake district around Teulon water is standing in many fields as a result of the heavy rainfall of the last few days. Very little seeding has been reported. Pasture and hay growth is very good. Approximately three to four days of good weather is required before field work can commence. Heavy rains last week halted seeding operations at Arborg. Further delays will mean that large areas will not be seeded this year. Pastures are green but require warm weather for growth.

In the west-central part of the province at Minnedosa seeding is 50 per cent complete. Early-seeded crops are emerging well. Hay and pasture growth is good. Some flea beetle infestations are reported in emerging rapeseed stands.

In the northwest of the province at Dauphin only five to 30 per cent of the seeding has been completed. Farmers are now changing to early-maturing crops. Fall rye, hay and pastures are doing well.

#### SASKATCHEWAN

In the southeast part of the province around Moosomin seeding of wheat, oats and barley has not been completed. Approximately 65 mm of rain have been received during the last week. Seven to ten days of good weather are required to complete seeding. It appears that some of the remaining area intended for rapeseed may be seeded to oats and barley if seeding is delayed further. A hail storm occurred on June 3 in the Moose Jaw area resulting in localized flooding. The crops are two to three weeks behind normal. The weather has been generally cool and emergence has been slow. Warm weather is urgently needed. Weed control by cultivation has been difficult because of high soil moisture levels and considerable chemical weed control is expected. From 85 to 90 per cent of the crop has been seeded in the district.

Around Swift Current in the southwest seeding has been completed and summerfallowing is well under way. Spraying for weed control has begun. Hayfields, native and mature pastures are showing stress from the lack of rain.

In the central area around Drake seeding is 98 per cent complete. Germination of all crops is very good. Early-sown cereals are in the two-leaf stage. Moderate infestations of wild oats have appeared. Strong winds have caused minor damage to seedlings on sandy soil. In the Craik area crop development is approximately two weeks behind normal. Early crops are in the one to two-leaf stage. Approximately 90 per cent of the seeding has been done. Pastures are in good condition. In the Chamberlain area 85 per cent of the crops have been seeded. Approximately 50 per cent of the seeded crop has emerged. Soil conditions are good and the weather has been cool. Weed growth is severe in comparison to last year. Our reporter at Saskatoon indicates that most of the crop has been planted. Low areas are almost dry and will soon be seeded. Germination and emergence has been good. Many fields of rapeseed are just emerging and although flea beetles are present no significant damage is evident. Wild oats are abundant in some crops.

In the west-central part of the province around Kindersley pastures are in good condition. The weather has been cool. In the Scott area seeding has been completed and summerfallow operations have begun. Flea beetles are causing damage to untreated rapeseed fields and spraying is general. Some reseeded rapeseed due to flea beetle and frost damage is occurring. Weed growth is heavy and herbicides are being applied. Recent rains have improved prospects for hay and pasture.

In the northeast around Aylsham seeding became general the week of June 1. Seeding of wheat is approximately 75 per cent complete. Another week to ten days is required to finish. The weather has been cool and overcast but little moisture has been received since May 29. Seeding is continuing in the Melfort area and about 80 per cent of the crop has been planted. The weather during the past week has been dry and cool. Wild oats and early-seeded fields are emerging rapidly. Hayfields and pastures are growing well.

Seeding varies from 75 per cent complete in the Shell Lake, Spirit Wood, and Big River areas to 95 per cent in the Shellbrook, Canwood, and Leask areas of north-central Saskatchewan. Seeding of spring wheat has been completed and the crop has emerged. Wild oat infestations are severe in untreated fields. Rapeseed has begun to emerge. The remaining acreage intended for rapeseed will be seeded to the Polish varieties. A general shower on June 3 eased moisture conditions in the Shellbrook area. Warm, sunny days have encouraged pasture growth. The hay crop is late, but is growing rapidly. Summerfallow operations have begun in some areas where the seeding has been completed.

In the northwest around Meadow Lake seeding is 98 per cent complete. Moisture conditions are good and pastures are developing well. Flea beetle damage is occurring in some rapeseed fields.

#### ALBERTA

Generally dry weather during the past week permitted many farmers in the Medicine Hat area to complete their spring seeding. The nights have been very cold with some home gardeners losing plants due to frost damage. Winter wheat is now progressing well and livestock and pastures are reported to be in good condition.

In south-central Alberta around Lethbridge almost all seeding should be completed by the end of this week. The exceptions are the Blood Indian Reserve and some barley, oats and flaxseed acreages in the Warner district. The entire region needs rain as surface soils are dry. Late-seeded crops and some hay and pasture fields are showing signs of dryness. Irrigation of specialty crops and alfalfa has started. Some flea beetle damage is reported on mustard and rapeseed to the north and east of Lethbridge.

Around Hanna in the east-central part of the province seeding of most grain crops is complete with the exception of a few wet fields which will be seeded to feed grains. There has been no recent rainfall and all crops are emerging in excellent condition. No insect damage is reported and weed infestations are about normal. Herbicide spraying will begin in a few days. Haylands and pastures are in excellent condition. Around Stettler cool, showery weather continues. Seeding is 90 to 95 per cent complete and should be finished by the end of the week. The excellent moisture conditions this spring have resulted in even germination and few emergence problems. Current soil moisture conditions are good.

Seeding is 95 per cent complete around Wainwright in east-central Alberta. Recent rains have ensured that moisture conditions remain good. Flea beetle damage has occurred in some rapeseed fields with frost damage reported in both rapeseed and barley.

In central Alberta in the Eckville district seeding is nearly complete and early-seeded wheat and oat crops are in the two-leaf stage. Lack of surface moisture is causing some uneven germination of grain crops and rain is needed. Hay and pasture growth is good.

Temperatures remain below normal in the Athabasca area of the northeast. Moisture conditions are above average and seeding is 75 per cent complete with most land devoted to rapeseed and barley. First seeded crops are now emerging. Pastures and hayfields are in good condition.

Around Peace River seeding is almost complete in some parts but in others where excessive moisture prevails no seeding has yet been done. There has been a significant switch from wheat to rapeseed and barley. Winterkill of alsike and alfalfa is now becoming noticeable. Around Grande Prairie a week of good weather has allowed farmers to complete from 75 to 100 per cent of their seeding and early-seeded crops have now germinated. Seeding is not yet complete around Beaverlodge due to excessive moisture. Early-seeded crops are doing well though flea beetles are reported to be prevalent. Some fescue fields have suffered extensive winter damage but those that were adequately fertilized have not suffered. Snow mould damage is reported in some legumes. Around Fairview about 90 per cent of the seeding has been completed. Crops have germinated well and there is a good supply of sub-surface moisture. Cool weather with rain has reduced flea beetle damage on rapeseed.

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. June 4	
	Week ending 8 a.m. June 4, 1979	Total since April 1	Normal since April 1	Température moyenne semaine se terminant à 8 h le 4 juin	
Province et district agricole - Station	Semaine se terminant à 8 h le 4 juin, 1979	Total depuis le 1 <sup>er</sup> avril	Normales depuis le 1 <sup>er</sup> avril	1979	Normal
	mm			°C	Normale
<b>Manitoba:</b>					
1:					
Boissevain	42.1	140.0	106.6	14	13
Pierson	18.9	86.9	96.8	14	14
2:					
Virden	22.1	98.4	90.5	14	14
Brandon	29.3	139.3	89.5	14	14
Cypress River	31.4	171.9	98.7	14	14
3:					
Birtle	33.3	119.4	91.2	13	13
4:					
Rosburn	31.7	119.7	102.0	12	13
Russell	29.0	90.2	74.1	11	13
5:					
Swan River	4.3	86.9	86.3	13	14
6:					
Dauphin	17.9	124.8	98.2	13	14
7:					
Gladstone	32.3	174.9	104.5	14	14
Starbuck	40.6	161.4	120.6	13	16
Portage La Prairie	43.4	187.2	115.0	14	16
8:					
Altona	55.6	227.6	96.1	14	16
Baldur	20.8	138.0	131.8	14	14
Pilot Mound	26.2	151.6	116.3	13	14
Grayville	25.6	178.3	104.3	13	14
Morden	26.0	170.5	109.1	14	16
Roland	24.8	145.9	97.6	14	16
Deerwood	16.7	147.0	120.1	14	16
Plum Coulee	47.0	200.9	119.7	14	16
9:					
Winnipeg	56.3	175.6	103.8	13	14
Steinbach	36.4	104.5	116.3	13	14
10:					
Pinawa	61.7	171.0	104.8	12	13
Sprague	24.6	120.6	111.9	13	14
11:					
Stonewall	25.9	125.6	110.6	12	14
12:					
Arborg	44.7	164.5	95.0	12	14
Hodgson	37.0	152.2	104.3	8	14
Gimli	31.6	179.9	98.4	11	14
The Pas	12.9	95.5	71.1	9	13
Grass River	33.8	116.5	90.9	13	14
Thompson	32.7	87.5	77.4	8	9
<b>AVERAGE - MOYENNE</b>	<b>31.8</b>	<b>142.3</b>	<b>101.7</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>14.1</b>

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. June 4	
	Week ending 8 a.m. June 4, 1979	Total since April 1	Normal since April 1	Température moyenne semaine se terminant à 8 h le 4 juin	
Province et district agricole - Station	Semaine se terminant à 8 h le 4 juin, 1979	Total depuis le 1 <sup>er</sup> avril	Normales depuis le 1 <sup>er</sup> avril	1979	Normal
	mm			°C	Normale
<u>Saskatchewan:</u>					
1A:					
Carlyle	13.2	94.5	85.5	12	13
Estevan	5.9	135.1	87.5	13	14
Oxbow	25.4	70.6	76.8	13	13
Willmar	..	65.0(2)	..	..	..
1B:					
Broadview	8.8	73.8	85.8	11	13
Moosomin	55.8	139.1	92.6	12	14
2A:					
Yellow Grass	9.6	160.0	80.8	12	14
Weyburn	7.0	104.0	89.0	12	14
Midale	2.2	120.8	84.2	12	14
Amulet	14.0	119.5	104.9	13	14
2B:					
Moose Jaw	6.4	97.3	76.1	12	14
Regina	14.1	107.2	77.8	12	14
Indian Head	6.6	80.3	81.2	12	14
3AS:					
Ormiston	8.6	94.8	76.3	13	14
Cardross	3.4	71.8	85.4	12	14
Rock Glen	22.9	136.2	114.4	12	13
3AN:					
Gravelbourg	..	..	..	..	..
Coderre	..	61.5(2)	..	..	..
Chaplin	..	55.5(2)	..	..	..
3BS:					
Shaunavon	1.0	71.4	69.1	11	14
Aneroid	8.4	109.1	68.9	11	14
3BN:					
Swift Current	0.4	77.1	74.8	10	13
Pennant	-	52.3	72.9	12	14
Elrose	3.6	64.8	60.6	12	14
4A:					
Maple Creek	2.6	67.5	70.6	12	15
Consul	3.0	64.5	58.3	10	13
4B:					
Leader	4.2	90.4	61.7	12	14
5A:					
Melville	3.2	56.3	69.9	13	13
Lipton	13.3	89.8	76.5	11	14
Yorkton	1.6	53.1	74.0	12	13
Atwater	7.0	40.5	78.5	12	14

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. June 4	
	Week ending 8 a.m. June 4, 1979	Total since April 1	Normal since April 1	Température moyenne semaine se terminant à 8 h le 4 juin	
Province et district agricole - Station	Semaine se terminant à 8 h le 4 juin, 1979	Total depuis le 1 <sup>er</sup> avril	Normales depuis le 1 <sup>er</sup> avril	1979	Normal
	mm			°C	Normale
<u>Saskatchewan - Concluded - fin:</u>					
5B:					
Wynyard	4.4	55.0	72.7	11	11
Foam Lake	..	..	..	..	..
Kuroki	7.1	66.8	78.4	12	13
Kamsack, Cote	3.8	50.6	67.1	10	12
6A:					
Davidson	13.8	77.9	72.7	11	13
Strasbourg	15.1	102.7	82.1	12	13
Watrous	8.9	68.3	81.4	12	13
6B:					
Harris	6.0	76.5	65.2	11	14
Outlook	4.6	70.3	61.2	11	14
Saskatoon	15.9	67.2	63.4	11	14
Elbow	(3)	96.6	68.9	12	14
Tugaske	(3)	78.8	77.6	11	14
Dundurn	16.6	114.9	63.0	11	14
7A:					
Alsask	0.6	55.1	40.1	12	14
Kindersley	1.5	59.7	55.2	11	14
Rosetown	3.0	46.4	65.9	11	14
7B:					
Macklin	18.0	65.0	60.9	12	13
Denzil	32.2	70.7	68.9	11	14
Scott	8.9	73.6	66.2	10	13
Biggar	11.0	67.9	68.4	12	14
8A:					
Hudson Bay	8.0	68.1	75.2	12	13
Prairie River	12.2	59.4	77.2	11	13
Nipawin	3.3	90.0	73.4	12	14
8B:					
Humboldt	8.1	49.9	60.4	11	13
Melfort	0.5	49.4	65.4	11	13
9A:					
North Battleford	9.8	74.2	61.7	11	13
Prince Albert	10.3	80.2	67.0	11	13
9B:					
Meadow Lake	4.2	63.9	72.4	9	12
<u>AVERAGE - MOYENNE</u>	8.9	80.4	73.5	11.4	13.5

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. June 4	
	Week ending 8 a.m. June 4, 1979	Total since April 1	Normal since April 1	1979	Normal
Province et district agricole - Station	Semaine se terminant à 8 h le 4 juin, 1979	Total depuis le 1er avril	Normale depuis le 1er avril	1979	Normale
	mm			°C	
<b>Alberta:</b>					
1:					
Empress	-	75.1	42.0	13	12
Foremost	-	105.2	76.4	13	14
Manyberries	..	87.8(2)	..	..	..
Medicine Hat	-	71.9	72.2	13	15
2:					
Brooks	2.8	76.3	70.3	13	14
Gleichen	0.8	62.2	86.7	13	13
Vauxhall	..	50.9(2)	..	..	..
Lethbridge	0.4	83.5	99.9	13	13
Elnora	1.8	51.6	76.7	..	13
Queenstown	..	67.8(2)	..	..	..
3:					
Calgary	0.8	79.2	93.4	12	12
Cardston	9.0	70.7	108.2	16	13
Pincher Creek	29.8	149.6	133.9	12	12
Fort MacLeod	1.3	66.8	106.5	14	14
High River	..	72.7(2)	..	..	..
Olds	5.0	124.8	89.1	12	12
4:					
Alliance	16.0	69.1	64.6	13	13
Coronation	11.2	61.7	59.3	12	13
Hughenden	26.4	50.2	61.1	12	13
Lloydminster	7.2	72.6	66.6	11	13
Stettler	10.2	79.7	69.5	12	13
Vegreville	4.0	46.8	61.2	11	13
Ranfurly	5.6	43.5	67.2	12	13
Vermilion	7.9	60.5	63.0	11	13
5:					
Edmonton	5.6	71.0	69.9	12	13
Lacombe	2.1	50.5	87.3	12	13
Red Deer	3.8	64.4	82.5	12	12
Rocky Mountain House	3.5	69.1	105.9	12	11
Gwynne	4.6	70.7	80.8	13	13
6:					
Cold Lake	9.4	43.0	68.9	10	13
Campsie	1.0	62.5	75.7	12	12
Edson	13.3	78.2	98.7	12	12
Elk Point	13.0	57.2	65.7	10	13
Whitecourt	3.6	111.3	87.9	13	12
7:					
Beaverlodge	3.1	63.6	71.9	12	12
Chipewyan	0.6	37.4	45.3	9	12
Ft. Vermilion	9.4	101.0	53.7	12	13
Grande Prairie	2.8	62.8	68.6	13	13
Peace River	9.5	38.2	50.5	12	13
AVERAGE - MOYENNE	6.4	70.9	76.6	12.2	12.8

(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. - Nombres indisponibles.

- Nil or zero. - Néant ou zéro.