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FIELD CROP REPORTING SERIES - NO. 12 - TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT - PRAIRIE PROVINCES

This is the eighth 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. Most crop yields are expected to be below normal in the Prairie Provinces. Recent light rains and slightly cooler weather have alleviated drought conditions and temporarily halted further crop deterioration throughout much of the southern areas of Manitoba and Saskatchewan and south-eastern Alberta. Hot, dry weather continues in southwestern Manitoba, east-central and southwestern Saskatchewan and southwestern Alberta. Little precipitation has been received in east-central Saskatchewan which remains severely affected by the drought. Crop yields are expected to be significantly reduced in the drier areas of the Prairies. Crops are maturing rapidly. Most cereals have headed and early barley has begun to ripen. Although the winter wheat harvest has just begun, harvesting of fall rye is well under way. Rapeseed and flax are generally in the late flowering stages with early oilseeds in the pod and boll. In much of the dry southern areas hay growth has been too slow to provide a second cut. Pastures have begun to deteriorate in most areas.

Manitoba. Scattered showers have improved crop prospects in the western part of the province. Northeastern districts still remain dry with some crops being plowed under. In the dry areas of the province stands are short and light with premature ripening reported. In the rest of the province crops range from fair to good with most cereals headed. Early flaxseed and rapeseed are finished blooming and the corn and sunflower crops are doing well. The early potato harvest is under way. Armyworm damage is widespread and spraying is general. Pasture growth has been slow.

Saskatchewan. Cooler weather over the weekend accompanied by shower activity temporarily halted further crop deterioration. Rainfall varying from 12 to well over 25 mm were received in the districts south of a line from Moose Jaw to Carnduff. Most other areas of the province received little or no precipitation. The east-central region, which is severely affected by drought conditions, reported no significant precipitation. More rain and cooler weather is required for crops to fill. Some early-sown cereals are in the dough stage and early oilseeds are forming pods or bolls. Fall rye swathing is general and some fields have been combined. Haying is nearing completion.

Alberta. Rain and cooler temperatures over the past weekend have alleviated the moisture and heat stress to crops in Alberta. Most districts have indicated that they are receiving adequate moisture to ensure filling of cereals and oilseeds. The driest area, the southwest corner of the province bounded by Claresholm, Pincher Creek, Cardston, Warner and Lethbridge, received very little rainfall and crops are continuing to deteriorate. Other districts report fair to good crops but yields will be reduced. Additional precipitation would be welcome throughout southern Alberta to maintain crop development and promote second growth on haylands and pastures. In the central regions crop prospects have improved and are rated as fair to good. Late-seeded crops are generally worse than the earlier crops but all crops are now filling. In the northern and Peace River regions crops are in good condition. Excessive moisture in the Barrhead, Westlock, Athabasca and High Prairie areas has resulted in yellowing and drowning of crops in low-lying areas. Rapeseed has finished blooming and all cereals have headed. Early-seeded barley is turning colour in the Peace River District. Fall-seeded cereals are being swathed and some fall rye has been threshed. Swathing has also started in the fescue seed crops. Irrigated crops are generally in good condition. Haying is nearing completion in the southern and south-central regions. Yields were generally below average but the quality was very good. In the northern areas about two-thirds of the hay has been cut. Yields are average or better but the quality is variable.

RUST REPORT

The Winnipeg Research Station reports that the development of cereal rusts has been slow in Western Canada. The rusts are present in small amounts in southern Manitoba and southeastern Saskatchewan but little damage is anticipated.

Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces(1)

	Unweighted Average Precipitation		
	Per cent variation from normal(2)		
	Man.	Sask.	Alta.
April 1, 1979 - July 30, 1979	- 1	- 8	+ 3
April 1, 1979 - July 23, 1979	- 1	- 7	+ 2
April 1, 1979 - July 16, 1979	+ 1	+ 5	+ 1
April 1, 1978 - July 31, 1978	- 1	+ 12	+ 10
Mean Temperature			
°C variation from normal(2)			
	Man.	Sask.	Alta.
For the week ending July 30, 1979	- 1.1	- 0.9	- 1.2
For the week ending July 23, 1979	+ 1.9	+ 3.2	+ 3.2
For the week ending July 16, 1979	+ 0.6	- 0.8	- 2.0
For the week ending July 31, 1978	- 2.0	- 0.5	+ 1.1

(1) Source: Atmospheric Environment Service.

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

MANITOBA

In the area around Beausejour rain is needed as crops are deteriorating. Severe infestations of armyworms are evident throughout the district. First-cut hay yields are good. Rapeseed crops are maturing early due to the hot weather conditions. Cereal smut is present in some fields. At Selkirk crop conditions are generally good. Barley is turning and other cereals are advancing well. Moisture conditions have improved due to recent rains. Armyworm infestations are widespread with control measures now being under taken. Hayfields are now showing good growth. Rapeseed and flaxseed are in the late flowering stage with some fields producing pods. Potatoes are in full bloom and corn is progressing well.

At Stonewall all crops are making good progress. Yield prospects are good as moisture supplies are sufficient. Haying is complete with good yields in evidence. Armyworm infestations are general and over 4 000 hectares have been sprayed. Pastures range from fair to good. In the area around Portage la Prairie crops are progressing well and moisture supplies are adequate. Most cereal crops have headed and oilseeds are in full flower. Armyworms have been a problem in the area and spraying operations are under way. Haying is now completed.

All crops continue to suffer from a lack of moisture and high temperatures around the Brandon area. Yields will be significantly reduced. Farmers are plowing under significant acreages of burnt crops. Rain is urgently needed.

At Teulon in the Interlake Region moisture conditions are very good due to the recent rains. Crop conditions are good and yields will be average. Spraying for armyworms is continuing. Haying is complete. At Arborg crops are generally in good condition and average yields are expected. Heavy infestations of cereal armyworms are reported throughout the area and spraying is general. Some isolated fields have extensive damage and have been worked up. Diamondback moth larvae have been seen in some rapeseed fields. The condition of special crops remains fair with below-average yields expected. Moisture conditions are generally good.

In the west-central part of the province at Neepawa recent rain showers have helped some crops but more rain is needed. Early barley fields have been severely affected by the heat and drought. Sunflowers are beginning to flower. There will be no second cut of hay. Although the area around Minnedosa received rain over the weekend, more precipitation is needed. The southern part of the district remains very dry. Some crops are beginning to turn prematurely. Cereals are now in head and rapeseed is in full bloom and beginning to pod.

To the northwest at Dauphin crops are short and yields are projected to be below normal. Moisture conditions are poor and more rain is needed. Spraying is now under way for cereal armyworms and diamondback moths. Swathing of fall rye has now commenced but stands are light. Hay and pasture growth is poor. At Swan River cereal crops are all headed and rapeseed is in the late bloom to podding stage. Yields are expected to be below normal for all crops. Conditions have improved as a result of the cooler weather and recent rains. Infestations of armyworms and diamondback moths are reported and some spraying is under way. Haying is complete with good quality and quantity reported. Pastures are in poor condition.

SASKATCHEWAN

In southeastern Saskatchewan around Moosomin some rain was received on July 29. Cereal crop development is at a standstill and more rain is needed for filling. Some crops are being cut for cattle feed. Heading is general. Shower activity throughout the Indian Head area this past weekend has greatly improved crop prospects for cereals sown on fallow land. The improved soil moisture levels will assist the regrowth of forage legumes; however, the carrying capacity of pastures remains limited. The Moose Jaw area received approximately 38 mm of rain during the weekend. Weather during the past week was cooler and provided relief for drought stricken crops. Most of the cereal crops have headed and are in the milk stage with approximately 25 per cent in the dough stage.

At Swift Current in the southwest continued hot, dry weather has resulted in further crop deterioration. Stands are short but heads are filling reasonably well. Swathing of wheat is not expected to start for about two weeks. Swathing of fall rye should be completed within a week and yield prospects are variable.

In the east-central part of the province at Balcarres the weather has been hot and dry. Crops are ripening and swathing will begin in one to two weeks. Some rapeseed has been swathed and yields appear poor. Some barley and oat crops are being plowed down. The hay crop is very poor.

Continuing hot, dry weather in the central region around Drake is forcing crops to early maturity and early-sown cereals are now entering the dough stage. Rapeseed and barley crops are the most severely affected by the drought conditions. Yields are expected to be significantly reduced.

In the west-central area around Scott crop conditions remain excellent although pasture conditions have deteriorated during the recent hot weather. Recent showers have been received in many localities and, as a result, above-average yields are expected. Barley and early rapeseed crops are beginning to ripen and swathing is expected to commence in about a week. Haying is nearing completion. Hay quality is reported to be excellent and yields are about average.

In the northeast rain is needed in the Melfort area to help crops fill. Rapeseed planted on stubble land is short and yields will be low due to the hot, dry weather during flowering and podding. Fallow

crops are in better condition. Winter wheat and fall rye crops are ripening and some early-seeded spring crops are starting to turn.

In the north-central region rain is now required throughout the Shellbrook-Leask-Spiritwood area. Some burning is noticeable in cereals; however, above-average crops are still expected. Early-seeded rapeseed is beginning to turn. Farmers are completing haying operations and are preparing for the harvest.

In the northwest our correspondent at Meadow Lake reports that moisture conditions are poor to fair. Some barley has started to burn due to the lack of rain. All grains are headed and the swath-ing of rye and barley is expected to start next week.

ALBERTA

Numerous rain showers fell over southern Alberta during the past week, leaving up to 38 mm of precipitation on drought stricken crops and rangelands. The rain will help many crops that appear to be doing well despite the lack of moisture. Only the harvest will show if sufficient moisture came soon enough to properly fill the grains. Some farmers will plow under spring-sown crops. Swathing of fall rye is nearing completion, while swathing of winter wheat has only begun. Yields of cereals and specialty crops, including irrigated crops, will be down because of unfavourable spring weather. The Bow Island-Foremost district has received sufficient moisture from recent thunderstorms to cause lodging in some fields. Hay supplies are dwindling. Rangelands appear to be in average condition in the Medicine Hat district, while in the Cardston and Pincher Creek districts well below-average conditions are reported.

In the Medicine Hat area of southeastern Alberta thunderstorms provided up to 25 mm of rain during the weekend and relieved some of the moisture stress from which crops were suffering. On sandy soils crops are changing colour and a few small areas are burnt; however, in other areas most crops are growing well. The first hay crop has been baled and stacked and appears in good condition. The second crop on irrigation should be cut in ten days. Grazing lands are in average condition and live-stock are in good condition.

Moisture conditions are poor in the Cardston area of southwestern Alberta. It is estimated that most crops will be only 50 per cent of normal. Swathing of fall grains will occur within the next ten days. Pastures are dry and a shortage of feed is possible. Haying was completed with yields reported to be only one-half of last year. Oilseeds are podding but are light. Prospects for seeding fall grains are poor unless moisture conditions improve. In the Calgary district all crops are headed, although rain is desperately needed for proper filling of the grains. Haying is proceeding well but yields are below average. Two or three severe hailstorms occurred in this region during the past week.

Continued thunderstorms over large areas of east-central Alberta have continued to improve the general crop situation, especially between Kindersley and Calgary. Cereal crops are nearly all headed, appear healthy and green, and are filling normally. Most crops, including hay, range from average to good. Swathing of rye has begun but wheat is still green and no swathing will begin for at least three weeks. The wheat and other grain crops generally appear good. Some hail was experienced in the Hanna area but damage was minimal. Adequate moisture and warm weather have aided in filling grains in the Stettler area. All cereals and coarse grains have headed and rapeseed is approximately 80 per cent podded. Haying is 80 per cent complete. Near Wainwright crops appear excellent and yields will be above average. Crops are maturing rapidly with early-seeded barley and rapeseed starting to turn colour. Swathing will be general by mid-August. Haying is nearly complete.

Near Eckville in central Alberta crops are deteriorating in certain areas due to drought and only scattered showers. Early-seeded barley has started to ripen and rapeseed is 70 per cent podded. Haying is 90 per cent complete. Summerfallow land is in good condition.

In northeastern Alberta near Athabasca growing conditions are excellent. All crops have improved during the past week; however, all cereal crops are late and chances of damage from frost in late August and early September are high. Hay crops are above average and are about 75 per cent harvested.

The Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation reports hail on July 28 causing damage to small areas near Calmar, St. Paul, St. Albert and Lacombe. Moderate damage from hail on July 29 was reported at Cochrane, Calgary, Langdon, Mossleigh, Arrowwood and Cluny. Scattered storms were also reported at Champion, Rainier and Warner.

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. July 30	
	Week ending 8 a.m. July 30, 1979	Total since April 1	Normal since April 1	Température moyenne semaine se terminant à 8 h le 30 juillet	
Province et district agricole - Station	Semaine se terminant à 8 h le 30 juillet 1979	Total depuis le 1 ^{er} avril	Normales depuis le 1 ^{er} avril	1979	Normal
	mm			°C	Normale
Manitoba:					
1:					
Boissevain	7.0	186.1	243.9	15	19
Pierson	41.5	175.3	216.7	20	20
2:					
Virden	3.0	130.9	234.1	19	20
Brandon	1.8	187.2	218.4	18	20
Cypress River	35.8	304.1	234.9	19	21
3:					
Birtle	10.7	230.4	241.7	13	19
4:					
Rosburn	13.5	200.7	273.6	17	18
Russell	19.2	168.4	195.6	18	19
5:					
Swan River	10.9	149.5	216.7	18	18
6:					
Dauphin	8.9	204.1	240.1	19	20
7:					
Gladstone	7.6	266.8	230.5	18	19
Starbuck	8.0	247.3	267.9	19	20
Portage La Prairie	13.3	305.9	262.1	20	21
8:					
Altona	18.0	366.9	229.7	20	21
Baldur	24.4	158.2	299.3	19	20
Deerwood	33.0	268.6	270.5	17	21
Pilot Mound	19.0	260.5	283.4	19	20
Graysville	30.5	279.4	204.7	19	20
Morden	6.6	288.9	247.0	21	21
Roland	..	204.6(2)	..	..	..
Morris	30.5	376.9	238.9	20	21
Plum Coulee	19.1	320.2	255.5	20	20
Emerson	46.6	337.3	250.7	20	21
9:					
Winnipeg	7.0	253.0	248.4	20	21
Steinbach	39.8	186.4	262.9	20	20
10:					
Pinawa	5.3	215.2	242.0	19	20
Sprague	54.9	218.6	270.8	19	19
11:					
Stonewall	7.1	200.8	265.5	19	20
12:					
Arborg	15.0	259.5	219.9	19	19
Hodgson	-	232.6	225.5	17	20
Gimli	7.1	292.6	235.5	19	20
The Pas	14.0	182.1	189.1	16	18
Grass River	16.5	271.7	233.4	18	19
Thompson	9.4	194.1	218.1	13	16
AVERAGE - MOYENNE	17.7	240.0	241.4	18.6	19.7

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. July 30	
	Week ending 8 a.m. July 30, 1979	Total since April 1	Normal since April 1	Température moyenne semaine se terminant à 8 h le 30 juillet	
Province et district agricole - Station	Semaine se terminant à 8 h le 30 juillet 1979	Total depuis le 1 ^{er} avril	Normales depuis le 1 ^{er} avril	1979	Normal
					Normale
				°C	
Saskatchewan:					
1A:					
Carlyle	7.2	154.1	219.1	23	19
Estevan	16.1	181.0	212.0	20	21
Oxbow	52.0	189.8	199.0	19	19
Willmar	12.7	196.8	213.4	..	19
1B:					
Broadview	12.6	117.8	224.4	16	18
Moosomin	19.0	203.8	242.3	17	19
2A:					
Yellow Grass	..	224.6(2)	..	..	..
Weyburn	19.4	211.2	204.4	18	19
Midale	26.2	200.4	209.0	18	20
Amulet	7.2	201.1	198.5	18	19
2B:					
Moose Jaw	37.4	211.2	184.5	19	20
Regina	1.2	176.0	200.4	19	19
Indian Head	14.0	179.5	196.1	18	19
3AS:					
Ormiston	11.9	123.9	186.3	18	19
Cardross	36.2	146.1	195.5	17	19
West Poplar	..	210.6(2)	..	..	..
3AN:					
Gravelbourg	47.0	158.8	175.5	21	20
Coderre	7.9	146.7	178.6	19	19
Chaplin	16.4	138.5	179.5	19	19
3BS:					
Shaunavon	7.4	140.5	178.6	17	19
Aneroid	17.2	195.6	161.4	18	19
3BN:					
Swift Current	5.7	165.5	189.8	17	20
Pennant	-	173.6	180.3	17	19
Elrose	7.0	156.2	157.0	18	19
4A:					
Maple Creek	7.0	163.5	165.5	18	20
Consul	..	141.9(2)	..	..	..
4B:					
Leader	8.2	212.8	158.4	18	20
5A:					
Melville	..	75.8(2)	..	..	..
Lipton	(3)	189.1	197.1	17	19
Yorkton	1.1	84.4	191.8	18	19
Atwater	5.0	77.5	198.2	18	18

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. July 30	
	Week ending 8 a.m. July 30, 1979	Total since April 1	Normal since April 1	1979	Normal
Province et district agricole - Station	Semaine se terminant à 8 h le 30 juillet 1979	Total depuis le 1 ^{er} avril	Normales depuis le 1 ^{er} avril	1979	Normale
	mm			°C	
<u>Saskatchewan - Concluded - fin:</u>					
5B:					
Wynyard	11.6	130.4	188.9	17	18
Foam Lake	10.0	157.1	177.8	17	18
Kuroki	2.5	135.6	204.0	17	18
Kamsack, Cote	1.2	94.4	182.2	18	18
6A:					
Davidson	..	153.9(2)	..	..	..
Strasbourg	1.6	170.5	199.1	19	18
Watrous	..	114.3(2)	..	..	..
6B:					
Harris	10.8	190.7	157.9	18	19
Outlook	2.8	215.5	160.9	18	20
Saskatoon	10.8	190.7	157.9	18	19
Elbow	(3)	161.9	164.6	19	19
Tugaske	3.0	140.2	189.5	19	19
Dundurn	5.0	244.2	165.2	18	19
7A:					
Alsask	9.9	148.3	129.5	17	19
Kindersley	14.8	171.3	148.2	18	19
Rosetown	13.5	134.9	171.6	17	19
7B:					
Macklin	2.6	215.3	180.4	17	18
Denzil	..	183.9(2)	..	..	..
Scott	4.7	227.9	174.3	16	18
Biggar	4.7	159.6	173.5	17	19
8A:					
Hudson Bay	2.4	168.7	202.1	17	18
Prairie River	23.6	155.3	204.6	16	18
Nipawin	-	224.7	182.8	17	18
8B:					
Humboldt	10.0	113.3	162.9	18	19
Melfort	16.4	191.7	169.8	17	18
9A:					
North Battleford	2.2	196.4	172.4	17	19
Prince Albert	3.7	199.8	176.0	17	18
9B:					
Meadow Lake	3.7	210.7	227.5	16	17
Waseca	1.8	195.0	203.0	16	17
<u>AVERAGE - MOYENNE</u>	10.9	170.4	185.3	17.9	18.8

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. July 30	
	Week ending 8 a.m. July 30, 1979	Total since April 1	Normal since April 1	Température moyenne semaine se terminant à 8 h le 30 juillet	
Province et district agricole - Station	Semaine se terminant à 8 h le 30 juillet 1979	Total depuis le 1 ^{er} avril	Normale depuis le 1 ^{er} avril	1979	Normal
	mm			°C	Normale
<u>Alberta:</u>					
1:					
Empress	8.4	154.2	116.0	18	20
Foremost	..	140.5(2)	..	..	..
Manyberries	16.0	167.2	165.4	18	20
Medicine Hat	16.7	180.5	162.5	17	21
2:					
Brooks	26.0	170.3	165.6	19	19
Gleichen	14.4	120.0	208.5	16	18
Vauxhall	8.2	85.7	159.5	17	19
Lethbridge	7.8	111.5	216.6	17	19
Elnora	24.9	147.4	205.4	..	18
Queenstown	..	115.5(2)	..	..	..
3:					
Calgary	24.6	172.2	233.3	15	17
Cardston	..	129.1(2)	..	..	..
Pincher Creek	..	187.0(2)	..	..	..
Fort MacLeod	..	116.1(2)	..	..	..
High River	25.2	167.7	256.0	13	16
Olds	..	209.6(2)	..	..	..
4:					
Alliance	..	219.0(2)	..	..	..
Coronation	14.4	185.2	168.8	15	11
Hughenden	14.2	206.4	183.9	16	18
Lloydminster	4.0	213.4	194.3	16	18
Stettler	11.2	210.6	207.0	16	17
Vegreville	37.6	232.8	194.4	15	17
Ranfurly	40.8	244.9	198.1	15	17
Vermilion	41.1	312.5	186.0	16	17
5:					
Edmonton	30.9	248.1	223.9	15	17
Lacombe	7.2	134.0	229.8	15	17
Red Deer	15.0	146.2	226.3	15	17
Rocky Mountain House	4.3	151.9	274.7	15	16
Gwynne	24.4	285.8	229.6	15	17
6:					
Cold Lake	..	188.6(2)	..	..	..
Campsie	21.4	319.1	219.4	15	16
Edson	8.2	292.5	266.6	15	15
Elk Point	3.2	261.0	191.2	15	16
Whitecourt	18.4	391.6	245.7	15	15
7:					
Beaverlodge	2.2	209.5	185.1	16	16
Chipewyan	0.2	140.8	124.3	16	16
Ft. Vermilion	13.8	203.0	146.4	18	17
Grande Prairie	4.8	203.6	180.0	17	16
Peace River	2.5	209.4	144.9	16	16
AVERAGE - MOYENNE	15.9	202.5	197.1	15.9	17.1

(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.