

Principal field crop areas, June 2016

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Canadian farmers reported seeding more land to lentils again this year, continuing the strong upward trend observed over the past four years. Seeding of soybeans and corn for grain increased, while canola was relatively unchanged from 2015. Meanwhile, the areas seeded to spring wheat, oats and barley fell in 2016.

Seeding of most crops was nearly completed in early June, ahead of the five-year average. Sowing conditions were generally positive this spring, with only a few localized areas reporting too little or too much moisture. Total crop land lying fallow in 2016 was at an all-time low.

Wheat

Canadian farmers reported an overall decrease in the area sown to wheat this year, down 3.9% to 23.2 million acres. The decline was the result of a 9.2% drop in area seeded to spring wheat, which fell to 15.4 million acres in 2016. In contrast, the area seeded to durum wheat rose 4.8% to 6.1 million acres.

Provincially, Saskatchewan farmers reported that total area seeded to all wheat decreased 7.1% in 2016 to 12.1 million acres. Durum wheat seeded area, however, was constant year over year at 5.0 million acres. Total area seeded to spring wheat dropped 11.9% to 6.9 million acres, a third consecutive decline for the province.

Alberta producers reported that their total wheat acreage fell 2.7% from 2015 to 6.6 million acres. A drop in spring wheat acreage accounted for the decline, down 8.5% to 5.4 million acres. However, durum wheat seeded area increased 34.1% to 1.1 million acres in 2016, matching the record acreage seeded to durum in 2002.

Farmers in Manitoba reported seeding 2.8 million acres of spring wheat, down 3.8% from 2015.

Canola

Canadian farmers reported seeding 20.0 million acres of canola in 2016, down slightly (-0.4%) from the 20.1 million acres reported in 2015.

The overall decline in canola area was attributable to reduced seeded areas in Alberta (-4.3%) and Manitoba (-1.6%). Saskatchewan farmers reported a 2.1% increase from the previous year, seeding 10.9 million acres of canola in 2016. In comparison, farmers in Alberta reported seeding 5.8 million acres, while farmers in Manitoba planted 3.1 million acres. Collectively, these three provinces accounted for nearly all of the canola seeded area in Canada.

Lentils

Total area seeded to lentils reached a record high of 5.8 million acres in 2016, up 47.8% from the record set in 2015.

Lentil area in Saskatchewan, which accounted for 90% of total acreage in Canada, rose 42.6% from last year to 5.3 million acres.

In addition, Alberta farmers more than doubled their planted acres of lentils this year, up 126.0% to 565,000 acres.

Soybeans

In 2016, the total area seeded to soybeans grew 1.0% to 5.5 million acres. This increase was the result of a rise in soybean acreage in Manitoba, which set a new record for the province this year.

In Ontario, the largest soybean producer in Canada, farmers seeded 2.7 million acres in 2016, down 6.4% from last year. Ontario farmers reported using genetically modified seed for almost two-thirds of this area.



Manitoba farmers seeded a record high of 1.6 million acres in 2016, up 17.3% from 2015. This was the ninth straight increase.

In Quebec, the area planted to soybeans was up 3.2% from the previous year to 803,100 acres; genetically modified seed accounted for 63% of this area.

Barley and oats

Nationally, the total area seeded to barley fell 2.2% from 2015 to 6.4 million acres. Alberta and Saskatchewan represented almost 90% of the total barley seeded area in 2016.

The total acreage seeded to oats dropped 14.3% from 2015 to 2.9 million acres in 2016. Alberta was the only province where farmers reported an increase from the previous year in area seeded to oats.

Corn for grain

Canadian farmers reported planting 3.3 million acres of corn for grain in 2016, a 1.7% increase from 2015.

In Ontario, farmers planted 2.1 million acres of corn for grain in 2016, an area similar to that of last year. The area seeded to corn for grain in Quebec edged down 1.4% compared with last year to 889,600 acres. Farmers in Ontario reported that genetically modified seed made up 83% of their total planted areas of corn for grain, while for Quebec farmers, it accounted for 86%.

Meanwhile, farmers in Manitoba planted 325,000 acres of corn for grain in 2016, a 30.0% increase compared with last year.

Note to readers

The June farm survey, which collects information on field crop seeded areas in Canada, was conducted from May 27 to June 12, 2016, with approximately 24,500 farms. Farmers were asked to report their seeded areas of grain, oilseeds and special crops.

Data on acres seeded in June are subject to revision following subsequent surveys during the current crop year. Final data on acreages for 2016 will be released on December 6, 2016, and may be subject to revision for two years.

Farm surveys collect data from Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta for every cycle of the survey. However, data are collected only twice a year (in the current June farm survey on seeded areas and in the November farm survey on final field crop production) for Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and British Columbia, which represent between 2% and 4% of national totals.

Release calendar: *The [dates](#) for upcoming releases of stocks, areas and production of principal field crops are available online.*

In this release, percentage changes are calculated using unrounded data.

Data for June 2016 are compared with final 2015 data.

Table 1
Preliminary estimates of principal field crop areas

	2014	2015	June 2016 ^{1P}	2014 to 2015	2015 to June 2016
	thousands of acres			% change	
Total wheat (including winter wheat remaining) ²	23,865	24,111	23,177	1.0	-3.9
Durum wheat	4,750	5,820	6,100	22.5	4.8
Spring wheat	17,414	17,013	15,449	-2.3	-9.2
Winter wheat ³	1,700	1,278	1,628	-24.8	27.4
Barley	5,880	6,527	6,385	11.0	-2.2
Canary seed	275	325	260	18.2	-20.0
Canola	20,775	20,095	20,020	-3.3	-0.4
Chick peas	170	115	160	-32.4	39.1
Corn for grain	3,078	3,275	3,330	6.4	1.7
Dry beans	305	260	287	-14.8	10.4
Dry field peas	3,985	3,680	4,274	-7.7	16.1
Fall rye	221	259	329	16.9	27.1
Flaxseed	1,585	1,640	925	3.5	-43.6
Lentils	3,120	3,950	5,840	26.6	47.8
Mustard seed	500	345	525	-31.0	52.2
Oats	2,823	3,337	2,861	18.2	-14.3
Soybeans	5,562	5,411	5,465	-2.7	1.0
Summerfallow	4,595	2,560	1,985	-44.3	-22.5
Sunflower seed	75	100	70	33.3	-30.0

^P preliminary

1. The methodology used for area estimates for the Atlantic provinces and British Columbia was modified in 2014. For more information, see note to readers.
2. Represents the sum of winter wheat, spring wheat and durum wheat.
3. The area remaining after winterkill.

Note(s):

The estimates in this table have been rounded to the nearest thousand. The percentage changes reflect the unrounded estimates, which are available in CANSIM. Wheat types may not add up to total wheat as a result of rounding.

Source(s): CANSIM table [001-0017](#).

Available in CANSIM: tables [001-0010](#), [001-0017](#) and [001-0072](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [3401](#).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; STATCAN.infostats-infostats.STATCAN@canada.ca) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; STATCAN.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.STATCAN@canada.ca).