

Principal field crop areas, March 2017

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Canadian farmers expect to plant more canola, soybeans and oats in 2017, but fewer acres of durum wheat and lentils, crops that were both at high levels in 2016.

Wheat

Nationally, farmers reported intending to seed 23.2 million acres of all varieties of wheat in 2017, relatively unchanged from the area seeded in 2016. Western producers, accounting for 95% of this acreage, are expecting only a slight increase of 0.4% overall, to 22.0 million acres.

Alberta anticipates wheat acreage to be up 10.0% to 7.4 million acres, a possible record high, but less area is expected to be dedicated to durum, down 8.5% to 1.1 million acres.

Saskatchewan farmers expect wheat area to decrease 2.7% to 11.8 million acres. This is due to an 18.8% drop in acres intended for durum wheat, to an anticipated area of 4.1 million acres.

Farmers in Manitoba intend to plant 2.7 million acres of wheat, down 9.0% from 2016.

Canola

Canadian farmers are expecting to seed more canola in 2017, up to a potential record-high 22.4 million acres (+9.9%).

In Saskatchewan, the largest canola-producing province, farmers anticipate seeding 12.3 million acres (+10.6%) in 2017, compared with 11.1 million acres in 2016. Farmers in Alberta also expect an increase in canola acreage, up to 6.8 million acres, a rise of 14.6% over 2016. These could represent record-high areas for both Saskatchewan and Alberta. Manitoba producers, though, expect a slight decrease, as farmers anticipate seeding 3.1 million acres of canola, down 1.7% from 2016.

Soybeans

At the national level, farmers intend to seed a record 7.0 million acres of soybeans, up 27.2% from 2016.

Manitoba is showing the largest expected increase in area, up 34.6% to 2.2 million acres, another potential record high for this province. Ontario farmers anticipate seeding 3.0 million acres, a rise of 11.4% over 2016, while Quebec's acreage is expected to grow to a possible record high of 926,600 acres, up 15.4% over 2016.

Barley and oats

Canadian farmers across almost all provinces report that they intend to seed less barley in 2017 (-8.0%), driving down acreage to 5.9 million acres nationally.

On the other hand, areas seeded to oats are expected to rise in most provinces (+20.6% over 2016), to 3.4 million acres. The only exception where a potential drop is foreseen is Alberta, where farmers plan to seed 690,000 acres to the crop, a 4.2% decrease compared with 2016.

Corn for grain

At the national level, corn for grain acreage is anticipated to rise to 3.8 million acres, an increase of 12.8% over 2016. Provincially, farmers in Ontario expect a 9.6% increase to 2.2 million acres. Quebec farmers reported a similar increase (+9.7%) to 976,100 acres, while producers in Manitoba anticipate seeding 475,000 acres of corn for grain in 2017 (+37.7%).



Note to readers

The March Farm Survey, which collects information on crop planting intentions, was conducted from March 16 to March 31, 2017 and included about 11,600 farmers. Farmers were asked to report their planting intentions for grain, oilseeds and special crops.

Subsequent surveys during the year will provide estimates of actual seeded acreages. Data on final acreages for 2017 will be released on December 6, 2017 and will be subject to revision for two years.

Farm surveys collect data from Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta at all survey cycles. However, they collect data twice a year (in the 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. Therefore, Canadian totals for March include carry-over data for these provinces from their preceding November survey, and Canadian totals for July include carry-over data for these same provinces from their preceding June survey.

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 March 2017 are compared with final 2016 data.

Table 1
March intentions of principal field crop areas

	2015	2016	2017 ^{1P}	2015 to 2016	2016 to 2017
	thousands of acres			% change	
Total wheat (including winter wheat remaining) ²	24,111	23,212	23,182	-3.7	-0.1
Durum wheat	5,820	6,190	5,145	6.4	-16.9
Spring wheat	17,013	15,404	16,664	-9.5	8.2
Winter wheat ³	1,278	1,618	1,373	26.6	-15.2
Barley	6,527	6,390	5,880	-2.1	-8.0
Canary seed	325	260	270	-20.0	3.8
Canola	20,665	20,367	22,387	-1.4	9.9
Chick peas	115	160	140	39.1	-12.5
Corn for grain	3,275	3,325	3,751	1.5	12.8
Dry beans	260	277	260	6.5	-6.1
Dry field peas	3,680	4,239	3,989	15.2	-5.9
Fall rye ³	259	329	252	27.1	-23.3
Flaxseed	1,640	935	1,115	-43.0	19.3
Lentils	4,035	5,860	4,385	45.2	-25.2
Mustard seed	345	525	390	52.2	-25.7
Oats	3,337	2,834	3,419	-15.1	20.6
Soybeans	5,441	5,467	6,956	0.5	27.2
Summerfallow	2,560	1,990	1,765	-22.3	-11.3
Sunflower seed	100	70	50	-30.0	-28.6

^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](#) and [001-0017](#).

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).