

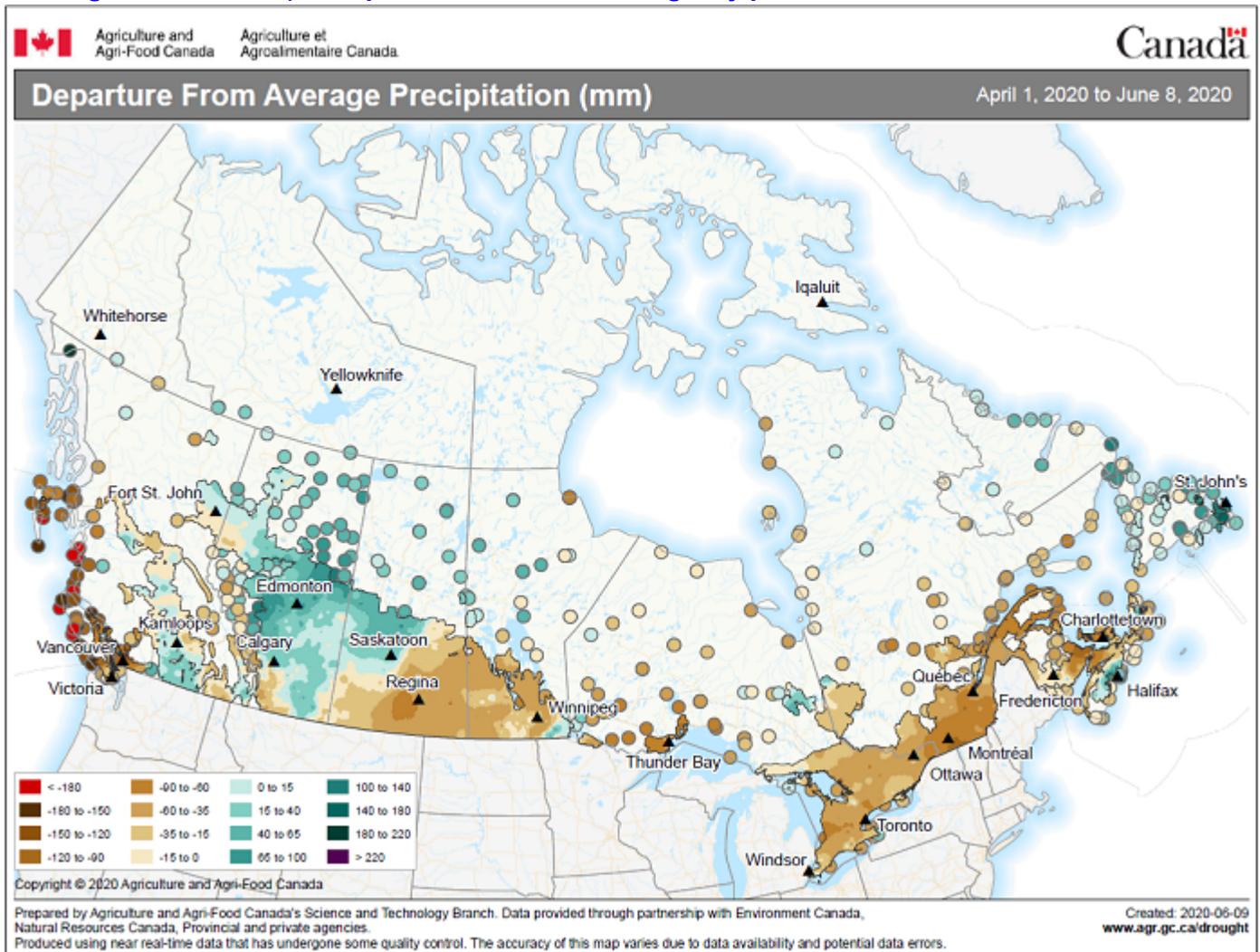
Principal field crop areas, June 2020

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In June, farmers reported several changes in crop areas compared with the previous year, with notably higher seeded areas of lentils, barley, and durum wheat, likely due to higher prices and better returns relative to other crops. In contrast, areas of crops such as canola and soybeans fell compared with 2019, possibly due to a shift away from oilseeds.

Despite cool temperatures throughout most of the country and ongoing harvest of 2019 crops in parts of Western Canada, dry conditions early in seeding aided planting progress, with the exception of much of Alberta and north-western Saskatchewan, which received higher-than-average levels of precipitation. While seeding progress during this reference period may not have been directly impacted by COVID-19, farmers have and continue to face their own set of unique challenges in the regular production and distribution of their crops due to the pandemic.

Map 1 – Departure from average precipitation (in millimetres) from April 1 to June 8, 2020 (during seeding and collection), compared with annual average, by province



Wheat

Nationally, farmers reported planting 25.0 million acres of wheat in 2020, up 1.5% from 2019. Higher wheat area was led by durum wheat, which rose 16.2% to 5.7 million acres, while winter wheat increased 45.9% to 1.4 million acres. The increase in durum wheat area may have been attributable to favourable prices and low carry-out stocks from the previous crop year, while the gains in winter wheat area were due to less winterkill compared with a year earlier. In contrast, spring wheat area fell 4.6% to 17.9 million acres, possibly due to high carry-in stocks from the previous year.

Saskatchewan farmers reported wheat area falling 0.5% to 12.8 million acres. Spring wheat area decreased 7.5% to 8.1 million acres, while durum area rose 13.3% to 4.6 million acres.

In Alberta, wheat area edged down 0.3% to 7.4 million acres. Spring wheat area decreased 4.2% to 6.3 million acres, while durum wheat rose 30.6% to 1.0 million acres.

Farmers in Manitoba reported that total wheat planting edged up 0.2% to 3.2 million acres.

Canola

Nationally, farmers reported planting 20.8 million acres of canola in 2020, down 0.8% from 2019 as farmers shifted away from oilseeds, potentially because of high global supplies.

Saskatchewan farmers reported planting 11.3 million acres of canola in 2020, down 1.8% from 2019.

In Alberta, canola area was down 1.0% from 2019 to 5.9 million acres.

Farmers in Manitoba reported that canola area was up 3.2% to 3.4 million acres.

Soybeans

Canadian farmers reported 11.3% less area seeded to soybeans compared with a year earlier to 5.1 million acres in 2020. Ontario, Manitoba and Quebec, the three largest soybean-producing provinces, all reported planting fewer acres. Lower planted acres may have been the result of farmers moving away from oilseeds due to high global stocks.

Manitoba led the decrease in soybean area, down 21.8% from the previous year to 1.1 million acres in 2020. This marks the second consecutive year of lower seeded area in the province, after peaking in 2017, and the smallest seeded area since 2014. Lower seeded area may also be attributable to poor yields over the past several years.

Farmers in Ontario reported planting 8.5% fewer acres of soybeans to 2.9 million acres, while farmers in Quebec reported planting 885,500 acres of soybeans, down 2.3% from the previous year.

Barley and oats

Total area seeded to barley rose by 1.4% in 2020 to 7.5 million acres, the highest reported seeded area since 2009. The increase was driven by Alberta, where farmers reported planting 2.8% more barley to 3.7 million acres. Farmers in Saskatchewan planted 0.8% less to 3.1 million acres.

Area seeded to oats rose 6.5% to 3.8 million acres in 2020. Saskatchewan, the largest oat-producing province, rose 3.3% to 1.9 million acres compared with 2019. The increase in oats may have been due to strong prices as a result of higher demand.

Corn for grain

Farmers reported planting 3.7% fewer acres of corn for grain from a year earlier to 3.6 million acres in 2020.

Ontario, the largest corn-producing province, reported planting 2.2 million acres in 2020, down 0.5% from 2019.

Farmers in Quebec reported seeded area falling 5.7% to 890,800 acres.

Area seeded to corn for grain in Manitoba declined 19.0% to 372,300 acres.

Lentils and peas

Canadian farmers reported planting 4.2 million acres of lentils in 2020, up 12.0% from 2019. Despite ongoing import tariffs imposed by India, higher lentil area may have been due to higher prices.

Nationally, farmers reported seeding 1.8% fewer dry peas than in 2019 to 4.3 million acres. The decrease was led by Alberta, down 150,100 acres from 2019.

Note to readers

The 2020 Field Crop Survey - June, which collects information on field crop seeded areas in Canada, was conducted from May 14 to June 11, 2020, with approximately 24,500 farms. They were asked to report their seeded areas of grain, oilseeds and special crops.

June seeded acres are subject to updates from subsequent surveys during the current crop year. Data on final acreages for 2020 will be released on December 3, 2020, and will be subject to revision for two years.

Field crop surveys collect data from Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta at all survey cycles. However, they collect data twice a year (in the June iteration of the Field Crop Survey on seeded areas and in the November iteration of the Field Crop Survey on final 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 June 2020 are compared with final 2019 data.

An easy-to-print chart, [Crop Report Survey at a Glance](#), which provides an overview of our survey cycle, is now available.

Table 1
June preliminary estimates of principal field crop areas

	2018	2019	2020 ^{1P}	2018 to 2019	2019 to 2020
	thousands of acres			% change	
Total wheat (including winter wheat remaining) ²	24,735	24,604	24,971	-0.5	1.5
Durum wheat	6,185	4,894	5,689	-20.9	16.2
Spring wheat	17,311	18,782	17,926	8.5	-4.6
Winter wheat ³	1,238	929	1,356	-25.0	45.9
Barley	6,493	7,402	7,503	14.0	1.4
Canary seed	269	256	268	-5.0	4.7
Canola	22,813	20,956	20,778	-8.1	-0.8
Chick peas	443	392	298	-11.5	-24.0
Corn for grain	3,627	3,695	3,559	1.9	-3.7
Dry beans	353	395	387	11.9	-2.2
Dry field peas	3,615	4,333	4,255	19.8	-1.8
Fall Rye	201	300	390	48.9	30.3
Flaxseed	857	937	911	9.4	-2.8
Lentils	3,768	3,781	4,233	0.3	12.0
Mustard seed	504	399	257	-20.9	-35.6
Oats	3,053	3,606	3,839	18.1	6.5
Soybeans	6,320	5,714	5,070	-9.6	-11.3
Summerfallow	1,760	1,729	1,730	-1.8	0.0
Sunflower seed	71	76	70	7.6	-8.8

^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.

Wheat types may not add up to total wheat as a result of rounding.

Source(s): Table [32-10-0359-01](#).

Available tables: [32-10-0042-01](#) and [32-10-0359-01](#).

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).