

CHARACTER OF THE SEASON

Precipitation totaled only 1.14 inches for the first three months of 1955 and the soil was in poor condition for seeding on April 1. One half inch of rainfall coming the first week in April followed by nearly one and one-quarter inches on April 20th provided ample moisture for good germination and early crop growth, and seeding progressed rapidly during the month of April. Crop growth was good during the month of May which was rather warm and dry for the first three weeks. Crops were just beginning to show effects of the dry weather and were saved by the excellent rains of 2.11 inches coming from May 22 through May 28. A total of 4.70 inches of rain in June was very favorable for growth of small grain but the temperatures were too low for good corn growth. The rainfall coming in the month of June was a most important factor in the production of high small grain yields this year. Rainfall in July was below average and temperatures were high which undoubtedly reduced the potential corn yield considerably. August was a continuation of dry weather with a total precipitation of only .81 inches, less than half the average for August, and this accounted for the relatively low corn yields. Rainfall of 1.45 inches on September 21 provided sufficient moisture for good germination and early growth of fall sown crops. An excellent job of fall plowing was possible also because of this precipitation.

Stem rust of wheat was first observed about June 20, but never became particularly damaging. Oat stem rust again caused some losses on susceptible varieties but was not generally considered serious in this area.

There were no other crop hazards of serious consequence in 1955.

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[Email: drec@ndsuent.nodak.edu](mailto:drec@ndsuent.nodak.edu)

