

CHARACTER OF THE SEASON

Lack of moisture in any form during the open winter of 1952-53 made imperative the need for early spring moisture before any appreciable amount of field work could be started. Precipitation on the second and twenty-first of March amounting to nearly half an inch each time improved the situation considerably and moisture was down one to one and one-half feet in stubble when field was begun.

April rainfall was excellent, totaling 3.50 inches. Seeding was delayed somewhat because of rainy weather the last week in April and at the end of the month wheat seeding was only about 25% completed.

Continued good precipitation in May slowed seeding somewhat but brought hay and pastures along nicely, as well as the small grain which was in the ground. At the end of the month there was still about 10% of the wheat acreage to be seeded and only about 50% of the oats and barley was in. Early seedings were badly infested with wild oats in many instances. Corn planting was just beginning in this area at the end of the month.

Excellent rainfall through June and July was very favorable for growth of small grain crops but the cool weather delayed corn growth some. Appearance of wheat stem rust race 15-B was general in the area by the end of July, and was rapidly becoming a serious threat to the wheat crop. Stem rust race 8 of oat stem rust and made its appearance in July and susceptible varieties were badly infected before harvest.

Because of rainy weather at the time the weed spraying was not as extensive as it should have been.

Weather was favorable for haying and harvest, and except for losses from wheat rust race 15-B and oat stem rust race 8, the crop was one of the best on record.

Fall rainfall was good but came too late to furnish moisture for germination and early growth of winter wheat and

winter rye seedings.

Table 1 - Daily Precipitation - 1953													
	1953 Jan.	1953 Feb.	1953 Mar.	1953 April	1953 May	1953 June	1953 July	1953 Aug.	1953 Sept.	1953 Oct.	1952 Nov.	1952 Dec.	Annual
1	0	.05	.05	0	.65	0	.08	0	0	0	T	0	
2	0	0	.45	.04	.25	0	T	0	0	0	.07	0	
3	T	0	T	T	.16	.13	0	T	0	0	0	0	
4	T	.02	.02	0	T	.14	.27	0	.05	0	0	T	
5	T	0	.07	0	0	.05	.36	.51	0	0	0	0	
6	.08	0	.01	T	0	T	0	T	0	0	0	0	
7	0	0	.02	.04	0	T	0	T	0	0	0	0	
8	0	T	0	.08	0	.21	0	0	0	0	T	T	
9	0	.02	0	.56	.35	.50	0	T	0	0	T	0	
10	0	.04	0	.04	.45	.02	0	T	T	0	0	0	
11	0	0	0	.03	.06	.01	.28	0	0	0	0	T	
12	0	0	.01	0	.26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
13	T	0	0	T	0	.05	0	0	0	0	0	0	
14	T	.02	.02	T	0	T	0	0	0	0	0	0	

15	.01	.06	T	.04	T	.51	0	0	0	0	0	0	
16	0	.06	0	.01	0	.27	0	0	0	0	.09	0	
17	.02	T	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	T	T	0	
18	T	0	T	0	0	.05	0	.07	.08	0	.02	0	
19	0	0	T	0	0	.90	.07	.92	0	0	0	0	
20	0	T	0	0	.12	.85	.61	.03	T	0	0	0	
21	0	0	.51	0	.11	.06	.15	0	T	.17	0	T	
22	T	0	.01	.01	.01	0	0	0	0	1.46	0	0	
23	0	0	.02	0	.06	T	0	T	0	.25	0	0	
24	0	0	T	1.05	.40	.20	.06	0	.01	0	.06	T	
25	0	0	0	.45	.14	T	.25	.03	.08	T	.02	0	
26	.03	0	0	T	0	T	.26	T	T	0	T	0	
27	0	0	0	.08	.03	T	.02	0	0	.03	0	0	
28	0	0	0	.01	.25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
29	.02	---	0	.22	.11	.04	.07	.22	0	0	0	0	
30	T	---	0	.84	.04	T	0	0	0	.02	0	0	
31	.01	---	0	---	.02	---	T	0	---	0	0	0	

Tot.	.17	.27	1.28	3.50	3.47	3.99	2.48	1.78	.22	1.93	.26	T	19.35
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Table 2 - Climatic Data Summary - 1953 - Dickinson Experiment Station, Dickinson, North Dakota

Climatic Data	Nov 1952	Dec 1952	Jan 1953	Feb 1953	Mar 1953	Apr 1953	May 1953	June 1953	July 1953	Aug 1953	Sept 1953	Oct 1953	Total Amount	Mean Seasonal
Annual Precipitation	.26	T	.17	.27	1.28	3.50	3.47	3.99	2.48	1.78	.22	1.93	19.35	13.44
61 year average	.54	.44	.47	.43	.77	1.24	2.21	3.48	2.19	1.74	1.19	.87	15.57	9.12

Mean Temperature - Degrees Fahrenheit

Annual	29.4	22.7	21.9	22.0	26.1	35.5	49.4	71.8	66.7	68.4	57.6	51.0		
40 year average	28.1	16.2	10.2	13.2	24.9	41.8	52.2	61.6	68.1	66.2	56.0	43.7	40.2	---

Wind Velocity - Miles per Hour

Annual						5.2	4.8	4.5	3.9	3.5	4.7			
34 Year average						6.7	6.7	5.6	4.7	4.9	5.2			

Last Killing Frost in the Spring

1953	May 13 - 25° F
45 Year average	May 18

First Killing Frost in the Fall	
1953	September 24 - 24 ^o F
45 year average	September 15
Frost free season for 1953 - 139 Days	45 year average frost free season - 117 Days

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