



Oatinformation

# Special Oat Report

Tuesday, April 27, 2021

## Canadian 2021 oat plantings forecast to fall 6% putting 2021/22 oat end stocks on a path to near record lows

Canadian farmers expect to plant more canola, barley, soybeans, and corn for grain in, while area seeded to wheat, oats, dry peas, and lentils are anticipated to decrease compared with the previous year.

Anticipated seeded areas may differ from data on actual seeded areas to be released in June for several reasons, including the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 both the Canadian and world grain markets.

As always, weather may also contribute to changes in seeding decisions. During collection of the March crop survey, parts of Western Canada were experiencing particularly dry conditions, with soil moisture estimated well below average levels across much of the Prairies. By comparison, soil moisture conditions in Eastern Canada were considered normal because of average precipitation over the winter.

## Barley and oats

Nationwide, barley acreage is expected to increase 13.9% to 8.6 million acres in 2021, likely as a result of strong prices and low carry-in stocks.

Saskatchewan is expected to lead the increase, up 24.5% to 3.9 million acres. If realized, this would be the largest seeded area in the province since 2007. Both Alberta (+7.8%) and Manitoba (+10.8%) also anticipate planting more barley.

Oat area is expected to fall 6.0% to 3.6 million acres compared with one year earlier, as global oat supplies are anticipated to increase, possibly affecting prices in Canada. The decrease is expected mostly in Saskatchewan, where seeded area is anticipated to fall by 206,400 acres (-11.1%).

**The lower oat planting estimate of down 6% was in line with our forecast of down 5%. If realized, based on average area abandonment**

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## Stats Canada 2021 Oat Planting Forecast

acres	2019	2020	2021	Change
Canada	3,595,800r	3,839,100	3,608,300	-6.0%
Prince Edward Island	11,100	7,900	7,900	0.0%
Nova Scotia	2,700	4,000	4,000	0.0%
New Brunswick	18,800	14,100	14,100	0.0%
Quebec	181,500	204,200	172,600	-15.5%
Ontario	93,100	104,500	68,300	-34.6%
Manitoba	525,200	695,100	763,300	9.8%
Saskatchewan	1,795,900	1,855,700	1,649,300	-11.1%
Alberta	899,100	881,200	856,400	-2.8%
British Columbia	67,700	71,900	71,900	0.0%



**and yields, 2020/21 Canadian end stocks are on a path to near record low end stocks. To stem on farm feed use, which is the major wild card on the supply/use outlook, oat prices in Western Canada will need to climb versus wheat and barley.**

**We will look in more detail at the oat numbers in tonight's oat report.**

### Wheat

Canadian farmers anticipate planting less wheat in 2021 compared with a year earlier, down 6.9% to 23.3 million acres. The decrease is largely expected in spring wheat, which is anticipated to fall 8.8% to 16.3 million acres. Durum wheat is expected to edge up 0.3% to 5.7 million acres, while winter wheat is anticipated to fall 11.2% to 1.2 million acres. Area dedicated to wheat may decrease as some farmers anticipate planting more oilseeds.

In Saskatchewan, farmers expect total wheat area to decrease 6.0% to 12.1 million acres as a result of lower spring wheat (-9.0%). Durum wheat is expected to increase 1.1% to 4.7 million acres.

Farmers in Alberta anticipate planting 7.0% less wheat in 2021, at 6.9 million acres. Spring wheat is expected to fall 7.8% to 5.8 million acres, while durum wheat is anticipated to drop 1.1% to 1.0 million acres.

Manitoba farmers anticipate planting 2.8 million acres of wheat, down 10.2% from one year earlier.

### Canola

Canola area is expected to increase for the first

## Stats Can March preliminary estimates of principal field crop areas

000 acres	2019	2020	2021{1} {p}	2019 to 2020 % change	2020 to 2021 % change
Total wheat (including winter wheat remaining){2}	24,604	24,982	23,260	1.50	-6.9
Durum wheat	4,894	5,689	5,705	16.20	0.3
Spring wheat	18,782	17,926	16,340	-4.60	-8.8
Winter wheat{3}	929	1,368	1,215	47.20	-11.2
Barley	7,402	7,561	8,613	2.10	13.9
Canary seed	291	273	244	-6.20	-10.8
Canola	21,181	20,783	21,530	-1.90	3.6
Chick peas	392	298	212	-24.00	-28.7
Corn for grain	3,695	3,559	3,623	-3.70	1.8
Dry beans	395	457	414	15.70	-9.4
Dry field peas	4,333	4,255	3,839	-1.80	-9.8
Fall Rye	300	390	417	30.30	6.9
Flaxseed	937	931	982	-0.70	5.6
Lentils	3,781	4,233	4,218	12.00	-0.3
Mustard seed	399	256	358	-35.70	39.7
Oats	3,596	3,839	3,608	6.80	-6.0
Soybeans	5,714	5,070	5,348	-11.30	5.5
Summerfallow	1,702	1,726	1,604	1.40	-7.1
Sunflower seed	76	112	84	46.70	-24.9

p preliminary

1. The methodology used for area estimates for the Atlantic provinces and British Columbia was modified in 2014. For more info
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 estimate. Wheat types may not add up to total wheat as a result of rounding.

time since 2017, rising 3.6% to 21.5 million acres, the largest seeded area since 2018.

High global demand for oilseeds has led to an increase in canola prices, which may influence farmers' decision to increase seeded area.

Farmers in Saskatchewan, the largest canola producing province, anticipate seeding 11.8

million acres of canola, up 4.4% from the same period one year earlier.

In Alberta, farmers expect seeded area of canola to increase 7.8% to 6.3 million acres.

In Manitoba, producers anticipate seeding fewer acres of canola, with expected seeded area

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falling 5.9% to 3.2 million acres in 2021.

### **Soybeans**

At the national level, farmers anticipate planting 5.3 million acres of soybeans, up 5.5% from 2020. An increase in anticipated area is likely due to high prices driven by strong worldwide demand.

In Ontario, the largest soybean producing province, farmers expect to plant 2.9 million acres of soybeans, up 2.0%.

Farmers in Manitoba anticipate planting more soybeans in 2021, up 17.3% to 1.3 million acres, the first time that soybean area in the province has risen since 2017. Favourable yields in 2020, coupled with good prices, may encourage farmers to increase soybean acreage.

Soybean area in Quebec is expected to rise 4.2% to 923,000 acres.

### **Corn for grain**

At the national level, farmers expect to plant 3.6 million acres of corn for grain, up 1.8% from one year earlier.

In Ontario, farmers anticipate planting 2.2 million acres of corn, up 1.7% from 2020.

Quebec farmers expect to plant more acres of corn, with seeded area increasing 1.2% to 901,300 acres in 2021.

### **Lentils and peas**

Area seeded to lentils is expected to be relatively stable compared with one year earlier, edging

down 0.3% to 4.2 million acres. Farmers in Saskatchewan, where almost 90% of Canada's lentils are grown, expect seeded area to decrease 1.6%, but this is anticipated to be offset by an increase in area in Alberta (+9.0%).

Farmers across Canada expect to plant fewer dry peas in 2021, with area anticipated to decrease 9.8% to 3.8 million acres compared with the same period one year earlier.



An Important Request

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- Randy Strychar

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