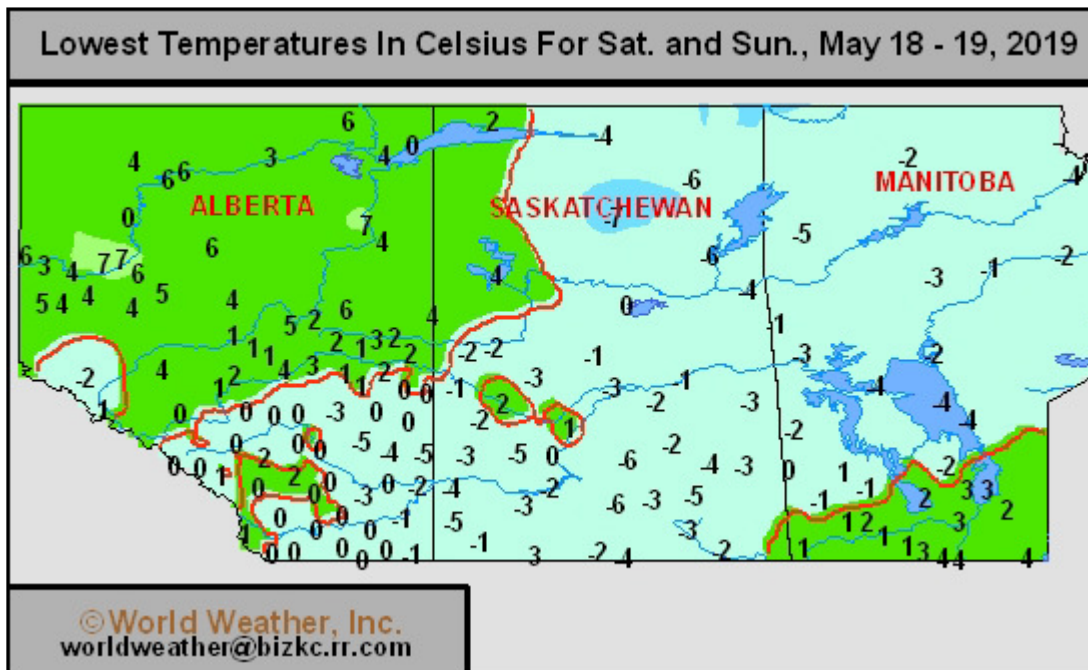


# Canada Canola Damaged By Hard Freezes

By Drew Lerner

Kansas City, May 19 (World Weather Inc.) – [Damaging cold temperatures occurred across the Canadian Prairies Sunday morning. Extreme lows slipped into the negative single digits Celsius or 20s Fahrenheit across east-central and southern Alberta, much of Saskatchewan and portions of Manitoba.](#) The cold will shift to the eastern Prairies Monday morning, although temperatures may not be quite as cold as they were Sunday. Frost may still linger on Tuesday in eastern parts of the Prairies, but this particular round of cold will have passed by then. Another wave of cold may impact the Prairies a week from now.



[Temperatures fell to readings colder than expected during the weekend across east-central and southeastern Alberta, most of Saskatchewan and central and northern parts of Manitoba. The cold resulted in temperatures of -6 to zero Celsius which is 21 to 32 degrees Fahrenheit.](#) Early-planted canola, lentils, wheat, rye and oats had emerged in many locations across the Prairies. Some of the crops will handle the cold better than others.

[Wheat, rye and oats should not have been seriously harmed by the cold, although some burning back of new growth and development likely resulted. None of the cold should have seriously harmed the pea crop, but lentils may have been damaged in a few areas and canola is the biggest concern.](#)

Planting across the Prairies has not advanced quite as fast as expected because of forecasts of additional late May or early June cold. However, planting has been advancing especially after some brief bouts of rain. Farmers have been debating over whether or not to plant crops in mid-May because of decreasing soil moisture. Two years of drought has soil moisture running low and some timely rain events this spring have occurred to bolster topsoil moisture just enough to induce better seed germination and emergence conditions. The longer range outlook has been pointed toward some late season frost and freeze

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potentials and some producers have been trying to determine whether the risk of planting early in order to take advantage of marginal soil moisture was a better choice over waiting until after final frost and freezes have impacted the region. The decision to plant while soil moisture has been favorable may have hurt some producers.

Sunday morning temperatures in the range of -3 to zero Celsius (27 to 32F) were probably not cold enough to seriously harm canola, but readings of -6 to -3 were a different story. These coldest temperatures will warrant some replanting. The extent of planting is not fully known at this point, but as of May 13, 2019 38% of all **Saskatchewan** spring planting was completed. The most advanced crop planting was in the southeastern corner of the province where 53% of crops were in the ground. A little more than half of the crops were also planted in the southwestern corner of Saskatchewan along with 32% done in west-central and 31% in east-central areas. The northeast was 28% planted.

**Manitoba** planting of peas and spring cereals was complete on 70-100% of the province, depending on location, as of May 14. Some canola was planted as well and that was going to be the crop of focus during this past week and into this coming week. That implies very little canola was up and developing in Manitoba when the cold weather hit and that should minimize the need for replanting in that province. Producers will likely hold back on planting this week since the forecast is for more cold weather early next week.

According to last week's report the Indian Head region of east-central Saskatchewan had been one of the wettest regions in the province suggesting that crop development might have been most advanced in that region. An extreme low of -5C or 23F occurred Sunday morning at Indian Head possibly damaging some of the canola that was likely emerged to the point of needing to be replanted.

Other extremes of -6C (21F) occurred at Moose Jaw and Last Mountain, SK while readings of -5 to -2 occurred in many other areas from near the Coronation area of Alberta through the west-central and interior southwestern parts of Saskatchewan to central parts of Saskatchewan. Extremes to -4F (25F) occurred in northern Manitoba.

*The cold surface high pressure center responsible for Sunday's lowest temperatures will weaken while shifting into the Interlake region of Manitoba. That will force low temperatures Monday morning to -5 in one or two locations while most readings will be -4 to -1 across central and northern portions of Manitoba and -2 to +2 in eastern Saskatchewan and southern Manitoba. Damage to crops will again be possible, but it will be less extensive over that suspected in Saskatchewan Sunday.*

One of the reasons why temperatures were colder than expected Sunday was due to the combination of a slightly stronger surface high pressure center and very dry air over the heart of the Prairies. Dryness allowed the temperatures to fall more significantly than anticipated which is often the case when drought prevails.

Frost will be possible Tuesday morning in the eastern Prairies and then a short term break from the cold is expected. However, *another surge of cold is expected late next weekend and early next week. The coldest mornings will be May 26-27 and extreme lows of -4 to -1C (25-30F) are possible once again in Saskatchewan and Manitoba. There is plenty of time for the cold airmass to change and a close monitoring of the cold is warranted.*

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