

StatsCan's Acreage Estimates - Released April 26 2022

Canadian farmers expect to plant more wheat, corn for grain, lentils, soybeans and oats in 2022, while area seeded to canola, barley and dry peas is anticipated to decrease compared with the previous year.

The previous crop year was one of the driest on record in Western Canada. While soil moisture conditions are estimated to have returned to normal in some parts of Western Canada, other areas such as southern Alberta and southwestern Saskatchewan remain drier than normal, potentially influencing seeding intentions. By comparison, soil moisture in Eastern Canada is estimated to be normal.

In addition, domestic and international grain markets are currently facing uncertainty as a result of the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and geopolitical conflict, which may affect farmers' planting decisions. Rising input costs for Canadian farmers, including fertilizer and fuel, may also contribute to seeding decisions.

Wheat

At the national level, farmers anticipate planting 25.0 million acres of wheat in 2022, up 7.2% from the previous year. Spring wheat area (+7.0% to 17.6 million acres) and durum wheat area (+12.5% to 6.2 million acres) are expected to expand, while winter wheat area is expected to decrease (-13.0% to 1.2 million acres). An anticipated increase in area for wheat is likely attributable to strong prices and high worldwide demand.

Farmers in Saskatchewan anticipate planting 10.6% more wheat in 2022 compared with 2021, up to 13.3 million acres. Spring wheat area is expected to expand 7.5% to 8.0 million acres, while durum wheat area is anticipated to increase 15.4% to 5.2 million acres. In Alberta, farmers expect total wheat area to increase 6.3% to 7.4 million acres as a result of higher spring wheat area (+7.9%), while durum wheat area is expected to decrease 3.1% to 957,500 acres. Manitoba farmers anticipate planting 3.1 million acres of wheat, up 5.7% from one year earlier.

Soybeans

Nationally, farmers anticipate planting 5.4 million acres of soybeans, up 0.7% from 2021. Farmers in Ontario, the largest soybean-producing province, expect to plant 3.0 million acres of soybeans, up 3.2% from 2021. Soybean areas in Manitoba (-0.9%) and Quebec (-0.6%) are expected to edge down compared with a year earlier.

Corn for grain

At the national level, farmers expect to plant 3.7 million acres of corn for grain, up 6.4% from a year earlier. In **Ontario**, where over 60% of all corn for grain in Canada is grown, farmers anticipate planting 2.3 million acres, up 8.2% from 2021. If achieved, it would be a record area for the province, surpassing the previous record of 2.2 million acres set in 2012. Farmers may choose to plant more corn for grain in 2022 as a result of record yields in 2021, coupled with

good prices relative to other crops. Quebec farmers expect to plant more corn for grain, edging up 0.9% to 893,400 acres in 2022.

Barley and Oats

Nationwide, barley acreage is expected to drop 9.7% to 7.5 million acres in 2022.

Saskatchewan is expected to lead the decrease, falling 17.6% to 3.1 million acres. Area seeded to barley is also expected to drop in both Alberta (-3.9% to 3.7 million acres) and Manitoba (-1.1% to 408,000 acres).

Oat area is expected to expand 16.6% to 4.0 million acres compared with one year earlier. If realized, it would be the highest area seeded to oats since 2008, possibly attributable to higher domestic demand for feed use and exports.

The March 2022 Field Crop Survey, which collects information on crop planting intentions, was conducted from March 1 to March 29, 2022, and included about 11,500 farmers. Respondents were asked to report their planting intentions for grain, oilseeds and special crops.

March estimates of principal field crop areas

	2021	2022	21/22
	thousands	of acres	% change
Total wheat	23,360	25,031	+7.2
Durum wheat	5,530	6,224	+12.5
Spring wheat	16,481	17,634	+7.0
Winter wheat	1,349	1,173	-13
Barley	8,296	7,491	-9.7
Canary seed	314	268	-14.7
Canola	22,479	20,897	-7.0
Chick peas	186	175	-5.6
Corn for grain	3,492	3,715	+6.4
Dry beans	437	337	-22.9
Dry field peas	3,820	3,551	-7.0
Fall Rye	433	436	+0.8
Flaxseed	1,027	867	-15.6
Lentils	4,303	4,486	+4.2
Mustard seed	308	457	+48.3
Oats	3,423	3,992	+16.6
Soybeans	5,321	5,358	+0.7
Summerfallow	1,337	1,618	+21.0
Sunflower seed	101	112	+10.6