

ERGOT IN CEREALS IN WESTERN CANADA IN 1954

W. P. Campbell

For a second year an extensive survey has been carried out for ergot in cereal crops in Western Canada. The results of the 1953 survey have already appeared (P. D. S. 33:23-28). The data for 1954 was also provided by the four plant pathology laboratories of the Botany and Plant Pathology Division in the Prairie Provinces. The results are presented in Tables 3-5.

Table 3. Fields of Wheat inspected for Ergot
by Province and Crop District, 1954

C. D.	Manitoba		Saskatchewan		Alberta	
	Total	Ergot	Total	Ergot	Total	Ergot
1	9	1	33		42	
2	10		6		67	
3	48	2	10		18	
4	22	12			36	4
5	3	1	18		29	
6			35	1	78	5
7	14	1	17	1	97	3
8	12		10	1	24	4
9	16		16		1	
10	5				76	
11	1				19	1
12	3					
13					21	
14					23	2
15					17	
16					69	
Total	143	17	145	3	617	19
% Ergot		11.9		2.1		3.1

Table 4. Fields of barley inspected for ergot by province and crop district, 1954.

C. D.	Manitoba		Saskatchewan		Alberta	
	Total	Ergot	Total	Ergot	Total	Ergot
1	6		2		4	
2	4		2		11	
3	25	6	2		3	
4	6	2			2	
5	2	2	3		8	1
6	2	2	5	1	28	3
7	6		1		27	3
8	3				35	3
9	11	8	3	1	7	
10	11	1			42	3
11	9	2			50	3
12	2					
13	1				19	1
14					22	
15					11	
16					71	1
Total	88	23	18	2	340	18
% Ergot		26.1		11.1		5.3

Table 5. Fields of rye inspected for ergot by province and crop district, 1954.

C. D.	Manitoba		Saskatchewan		Alberta	
	Total	Ergot	Total	Ergot	Total	Ergot
1	8	8				
2						
3	4	4			21	1
4	1	1				
5	5	5				
6					1	1
7	11	11			4	2
8	2	2				
9			2	1		
10	1	1				
11	4	4				
12						
13	1	1				
14					2	2
15						
16					11	1
Total	37	37	2	1	39	7
% Ergot		100		50		17.9

From an examination of these tables it is evident that there was more ergot in cereals in Manitoba than in the other two provinces and that in contrast to 1953, the least ergot developed in cereals in Alta. On maps, not here reproduced, the more severely infected fields were plotted separately from those in which infection was a trace. It was especially noticeable in the map for rye that there was much more ergot in Man. than in Alta. The number of observations in barley and rye in Sask. were too few on which to base any conclusions. The most noteworthy observation in Alta. was the fact that although there was a marked decrease in the level of ergot in cereals in 1954, the amount of ergot on roadside grasses remained at a high level.