

Crop yields have substantially increased over the past two decades. Wheat yields in Canada for the early eighties were 15 percent higher than the average yields of the 1960's and 15 percent higher than the 1970's average yield. Barley, and rye have shown similar increases over the past two decades. Canadian soybean yields in the early 1980's were 15 percent higher than the average yield of the states and 5 percent greater than the 1970's average yield. Average production per hectare in other commodities have also increased slightly in this period (corn, flaxseed, potatoes, timothy, etc.)

4. Notes

(a) Land

In Eastern Canada, the area in soybean production has been increasing over the past two decades and still continues to increase as improved short season varieties are developed. During the same time, the area of timothy has decreased more than 70,000 hectares as this land is being converted for more profitable uses. The areas planted in wheat and maize vary each year and have no specific trends associated with them.

Total cropland in Western Canada has increased six million hectares from 1961 to 1982. The area planted in each crop has increased with the largest increases in soybean area occurring in wheat and maize. The only exception is the area planted in oats which has tended to decline during this period. Most of the increase in area planted in the various grains and miscel crops since the mid to late 1970's is due to the sharp reduction in the area in commercial use.