

CANADA TODAY/D'AUJOURD'HUI

SASKATCHEWAN

The settlers of Saskatchewan called the vast flatlands the bald-headed prairie, and not a tree broke the view from horizon to horizon. These prairies are not, however, homogeneous. The ones farthest south produce hardy grasses such as blue grama, june grass and spear grass. The ones to the north and east have the rich dark brown and black soils that give Saskatchewan its breadbasket reputation.

The first great harvests were in the 1860s after the pioneer farmers planted Red Fife, a hard spring wheat from the Ukraine. Unfortunately, it was susceptible to early frosts, but in 1911 researchers crossed it with Hard Red Calcutta, producing Marquis, which matured a week earlier and took care of that problem.

Ted Grant took this picture in 1971.

September

1981

Septembre

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