CANADA
TODAY / D'AUJOURD'HUI

MANITOBA

Sunflowers look best in bunches of a hundred thousand. They have hairy stems that may grow more than fifteen feet high and daisy-like flowers that measure a foot across.

In Canada they are a valuable source of cooking oil. Cultivation began in Manitoba in the unsunny years of the Depression when the price of wheat was disastrously low. By the early 1950s sunflower farms were thriving around a Mennonite Co-operative in Altona. Attacks of rust almost ruined the industry then, but scientists developed rust-resistant blooms and it has survived and prospered.

Endless acres now follow the sun. These are at Portage la Prairie. George Hunter took the picture in 1978.

February 1981 Février

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