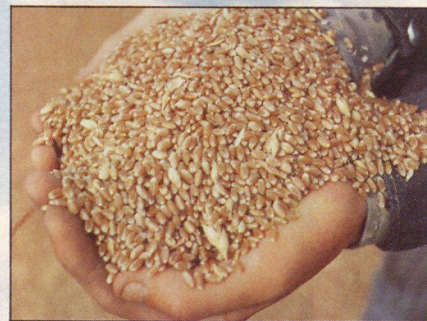


Cold Region Crops

Agriculture's northern challenge

by Paul Tisdall

For Dr. Walter Bushuk, the University of Manitoba's Associate Vice-President of Research, the problems of farming under Canada's hostile climate conditions are painfully real. Bushuk, who emigrated from Poland with his family as a small child, grew up on a mixed farm near Garland, Manitoba, some 400 km north of Winnipeg. The family farm suffered "freeze-outs almost every second year and we barely managed



to scratch out a living," Bushuk recalls. Given this personal history, it's hardly surprising that Bushuk now heads a program at the University of Manitoba aimed at improving crop

productivity under the cool, short-season conditions of the Canadian Prairies.

Severe climate is the most significant limiting factor facing Canadian agriculture. In fact, in many ways Canada's role as a breadbasket coun-

