

### Subsection 3.—Field Crops

Following a sharp reduction in crop output in 1954 when rust took a heavy toll, Canadian farmers experienced two very satisfactory seasons in 1955 and 1956 from the production point of view. Despite a somewhat late seeding season in many parts of Canada, weather conditions during the summer and autumn of 1955 were generally favourable to good growth and development of crops. Average yields per acre for the 21 crops for which estimates are made either equalled or exceeded those of 1954 except for buckwheat, dry peas, rapeseed and field roots. New production records were set in corn for grain, soybeans and mustard seed. In 1956 the seeding season was again delayed in many parts of Canada but, as in the previous year, weather conditions during the summer and autumn were generally favourable and yields of most crops were well above average. Early autumn frosts and excessive rains in the Prairie Provinces lowered the quality of the wheat crop somewhat and in Eastern Canada excessive rains during the haying season caused harvesting difficulties. Average yields per acre for the 21 crops for which estimates are made exceeded those of 1955 except for winter wheat, fall and spring rye, corn for grain, soybeans, sunflower seed, hay, fodder corn and sugar beets. New production records were set in 1956 for flaxseed, rapeseed, mustard seed and mixed grains.

Marketings of the five major grains (wheat, oats, barley, rye and flaxseed) totalled 567,029,000 bu. in 1955-56 and 584,911,000 bu. in the 1956-57 crop year. These amounts were well below the record 1952-53 year when marketings reached 844,900,000 bu. but compared favourably with the ten-year (1947-48-1956-57) average of 577,957,000 bu. Combined exports of the same grains (including wheat flour, rye flour, rolled oats and oatmeal, malt, and pot and pearl barley) amounted to 406,528,000 bu. in 1955-56 and 390,003,000 bu. in 1956-57. Exports during the period were somewhat above the ten-year average of 381,753,000 bu. However, exports and domestic disappearance during the period did not increase in proportion to the increase in crop production and as a result stocks of grain in Canada continued to build up.

COMPARISON OF LAND USE BY SPECIFIED CROPS,  
PRAIRIE PROVINCES, 1949 AND 1957

