

TIMELINE OF CANADIAN AGRICULTURE

Before 1600

Indigenous peoples farmed and saved seeds from traditional crops grown by hand and in connection with the land, without external intervention.

1600-1800

- 1605 - The French begin agricultural practices in the Maritimes, largely in PEI
- 1617 - The French begin small-scale agricultural production in Quebec
- 1783 - The British begin agricultural production in Ontario
- 1811 - Agricultural practices began in British Columbia
- 1818 - Agricultural societies began formation in order to improve the standards of agricultural practices
- 1870 - government of Canada purchased the land that would become Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and the territories, much for the purpose of agriculture
 - **This was particularly devastating for the Indigenous peoples of the land, who were displaced and repressed, and whose traditional ways of growing food were disregarded**
- 1885 - The completion of this transcontinental railroad united the newly formed nation and connected farmers with new markets from coast to coast

All of these came at the cost of the Indigenous peoples land



1900'S

- 1907 - Marquis wheat, developed for the growing conditions in the Prairies, hits the scene and production explodes twentyfold
- 1920s - fossil-fuel-powered tractors become more commonplace, replacing horses
 - Greater productivity came at a price - far more expensive, fuel had to be purchased at high costs. This led to farmers taking on more debt than ever before
- 1927 - The regulation of pesticides for importation and sale begins
 - In the almost century since, the average yields for corn, oats, wheat and barley have more than doubled—but at significant costs to the environment and soil health
- 1929 - A long lasting drought began. Strong prairie winds lifted the topsoil, while grasshoppers, rust and hailstorms devastated crops across the country
- 1937 - Farmers and agricultural researchers increasingly sought ways to mitigate soil erosion

