

in the sowing of spring crops. Details of estimated crop acreages and the comparative figures for 1945-46 are as follows:—

	1945-46. Acres.	1946-47 (Estimated). Acres.
Wheat	164,286	140,000
Oats (all purposes)	182,123	160,000
Barley (all purposes)	54,717	59,000
Potatoes	23,228	19,000
Onions	1,387	1,200
Peas	32,740	31,000
Maize (for grain)	7,034	9,670

Wheat.—The acreage in wheat was the lowest for several years, mainly because of the unfavourable sowing conditions in the autumn, but a big proportion of the crop was sown in spring. Autumn- and winter-sown areas did not do as well as those sown in spring, samples from the farms generally being pinched and of low bushel weight. The weather was better suited to spring-sown crops, which yielded well in most districts.

Oats.—Crops recovered satisfactorily from adverse spring conditions and yields were anticipated to be slightly above average. Harvesting was carried out under good conditions and the quality of the grain was mostly up to average.

Barley.—The area in barley again showed an increase, the late season no doubt having some influence on this, because some areas intended for other crops such as wheat or peas were diverted to barley. In the main the yields were good, and favourable samples of malting-barley were secured. There was an appreciable increase in the growing of feed-barley crops in many districts where malting-barley cannot be grown.

Potatoes.—The area sown in potatoes showed a reduction on the past few years. Early crops were affected by the cold spring and yields were lower than usual. Main crops were planted late and some areas in Canterbury had to be replanted owing to very wet conditions, but in spite of early setbacks most crops grew through the summer satisfactorily and the prospects are for normal crops to be harvested.

Onions.—Owing to the wet spring, crops in the main growing districts were sown late and did not come away well. The prospects are not as good as in the previous season, although harvesting weather is favourable to long keeping.

Peas.—As weather conditions were not good for sowing, many areas were late sown. Crops generally have done well, with yields of field varieties about average. Garden varieties, however, were variable in yield, but harvesting-conditions were conducive to satisfactory quality.

Maize.—Despite the drought of the summer and autumn of 1946, maize crops in Poverty Bay and the Bay of Plenty yielded satisfactorily. An increased acreage was sown in maize last season, and although early growth was checked by the dry spring and early summer, the crop made excellent growth later and there are indications that yields will be above average.

CROP ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Various Advisory Committees in connection with specific crops continued to function during the year and have been of material assistance both to the Department and to growers. The Barley Advisory Committee consists of representatives of growers and brewers. The Onion Marketing Advisory