

Earth Day Graphing

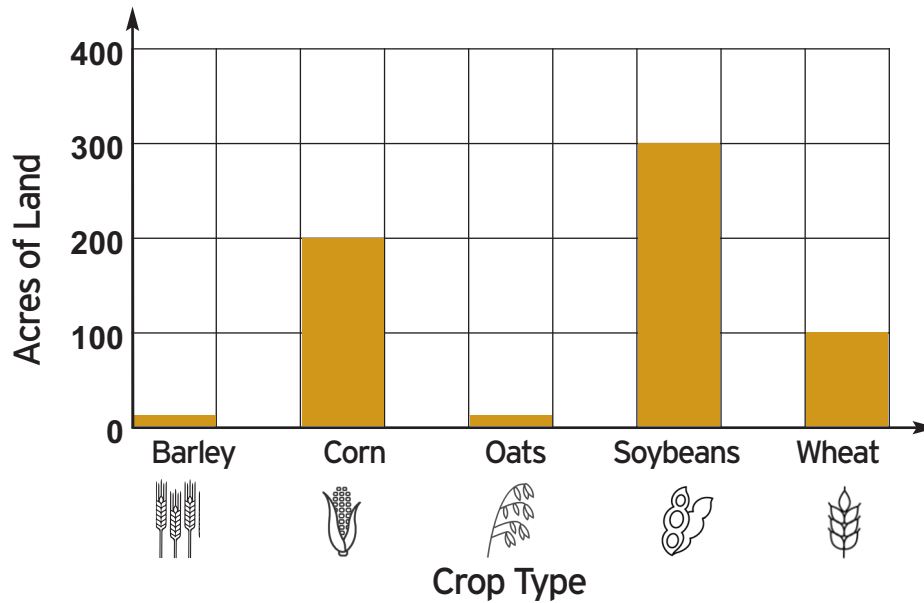


Earth Day is every day for farmers! One way they help protect the earth is by keeping the soil healthy. They do this by planting different crops on the same field each year.

A farmer might plant corn the first year, soybeans the second year and wheat the third year. Then the farmer repeats the pattern. It's a crop rotation!

This changes the soil in ways weeds and insects don't like and leaves the soil full of nutrients. When farmers take care of the Earth, they can grow healthy food for you to eat.

This bar graph shows the grain crops that Ontario farmers plant. Answer the questions below using this information.



How many acres of land are planted with corn? _____ acres

Which grain crops are grown the least? _____ and _____

Why is it hard to make a graph for that shows soybeans and barley?

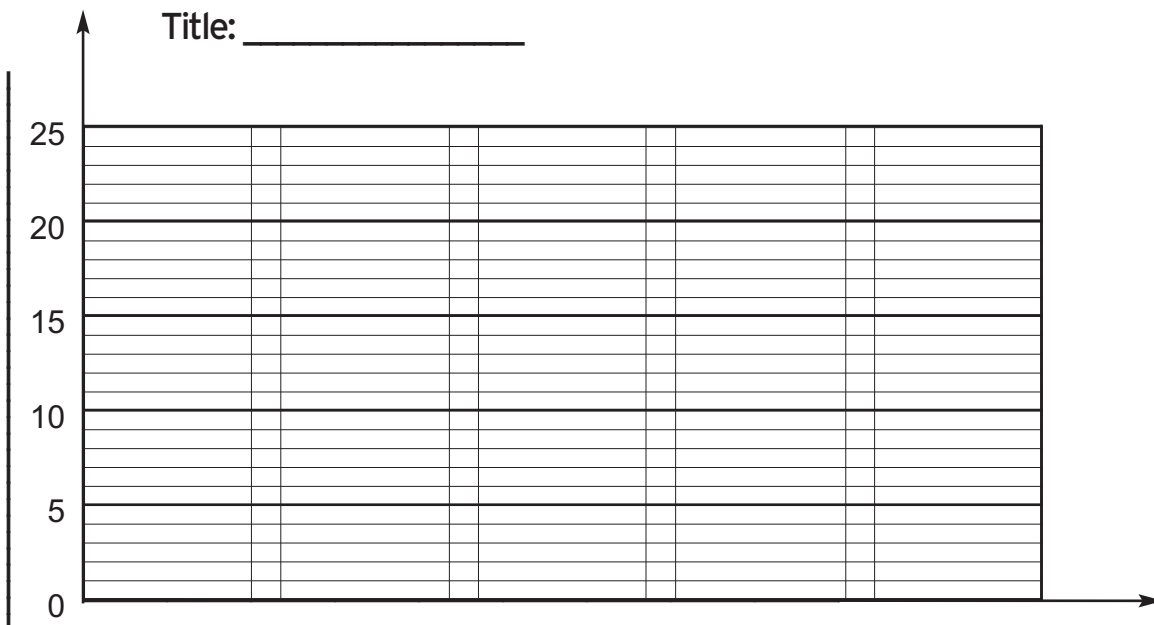
For Teachers: Data taken from document Ontario's grain markets found at www.gfo.ca.
1 acre on the above graph = 10,000 acres in real life.



Farmer Claire rotated crops in her fields to help reduce weeds and to keep her soil healthy. Check out how long it took for each of the crops to grow into mature plants on her farm!

Draw a bar graph to show the data. Then answer the questions below.

Crop Type	Barley	Corn	Oats	Soybeans	Wheat
Number of Weeks*	12	20	14	17	15



How many days does each box represent? _____ days

Look at your bar graph. Which crop grew fastest? _____

Which crop grew slowest? _____

Farmers must think about many things when they decide what type of crop to plant. What other information would you want to know before deciding the type of crop to plant? (Hint: does your crop need a lot of rain?)

For Teachers: The values represented on the chart at the top are estimates used as examples for this exercise.



Taking Care of Our Earth

It is natural for farmers to have to think about how to protect soil, water, and air. Those elements are part of the job. But farmers are not the only people who must protect Earth. It's important that we all think about protecting the planet. We can all do things like using less electricity. We can buy food that is grown close to where we live.

How will you take care of our earth?

Write a fact about how you can help the planet in each bubble.

