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FRUIT REPORT

Ottawa, May 17, 1933. - The Dominion Bureau of Statistics, in co-operation with provincial governments issued a report on the condition of fruit crops throughout Canada. The report deals with conditions up to May 13, 1933.

CANADA. - A late spring has been experienced throughout Canada and as a result crop development ranges from a week to ten days later than usual. Cool weather and spring frosts have been experienced in Prince Edward Island but fruits were not advanced sufficiently to be seriously damaged. Orchards apparently did not suffer material damage during the winter. More favourable conditions have existed in Nova Scotia and tree fruits and small fruits are making good progress. Some winter-killing of strawberries is reported. Cool weather has retarded development in New Brunswick but the outlook for tree fruits is favourable. Orchards wintered well in Quebec but the season is from a week to ten days late. Some winter-killing of strawberries is reported. Orchards and small fruits have come through the winter with practically no injury in Ontario. Crop development was retarded by cool weather during April. In general the season is late in British Columbia following an unusually severe winter in some sections of the province. Considerable winter-killing of strawberries is reported but tree fruits promise well.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.- Weather conditions in Prince Edward Island have not been very satisfactory. April and the beginning of May have been rather cool with some heavy frosts at night. As the buds were not far advanced, it is not probable that the frost has caused much damage. So far, small fruit plants appear to have wintered well, but it is too early to estimate any damage sustained during the winter. Prospects are fair for this season's crop of strawberries; raspberries are not extensively cultivated in this area. Orchards apparently sustained little damage during the past winter and while it is yet early to judge of this season's fruit crop, present prospects indicate a good bloom.

NOVA SCOTIA. - Reports from Nova Scotia indicate that the weather to date has, in general, been favourable to orchards and small fruits. Some spring frosts are reported but were too early to cause damage. Trees appear to be making good growth with no indication as yet of any damage sustained by trees during the winter. Small fruit plants appear to have wintered excellently, and to be in good condition. Some winter-killing of strawberries is reported but damage is not serious. In general, prospects are favourable for the strawberry and raspberry crops this season. Orchards have been receiving more care from farmers and present prospects indicate a heavy apple bloom and a fair budding in all varieties of fruit.

NEW BRUNSWICK. - Spring weather in New Brunswick has been cold so far with recurring frosts at night. Growth has been delayed in most districts by cold weather but buds were not developed enough to suffer any injury. Trees have wintered well and have sustained little or no damage as yet noticeable. Prospects in general are favourable for a heavy bloom for apple and plum trees. Small fruit plants have come through the winter well, with but slight winter-killing of strawberries. In general, prospects seem quite satisfactory for the small fruit crop.

QUEBEC. - Orchards in Quebec suffered very little damage during the past winter and are reported in very good condition all over the province. The season is relatively late, ranging from a week to ten days later than usual.

Small fruits are reported in good condition. 1932 plantings of strawberries have suffered some winter-killing. The condition of strawberries is reported at 82.4 per cent of normal for the whole province. The area devoted to strawberries has been increased by 2 per cent in the Quebec district and decreased by about 5 per cent in the Montreal district. Taking the fruit areas as a whole 1933 strawberry acreage is about 98 per cent of the 1932 acreage and amounts to 2,700 acres. Raspberries are reported in good condition. The area under crop shows an increase of 2 per cent with a total acreage of 1,400 acres. The condition of the raspberry crop is reported as 100.

ONTARIO. - Orchards and fruit crops generally have come through the winter with practically no injury, and are in a healthy condition. Growth and development were retarded by backward weather during April, but conditions during May have been more satisfactory.

Winter-killing of strawberries was practically nil, with only a few uncovered beds being injured. In Norfolk many of the new beds were badly thinned out by cut worms last fall. In all other sections strawberries and raspberries came through the winter in fine shape and indications point to average crops.

Commercial orchards are in splendid condition and are being exceptionally well cared for by owners. Spraying and other operations are being done very thoroughly. No spring damage to buds has occurred as far as can be ascertained at present.

Crop prospects generally are fairly good. In the Niagara Peninsula cherries and European plums have a heavy bloom. Abundance and Burbank, both Japanese varieties, are inclined to have a light bloom. Peaches have a medium showing and prospects indicate a fairly good crop, while pears are reported as being only fair.

BRITISH COLUMBIA. - The following comments on fruit prospects in British Columbia are summarized from the "Horticultural News Letter" issued on May 13, 1933, by the Department of Agriculture, British Columbia.

Vancouver Island and Gulf Islands. - The season is somewhat later than last year. Strawberries all coming into bloom, the plants are generally small with some winter injury. All tree fruits show fine bloom.

Lower Mainland. - April was a dry, cool month and there was little growth compared with other seasons. Raspberries have suffered injury and prospects are less favourable than for strawberries. Tree fruits have been slow to reach the blossom peak.

Salmon Arm, Sorrento and Main Line Points.- Temperatures during spring months ranged unusually low and growth was retarded. Strawberries were severely injured by the December freeze-up in the Salmon Arm district and a very small crop is indicated. Tree fruits show very little winter injury but are a week or ten days later than usual.

Armstrong, Vernon, Ogema, Winfield and Okanagan Centre.- Spring opened up later than usual and cool dry weather has prevailed until recently. Present conditions are favourable for growth. With the exception of apricots there has been no winter injury to tree fruit. Strawberry and raspberry plants received a considerable amount of winter injury.

Kelowna. - Tree fruits have wintered well. The supply of irrigation water is ample. Apples are coming into blossom and are a little later than last year.

Penticton, Kalsden, Oliver, Osoyoos and Keremeos. - Growing conditions have been backward. So far the season has been dry. Growers are doing considerable work in orchards and the general situation is favourable.

Summerland, Naramata, Peachland and Westbank. - The past winter was severe but no material damage is apparent. Moisture conditions have been ideal and there have been no late frosts.

Kootenay and Arrow Lakes. - The winter was quite severe with lower temperatures than usual. A heavy freeze-up in December with little snow covering resulted in some winter-killing to small fruits. Spring opened up late and the season is about a week to ten days later than last year. Tree fruits as a whole are in a healthy condition.

Creston. - Following a winter characterized by sudden changes in weather, spring growth is retarded. Strawberries suffered considerably. Raspberries are more uniform and winter injury is slight.

Grand Forks. - Orchards wintered well and moisture conditions are good. Tree fruits promise well. Small fruits are generally in good condition and prospects are favourable for the 1933 crop.