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FRUIT REPORT No. 1

Ottawa, June 22, 1934.- The Dominion Bureau of Statistics, in co-operation with the Fruit Branch of the Department of Agriculture and Provincial Departments of Agriculture to-day issued a report showing the condition of fruit crops in Canada and preliminary estimates of the production of strawberries, raspberries, cherries and plums.

Note:- Where condition figures are quoted in the following reports, the basis is as follows: 1-poor; 2-below average; 3-average; 4-above average; 5-exceptionally good.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.- Weather conditions have not been entirely satisfactory. Temperatures were low during May with frosts at night in some sections of the province, but as fruits were late in developing there was apparently little early spring damage to buds. Small fruits appear to have wintered very well. Prospects are favourable for an average crop of strawberries. Raspberries are not extensively grown in this province but where reported are in good condition. Orchards apparently sustained heavy damage from frost during the past winter. From 20 to 50 per cent of the apple trees were killed outright. McIntosh and allied varieties came through with less damage than other varieties. Prospects are below average for the apple crop and the same applies to cherries, pears and plums.

NOVA SCOTIA.- Considerable winter-killing is reported in orchards in Nova Scotia with Baldwin apples affected most seriously. Damage to this variety, ranging from 1 to 50 per cent, varies according to districts. Winter damage to strawberries varies greatly although, taking the province as a whole, damage from this source will not be excessive. Spring temperatures and moisture conditions have varied, many points indicating frost damage in May and June and some points reporting weather too dry for proper development. The apple crop is chiefly affected by winter-killing of certain varieties and some reports of frost damage to buds. Plums are promising a fair crop. Cherries were damaged by early frosts and only a fair crop is in prospect. Insects are reported as being well under control throughout the province.

The following table shows the condition of varieties of apples, cherries and plums:

Gravenstein	2.0	Ben Davis	2.9
King	2.5	Stark	3.0
Ribston	2.8	Cherries	2.0
Elenheim	3.0	Plums	2.4

NEW BRUNSWICK.- Cold, dry weather during May and early June has somewhat retarded development of the fruit crop and a heavy frost on the night of June 7 will curtail production in some localities; recent rains, however, have been very beneficial. Little damage is reported as yet from disease and insects. The damage to apple orchards during the past winter was variable in extent and distribution. While some orchards report no appreciable injury, others in the same locality report considerable damage to most varieties of apples, Northern Spies in particular. It is impossible as yet to fully determine the extent of the damage as trees are recuperating rapidly under the present favourable conditions. Small fruits generally wintered well and prospects are reported as fair to good.

The following table shows the condition of varieties of apples, cherries and plums:

McIntosh	2.8	Alexander	2.6
Wealthy	2.8	Dudley	2.7
Fancuse	2.6	Other varieties	2.2
Bishop Pippin	2.7	Cherries	2.4
Wolf River	2.5	Plums	2.4

QUEBEC.— A large increase in the area under strawberries as compared with last year is reported in the Montreal region. The young plants have not suffered during the winter but late frosts have damaged from 10 to 15 per cent of the blossoms. Moreover, drought has caused damage estimated at 15 to 20 per cent. The area under cultivation is provisionally estimated at 3,000 acres, an increase of 9 per cent over last year. The crop is forecast at 4,900,000 quarts as compared with 4,845,000 quarts last year, an increase of 2 per cent. Raspberry plants have been seriously affected by winter frosts. Late frosts have not affected the blossoms and the drought up to June 8 has only retarded development. The area under crop is provisionally estimated at 1,600 acres. Prospects are for a yield of 2,100,000 quarts as compared with 2,625,000 quarts last year, a decrease of 20 per cent. Orchards have suffered severely from winter-killing and crop prospects are much below normal. The reported damage is given below, although the actual extent of the damage cannot be judged at the present time.

Table I shows the extent of the damage to fruit trees from winter frosts, expressed in percentages.

Variety	PROVINCE	Lower St. Lawrence	Quebec	Three Rivers	Eastern Town-ships	South-East of Montreal	Island of Montreal & Ottawa Valley
McIntosh	35	-	40	35	20	35	50
Wealthy	48	-	30	35	15	50	-
Fameuse	60	-	60	50	30	65	60
Duchess and Yellow Transparent	6	-	20	40	45	5	-
Others	45	5	20	50	10	60	30
Pears	50	25	38	38	-	70	75
Cherries	42	15	41	23	-	90	90

Table II shows the numerical condition of orchards at June 15.

Variety	PROVINCE	Lower St. Lawrence	Quebec	Three Rivers	Eastern Town-ships	South-East of Montreal	Island of Montreal & Ottawa Valley
McIntosh	2	4	2	1	2	2	2
Wealthy	2.3	4	2	1	3	1.8	3
Fameuse	1.9	1	1.3	1	1	1.7	2
Duchess and Yellow Transparent	4.3	3	2	1	4	4.5	3
Others	1.9	3	2.5	1	-	1.8	2
Pears	1.6	2	2	2	-	1.4	1
Cherries	2	2	2	2.5	-	1	-

ONTARIO.— (a) Central and Eastern Ontario — This section comprises that part of the Province east of York county and including York.

Spring was very cold and backward and also unusually dry. Moisture, at present, however, is plentiful.

Strawberries and Raspberries — Owing to the dry weather last summer strawberries did not run well and with the exception of the more eastern counties winter-killing was exceptionally severe. From Prince Edward east, strawberries came through the winter in good condition, moisture has been sufficient and a good crop is indicated. The strawberry crop will be extremely light, except in Dundas and other extreme eastern counties, while other berries promise only a moderate yield. The yield of strawberries is placed at 5,950,000 quarts compared with 10,825,000 quarts last year. Raspberry canes were killed back somewhat to a lesser extent than strawberries, although some large patches were entirely wiped out. The raspberry crop is estimated at 1,695,000 quarts this season compared with 2,421,000 quarts last season.

Pears, Plums and Cherries — Pear trees suffered considerable winter-killing, and a large amount of injury. The pear crop will be very light. Early varieties are better than late varieties. Plums will also be a very light crop in eastern Ontario. Damsons came through the winter in fairly healthy condition but have very light bloom, and Lombards suffered a very heavy winter-killing. Cherry trees suffered moderate losses and the crop will be very small. Trees which survived the winter are growing vigorously, but they had very little bloom and the set was poor.

Apples - There was a very great deal of damage, especially to trees which bore at all heavily in 1933. Baldwins, Greenings, Ben Davis, Spy, Stark, Cranberry, and Pippin were the varieties suffering most. Early apples will give a better yield than late varieties. McIntosh and Wealthy have a good bloom. The amount of loss for late varieties ranges from 10% in some orchards to 65% in other orchards, according to variety and condition of trees. Blossoms were very late owing to cold weather, and many trees which blossomed are now dying. No scab or insect pests are apparent in well sprayed orchards.

(b) Western and South-western Ontario - This area comprises these counties west and south-west of York County.

Spring temperatures in western Ontario have been unsatisfactory with cold weather during blossoming and pollination period and late frosts in some areas. Moisture supplies have been much below normal, but strawberries are the only fruit crop showing injury from drought. Following the first week in June rains have been general and moisture is sufficient at the present time. Winter-killing was confined chiefly to apple and peach orchards. Older peach trees, in many orchards, were seriously affected, particularly in the west and south-eastern sections of the Niagara district. Peach orchards under ten years of age suffered only slight damage. In apple orchards in western Ontario late varieties were heavily winter-killed, and in particular the three varieties, Baldwins, Greenings, and Kings. In some orchards the loss was as high as 50%. Old trees that produced heavily in 1933 suffered most, although young orchards did not entirely escape injury. Baldwins and Greenings will yield extremely light crops. The bloom on other late varieties was about 50% of a crop, but blossoms dropped very quickly, and, with the exception of McIntosh, Snow, and early varieties, apples set light and are very uneven in size. There is practically no fungus nor insect damage to date on well sprayed orchards.

In the Niagara Peninsula, old patches and poorly mulched acreage of strawberries give indication of a very light yield, whereas, well mulched last year's plantings with the assistance of recent showers promise fair yield. Rows are narrow, however, due to light runs last year. In Norfolk, Essex, and Kent, strawberry plants came through the winter in very good condition and had a very heavy bloom.

Raspberries wintered fairly well and are somewhat more promising than strawberries. Freezing back took place on a large scale, and, although canes are shooting out at the bottom, the shoots will not bear this year.

The Cherry crop will be slightly below average. Poor pollination conditions during blossoming reduced the set in many orchards. Sweet cherry bloom was light to very light in extreme western parts of the Niagara district but heavy in other areas. Tartarians show considerable premature ripening and poor fruit development. Sour cherries, although bloom was heavy, promise a good crop in some areas only.

Pears show promise of a fair crop in practically all varieties, while disease and insect pests are well under control.

Plums had a heavy bloom in most varieties, except Damsons, with set conditions patchy according to locality and varieties. There was considerable drop in Japanese varieties due to drought, but crop prospects for those varieties show an increase over last year. Drought has retarded tree growth, and no doubt affected adversely the "come-back" of slightly weakened trees.

Grapes are the most promising fruit crop this year. Red and white grapes suffered considerable winter injury and late frosts killed a percentage of buds in some districts. Concord and other varieties, however, which constitute a very large proportion of the whole crop, present a good appearance with fair clusters showing in most vineyards. Adult grape hoppers are very abundant and will require thorough spraying to effect control.

Indications are for a small peach crop. Injury from winter freezing, cold weather during blossoming, and the drought following, have had serious effect on bloom set and on the trees themselves. This condition is particularly evident in western and south-eastern areas and local orchards throughout the whole of the Niagara district. Elbertas, Swans, and older Crawford varieties have the poorest prospects. There is practically no leaf-curl or other pests, with the exception of a slight infestation of peach aphids which are well under control.

The condition of fruit crops in Ontario on June 15th, 1933, and June 15th, 1934, was reported as follows:

	Condition June 15, 1933	Condition June 15, 1934
Baldwins	3.2	1.2
Ben Davis	2.8	1.7
Greenings	3.5	1.7
McIntosh	3.1	2.8
Spys	3.2	1.7
Starks	2.7	1.7
Cherries	2.8	2.3
Grapes	3.0	2.7
Peaches	2.8	1.8
Pears	2.7	2.3
Plums	2.7	2.0

The production of strawberries in the Province this year is estimated at 5,950,000 quarts compared with 10,825,000 quarts last year, and raspberry production is placed at 1,695,000 quarts against 2,421,000 quarts in 1933.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.- Owing to very favourable weather conditions the season is considerably ahead of last year. Moisture conditions and temperatures have been generally satisfactory. Small fruits are promising and the yields will exceed those of last year. Berries and grapes indicate heavy crops and apricots show a heavy set. Some loss from disease is indicated in loganberries. The apple crop promises to be equal to last year. Cherries are much earlier than usual. Pears promise well and plums indicate a light crop. The peak movement of strawberries is now over and raspberries are being shipped in volume. Production of strawberries, raspberries and cherries is estimated to be larger than last year.

PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES OF PRODUCTION

	<u>Nova Scotia</u>	
	1934	1933
	<u>Quarts</u>	
Strawberries	830,000	976,000
Raspberries	36,000	40,000
	<u>New Brunswick</u>	
Strawberries	760,000	800,000
Raspberries	20,000	18,900
	<u>Quebec</u>	
Strawberries	4,900,000	4,845,000
Raspberries	2,100,000	2,625,000
	<u>Ontario</u>	
Strawberries	5,950,000	10,825,000
Raspberries	1,695,000	2,421,000
	<u>Bushels</u>	
Cherries	175,000	179,000
	<u>British Columbia</u>	
	<u>Quarts</u>	
Strawberries	4,925,000	4,557,000
Raspberries	1,759,000	1,015,000
	<u>Bushels</u>	
Cherries	72,000	69,000

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