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of the Hon. Gordon Churchill, Minister of Trade and Commerce



Memorandum

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THIRD ESTIMATE^{1/} OF THE COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION OF FRUITS 1958

The third estimate of fruit crops for 1958 indicates a slight reduction in the production of apples from last year, increased output of all tender tree fruits except apricots, larger strawberry and grape crops and reductions in raspberries and loganberries. All crops were larger this year than last in Ontario and Quebec, while in British Columbia only sweet cherries, strawberries and grapes were higher in 1958 than in 1957. Throughout much of Ontario and Quebec the season was retarded and later in the summer there was heavy rain. As a result crops were later than usual but were sizing well by mid-September.

Apples - The latest estimates place the 1958 apple crop at 15.4 million bushels, 3 per cent below last year. It is anticipated that production will be up in Quebec and Ontario but down in all other apple producing areas, with the greatest reduction in Nova Scotia.

Pears - The 1958 pear crop is estimated at 1.4 million bushels, 31 per cent above last year's 1.1 million bushels, this increase being almost entirely due to much better crops in Ontario, where it is expected that production this year will reach 840,000 bushels, more than double last year's 380,000 bushels.

Sweet Cherries - The sweet cherry crop is now estimated at 279,000 bushels, 17 per cent above last year's, with increases reported in both producing provinces, Ontario and British Columbia.

Sour Cherries - The 1958 sour cherry crop is estimated at 422,000 bushels, 15 per cent above last year's outturn.

Apricots - Apricot production, which is confined to British Columbia, is now estimated at 175,000 bushels, 38 per cent below that of last year.

Strawberries - Estimates prepared during the latter part of September placed the 1958 strawberry crop at 23.8 million quarts, 45 per cent greater than the 1957 production of 16.5 million quarts. All producing provinces, except Nova Scotia,

^{1/} The information on production estimates and crop conditions as set out in this release is based on reports made as of the middle of September for Quebec and Ontario and the latter part of September for the Maritimes & British Columbia. Accordingly, all estimates apply to the situation as it existed at the time when the reports concerned were made.

Prepared in the Crops Section, Agriculture Division

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reported a larger crop this year than last. In eastern and central Canada sufficient moisture was received to enable the crop to size adequately just prior to the harvesting season, while in British Columbia the increased output marks a continued recovery from the very heavy damage sustained during the winter of 1955-1956, which reduced output in 1956 and 1957.

Raspberries - Reports based on information available at the middle of September placed the 1958 raspberry crop at 11.5 million quarts, 7 per cent below the 12.3 million picked in 1957. Yields were heavier this year in all producing provinces except British Columbia where there was a 15 per cent decline to 7.9 million quarts. In the Maritime provinces, Quebec, and Ontario, adequate supplies of moisture during the harvesting season increased the yields of this fruit.

Loganberries - This crop, produced commercially only in the province of British Columbia, is currently estimated at 994,000 pounds, slightly below last year's 1.1 million pounds.

Grapes - A grape crop of 79.4 million pounds, 15 per cent above that of 1957, is in prospect. Yields are higher this year in both of the grape producing provinces, Ontario and British Columbia.

Regional Summary

Maritimes - The latest estimates indicate an apple crop in Nova Scotia of 1.4 million bushels, 52 per cent less than the 1957 production of 2.9 million bushels. The reduced output this year was due to considerable frost damage to blossoms in some areas in the Annapolis Valley. In addition, uncared-for orchards and orchards on the fringe of the producing districts, which bore a good crop of fairly clean fruit last year, have no crop this year or a very light one, with heavy scab infestation. During July and the first part of August sizing was poor because of dry weather. However, with adequate moisture from then on, growth has been rapid. By September 23 growers had almost finished picking Gravensteins. As there was a strong demand for fresh fruit, only a small proportion of this variety went to processors. It was expected that picking of the McIntosh variety would start the third week of September. In New Brunswick the apple crop is now estimated at 325,000 bushels, 28 per cent less than in 1957. Weather unfavourable for pollination at blossom time, followed by a heavy drop, caused the reduction in output this year. The crop is slow in maturing but harvesting was expected to be in full swing before the end of September. The apples are of good size and colour.

Special Report: The hurricane which struck parts of Nova Scotia on September 28 and 29 did not reach the Annapolis Valley and so did not affect the apple growing area.

Nova Scotia pear orchards produced 38,000 bushels in 1958, up 65 per cent from the 23,000 bushels in 1957. Some variation between orchards is reported but most produced a fair crop and some blocks yielded heavily. Harvest was almost finished by the third week in September with most of the fruit having been processed. The production of plums in Nova Scotia in 1958 stood at 5,000 bushels, the same as last year. Reports indicated that blackknot disease is wiping out this fruit.

The Nova Scotia strawberry crop, estimated at 540,000 quarts, was 6 per cent less than last year. The reduction is attributed to a generally poor growing season and to frost on June 10 which damaged blossoms. Prince Edward Island growers, on the other hand, picked 1.25 million quarts this year, 30 per cent more than in 1957. Some increase in plantings last year, which bore this season, and generally favourable growing conditions contributed to the higher production. Most of the crop went to processors and freezing plants. In New Brunswick production of strawberries was also up by 43 per cent, to 1.0 million quarts. The increase was attributed to ample moisture during the development period, along with a slight increase in the area for harvest. Raspberry crops at 44,000 quarts in Nova Scotia and 60,000 quarts in New Brunswick were both higher than in 1957. The growing season was satisfactory for the development of the fruit in both provinces. Reports from New Brunswick indicate that cane stands are good and the outlook is satisfactory for next year's crop.

Quebec - Latest estimates place the 1958 apple crop in Quebec at 3.2 million bushels, 28 per cent above last year's 2.5 million. The crop is later than normal this year due to backward weather conditions during much of the growing season. Considerable variation exists between different orchards with some producing heavy crops. Continued rains and lack of heat hindered proper colouring of the McIntosh apples. It is anticipated that picking will not be completed until about the end of October. Accordingly, final results will depend somewhat on weather conditions during the next three or four weeks. With growth continuing vigorously so late in the season, there is some apprehension that the trees may be particularly vulnerable to low temperature damage next winter.

Strawberry production in Quebec stood at 6.3 million quarts, more than double that of 1957 and close to the output of 1956. Ample supplies of moisture just prior to picking assured this increase in output this year. The raspberry crop, at 425,000 quarts, was 3 per cent above that of 1957.

Ontario - Dry weather, up until September 1 throughout western Ontario curtailed sizing of tree fruits. During September, however, considerable rainfall helped the fruit to size very rapidly. Little trouble was experienced from insects and diseases this summer although some wind damage occurred during the first two weeks of September. There are also reports of hail damage, although serious injury was limited to local areas. In eastern Ontario some early frost occurred in localized spots and considerable wind losses are reported in the St. Lawrence Valley. Although insect activity has been at a minimum in eastern Ontario throughout the growing season, diseases have become more of a problem with the increased moisture supplies received in September.

Estimates based on conditions as of September 15 indicate an apple crop of 3.8 million bushels, 27 per cent greater than in 1957. In western Ontario all early fruits were picked by the middle of September and, in most cases, the fruit was rather small in size. By September 15 McIntosh were being picked throughout the area, and size and colour were very satisfactory. It was expected that the later varieties would yield very well as a result of September rains. Some russetting is apparent as a result of early frost damage last spring. However, there is practically no scab, and insects have not been a serious problem. In eastern Ontario the apples are very large, with some McIntosh up to 3 inches. By September 15 picking of early apples had been in progress for some time and spot picking of McIntosh was general. Colour is described as excellent. Insects are well controlled but scab has recently become more of a problem.

The pear crop is now placed at 840,000 bushels, 121 per cent above that of last year. The set of almost all fruits was heavy this year but the general shortage of moisture throughout much of the summer prevented the fruit from reaching optimum size where no irrigation was available. By mid-September growers had finished harvesting Bartletts and the size of the fruit was generally small. However, by the latter part of September, Kieffer pears were growing well and should size better than the earlier fruits. Harvesting of plums continues, with a crop of 430,000 bushels in prospect, 13 per cent above that of last year.

Peach production, estimated at 2.6 million bushels, is 14 per cent above that of 1957. Most early and mid-season varieties had been harvested by September 15, with a few Elbertas on the market by that date. Yields were heavy and quality very good, although the fruit was not large in size. Almost no trouble from brown rot has been reported but weather conditions in September were conducive to the development of this disease.

The grape crop was estimated at 77 million pounds, 15 per cent above that of 1957. Berry size improved after the rains. The fruit is maturing and increasing in sugar content slowly. Some early grapes had already been harvested by September 15. Growers report some irregularity in maturity and berry moth and mildew are also problems.

British Columbia - By September 19 the harvesting of practically all tree fruits except apples was nearly completed in British Columbia. Latest estimates place apple production at 6.6 million bushels, 6 per cent below last year's 7.0 million bushel crop. Growers in the Okanagan Valley were well into picking McIntosh apples by September 19. Colour developed fairly well during the cooler spell of weather over the Labour Day week end but a considerable drop in spite of sprays is reported. Jonathans and Spartans were now being picked. The harvest of Delicious was expected to start towards the end of September with some already picked at the southern end of the Valley. Where later apple varieties are grown, codling moth is still causing concern, with pear psylla also active. Insecticides are still being applied.

The British Columbia pear crop is estimated at 557,000 bushels, 19 per cent below that of 1957. Growers were harvesting the last of the Anjou variety in the Vernon district of the Okanagan Valley and in the Kootenays during the third week in September. Farther south in the Okanagan this crop is all harvested. Growers report very substantial losses from Anjou cork spot, this condition becoming apparent just before harvest.

British Columbia plums and prunes are now estimated at 154,000 bushels, down 15 per cent, peaches at 496,000 bushels, down 7 per cent, apricots at 175,000 bushels, down 38 per cent, sweet cherries at 111,000 bushels, up 6 per cent and grapes, at 2.4 million pounds, are 10 per cent above the 1957 output of 2.2 million pounds. The other small fruits remain unchanged from the estimates published last month. Reports from the Lower Mainland indicate that raspberries and strawberries are showing suitable development with the cooler weather, and prospects for next year's production appear favourable.

Estimates released in this memorandum, except where otherwise indicated, are based on reports submitted to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics by Federal and Provincial Departments of Agriculture personnel in the various fruit growing areas. All 1958 figures are preliminary and subject to revision.

TABLE 1. - Third Estimate of the Commercial Production of All Fruits 1958 with Latest Estimates for 1957

Kind of Fruit	Unit	Estimated Production			
		Volumetric Units		Tons	
		1957	1958	1957	1958
		'000	'000		
Canada -					
Apples	bu.	15,906	15,370		
Pears	bu.	1,094	1,435	27,350	35,875
Plums and prunes	bu.	566	589	14,150	14,725
Peaches	bu.	2,801	3,078	70,025	76,950
Apricots	bu.	281	175	7,025	4,375
Cherries, sweet	bu.	239	279	5,975	6,975
Cherries, sour	bu.	366	422	9,150	10,550
Strawberries	qt.	16,459	23,784	10,908	15,784
Raspberries	qt.	12,311	11,478	8,851	8,157
Loganberries	lb.	1,059	994	530	497
Grapes	lb.	69,319	79,440	34,660	39,720
Prince Edward Island -					
Strawberries	qt.	965	1,254	603	784
Nova Scotia -					
Apples	bu.	2,918	1,400		
Pears	bu.	23	38	575	950
Plums and Prunes	bu.	5	5	125	125
Strawberries	qt.	575	540	359	338
Raspberries	qt.	40	44	25	28
New Brunswick -					
Apples	bu.	450	325		
Strawberries	qt.	700	1,000	438	625
Raspberries	qt.	45	60	28	38

TABLE 1. - Second Estimate of the Commercial Production of All Fruits 1958 with Latest Estimates for 1957

Kind of Fruit	Unit	Estimated Production			
		Volumetric Units		Tons	
		1957	1958	1957	1958
		'000	'000		
Quebec -					
Apples	bu.	2,525	3,220		
Strawberries	qt.	3,100	6,300	1,938	3,938
Raspberries	qt.	412	425	258	266
Ontario -					
Apples	bu.	3,032	3,842		
Pears	bu.	380	840	9,500	21,000
Plums and Prunes	bu.	380	430	9,500	10,750
Peaches	bu.	2,266	2,582	56,650	64,550
Cherries, sweet	bu.	134	168	3,350	4,200
Cherries, sour	bu.	366	422	9,150	10,550
Strawberries	qt.	6,158	7,350	3,849	4,594
Raspberries	qt.	2,564	3,093	1,602	1,933
Grapes	lb.	67,100	77,000	33,550	38,500
British Columbia -					
Apples	bu.	6,981	6,583		
Pears	bu.	691	557	17,275	13,925
Plums and Prunes	bu.	181	154	4,525	3,850
Peaches	bu.	535	496	13,375	12,400
Apricots	bu.	281	175	7,025	4,375
Cherries, sweet	bu.	105	111	2,625	2,775
Strawberries	qt.	4,961	7,340	3,721	5,505
Raspberries	qt.	9,250	7,856	6,938	5,892
Loganberries	lb.	1,059	994	530	497
Grapes	lb.	2,219	2,440	1,110	1,220

The original estimates secured by the Bureau were stated in measures of volume (except loganberries and grapes). These were converted to tons at the following rates: 1 quart of strawberries or raspberries = 1.25 pounds (except in British Columbia where the rate of 1 quart = 1.50 pounds was used) and one bushel of all other fruits = 50 pounds (net weight).

TABLE 2. - Minimum Prices for Processing for Strawberries, Raspberries, Cherries Sweet and Sour, and Plums in the Province of Ontario

	1957	1958
	cents per quart	
Strawberries 1/	13.5	16.25
Raspberries (No. 1 grade) 1/	27.5	22.0
White sweet cherries 2/	11.0	11.0
Black sweet cherries 2/	12.0	12.0
	\$ per ton	
Sour cherries 2/	205.00	165.50 ^{3/}
Felenburg, German and Stanley prunes 2/	70.00	65.00
Damson plums 2/	70.00	65.00
All others 2/	54.00	53.00
Bartlett pears - 2/		
not less than 2 inches in diameter	110.00	100.00
not less than 1 3/4 inches and less than 2 inches in diameter	70.00	60.00
less than 1 3/4 inches in diameter	70.00	60.00
Grapes 4/	85.00	85.00

1/ Source: Ontario Berry Growers' Marketing Board.

2/ Source: Ontario Pear, Plum and Cherry Growers' Marketing Board.

3/ 8.25 cents per pound (\$165.00 per ton). Fifty cents per ton is the processors' share of cherry promotion programme.

4/ Source: Ontario Grape Growers' Marketing Board.



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TABLE 3. - Latest Estimates of Commercial Production of Apples, Pears, Peaches, Apricots, Cherries Sweet and Sour, Strawberries and Grapes in the United States, 1958 and 1957

Kind of Fruit	Unit	Estimated Production			
		Volumetric Units		Tons	
		1957	1958	1957	1958
		'000	'000		
United States -					
Apples 1/	bu.	118,548	126,813		
Pears 1/	bu.	31,676	29,564	774,482	724,557
Peaches 1/	bu.	62,335	72,089	1,496,040	1,730,136
Apricots 1/	bu.	7,933	4,883	190,400	117,200
Cherries, sweet 2/	bu.	3,323	3,091	93,040	86,560
Cherries, sour 2/	bu.	5,254	3,549	147,100	99,360
Strawberries 3/	qt.	375,195	382,417	281,396	286,812
Grapes 1/	lb.	5,197,300	5,618,960	2,598,650	2,809,480
California -					
Strawberries 3/	qt.	154,560	168,000	115,920	126,000

- 1/ Source: Crop Production as of September 1, 1958 - United States Department of Agriculture.
- 2/ Source: Crop Production as of August 1, 1958 - United States Department of Agriculture.
- 3/ Source: Vegetables, Fresh Market, August 11, 1958 - United States Department of Agriculture.

The United States Department of Agriculture published the original estimates of apples, pears and peaches in bushels; apricots, cherries sweet and sour, and grapes in tons; strawberries in pounds. The following conversion rates were used to bring these items to corresponding units in the Canadian crop estimates: pears, 1 bu. = 50 lb. except California where 1 bu. = 48 lb.; peaches, 1 bu. = 48 lb.; apricots, 1 bu. = 48 lb.; cherries, 1 bu. = 56 lb.; strawberries, 1 qt. = 1.5 lb.

Source: Conversion Factors and Weights and Measures for Agricultural Commodities and Their Products - United States Department of Agriculture, May, 1952.