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THIRD ESTIMATE<sup>1/</sup> OF THE COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION OF FRUITS 1959

The third estimate of the 1959 fruit crops indicates a reduction from 1958 levels in the volume of all fruits produced, with the exception of loganberries and blueberries. Factors contributing to the drop in output were a generally poor set of fruit, followed by dry weather during the growing season throughout many of the fruit producing districts in Ontario and, in British Columbia, frost damage to blossoms early in the season and cool weather during the latter part of the summer.

Apples - Latest estimates place the 1959 apple crop at 14.9 million bushels, 12 per cent below last year. Production is higher this year in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick but down in the other producing provinces, with the greatest reduction being in British Columbia.

Pears - The 1959 pear crop, now estimated at 1.2 million bushels, was below that of 1958 by 20 per cent. Growers of this fruit, in both Ontario and British Columbia, harvested smaller crops this year than last, while in Nova Scotia there was a small increase.

Sweet Cherries - The sweet cherry crop is estimated at 200,000 bushels, down 33 per cent from that of last year, with yields reduced in both Ontario and British Columbia.

Sour Cherries - The 1959 sour cherry crop is estimated at 227,000 bushels, 51 per cent below last year's output.

Peaches - The 1959 peach crop, now placed at 1,885,000 bushels, was 38 per cent below that of 1958, due to a substantial reduction in Ontario. British Columbia, with 488,000 bushels this year, produced slightly more than last season.

Apricots - Apricot production, which is confined to British Columbia, is now estimated at 172,000 bushels, 26 per cent below that of last year.

Strawberries - Estimates prepared during the latter part of September, placed the 1959 strawberry crop at 17.8 million quarts, down 23 per cent from 1958. Production of this fruit was lower in all producing provinces this year.

Raspberries - Reports, based on information available at the middle of September, placed the 1959 raspberry crop at 9.6 million quarts, 13 per cent below last year's 11.0 million, with lower output in all producing provinces.

<sup>1/</sup> 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 Ontario and British Columbia and early October for the Maritimes and Quebec. 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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Loganberries - This crop, produced commercially only in British Columbia, is estimated at 1.3 million pounds, 49 per cent above last year's 893,000 pounds.

Grapes - Grape growers produced an estimated 15.2 million pounds, 29 per cent below last year's final figure of 106.2 million pounds. Yields were substantially lower this year in Ontario but slightly higher in British Columbia.

Blueberries - With the exception of Newfoundland blueberry production in 1959 was higher in all provinces for which estimates are available. The increase was particularly large in Quebec.

#### Regional Summary

Maritimes - Growers in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick were harvesting the apple crops at the beginning of October. Picking of McIntosh was about complete by that time and some Delicious and Courtland had been harvested, as well as certain processing varieties. Most of the fruit was reported to be of good size, excellent colour and clean. Nova Scotia pears have been harvested and most of the crop was processed this year.

Strawberry production throughout the Maritimes in 1959 was well below that of 1958, due largely to winter killing of the plants, particularly in Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick. A heavier blueberry crop than in 1958 is attributed to better yields due to a good set of fruit in the spring and adequate moisture supplies during the growing period, as well as new areas coming into production.

Quebec - In 1959, fruit growers in Quebec harvested smaller crops than in 1958 of apples, strawberries and raspberries. Apples at 3.8 million bushels were down 15 per cent, strawberries at 5.4 million quarts were down 14 per cent, while the raspberry crop was 20 per cent less than in 1958. A total of 10.5 million pounds of blueberries were picked this year, a 51 per cent increase over the 1958 harvest. Blueberries in the Lake St. John area escaped frost until well into September, which allowed picking to continue considerably later than usual. The crop was also up in the other areas producing this fruit.

Strawberry production, particularly in the Montreal area, was reduced by dry weather during May and early June. This was followed by rainfall during the latter part of June when the berries were ripening rapidly and fungus diseases became a danger at harvest time. At Quebec City and other areas east of Montreal, conditions were favourable and a good crop was harvested. In the case of raspberries, winter killing on the upper part of the canes was reported, with the result that the crop was smaller in the Montreal area than in the previous year.

Conditions in apple orchards have been difficult during this season from the point of view of insect control. Although adequate spray programmes were undertaken, the extremely humid, warm weather in the late summer produced a second and third generation of codling moths in some orchards. As a result, there was a fairly heavy drop of dessert apples. Some leaf roller was also reported. Apple scab, on the other hand, was not at all serious this season. However, the overall quality of the fruit is very good with excellent colour and good size, although in some areas dry soil conditions during the summer may have reduced size somewhat. The fruit matured and ripened quickly with the extremely high temperatures during the last two weeks of September. This resulted in a considerable drop which was particularly a problem in the case of McIntosh.



Ontario - All fruit crops were smaller in 1959 than in 1958, in Ontario. Reports early in the season indicated some frost damage to blossoms in the Norfolk and London areas and a relatively poor set of fruit in the Niagara district and in the counties of Essex and Kent. In the cooler areas, such as the Georgian Bay district, apple blossoms set exceptionally well. In peach orchards some winter injury became apparent. In eastern Ontario prospects in June were variable with pollination conditions not uniform, although the blossom was generally heavy. Moisture conditions were also quite good.

As the season progressed, dry weather prevailed in western Ontario and by July was adversely affecting the berry and cherry crops. By the middle of August, high temperatures and dry conditions were preventing proper sizing of tree fruits in the Niagara district and hail storms substantially reduced peach crop prospects. Most of the small fruits were in need of more moisture. In eastern Ontario there were some beneficial rains but wind and hail damage was reported. In eastern Ontario also, drought reduced sizing, particularly in the case of early apples and hail damage was reported.

By mid-September the harvesting of all fruit crops except apples and Kieffer pears was completed in Essex and Kent. The apple crop was clean with practically no insect injury apparent. Hot, humid weather during early September favoured sizing but many varieties were slow in colouring. Elberta peaches produced a short crop because of splitting on trees due to heavy rains prior to harvest. In the Niagara area hot, humid weather continued up until September 10, when temperatures dropped considerably. The heat had advanced the maturity of early grapes, plums and V type peaches and the lack of rainfall reduced the yields of all fruit crops. In the London and Georgian Bay districts rainfall later in the season was quite adequate and, as a result, the fruit developed and sized very well. Colouring was slow but improved with the onset of cooler weather. Some losses from wind storms were reported.

In eastern Ontario most of the early varieties had been harvested by early September with the overall yield below average as a result of dry weather and winter killing the previous season. In the important apple producing districts, hot, humid weather during July, August and early September, with very little rain, hastened maturity but retarded colouring.

British Columbia - In British Columbia crops of all tree fruits, except peaches, were smaller in 1959 than in 1958, while in the case of small fruits, production of raspberries and strawberries was down but the loganberry and blueberry crops were larger. Latest estimates place this year's apple crop at 4.3 million bushels, substantially less than last year's 6.9 million. Spring frosts at blossom time and prior to blossom caused an appreciable reduction in the apple crop, particularly in orchards in unfavourable locations. This was especially true in the case of winter varieties grown in the south Okanagan, with Delicious particularly hard hit. The only crop approximating that of last year is the Yellow Newtown variety. Growing conditions during the summer were normal up until the middle of August when the weather became cool and wet. Little damage occurred from insects and disease, however.

The pear crop was at least two weeks later than usual and pear psylla existed in many orchards. Cherry production was smaller in all areas although quality was good. Frost damage brought about a reduction in outturn. Fresh market apricot varieties were also reduced by frost and in some instances wiped out completely. Cannery apricots produced well, the crop having sized better than usual.

Peach production was reduced as a result of frost in many orchards, although the latest estimates indicate a larger production than last year. Early varieties sized well and good quality fruit was delivered. However, in early August, cool weather had an adverse effect on the ripening of lat V's, Elbertas and J.H. Hales. The size of the fruit was exceptionally large and it is this which accounts for the increase over the 1958 crop estimate. Prunes produced well with good size although the quality would have improved had the weather been warmer later in the season.

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 1959 figures are preliminary and subject to revision.

TABLE 1. - Third Estimate of the Commercial Production of All Fruits 1959 with Latest Estimates for 1958

Kind of Fruit	Unit	Estimated Production			
		Volumetric Units		Tons	
		1958	1959	1958	1959
		'000	'000		
Canada -					
Apples	bu.	17,006	14,897		
Pears	bu.	1,521	1,211	38,031	30,284
Plums and prunes	bu.	648	481	16,200	12,024
Peaches	bu.	3,043	1,885	76,074	47,135
Apricots	bu.	231	172	5,777	4,306
Cherries, sweet	bu.	297	200	7,416	4,991
Cherries, sour	bu.	460	227	11,500	5,675
Strawberries	qt.	22,918	17,709	15,171	11,801
Raspberries	qt.	11,016	9,560	7,837	6,814
Loganberries	lb.	893	1,330	446	665
Grapes	lb.	106,222	75,186	53,111	37,593
Newfoundland -					
Blueberries	lb.	1,644	1,500	822	750
Prince Edward Island -					
Strawberries	qt.	1,254	650	784	406
Blueberries	lb.	300	600	150	300
Nova Scotia -					
Apples	bu.	1,455	2,200		
Pears	bu.	32	33	800	825
Plums	bu.	5	5	125	125
Strawberries	qt.	740	700	462	438
Raspberries	qt.	44	35	28	22
Blueberries	lb.	3,000	5,200	1,500	2,600
New Brunswick -					
Apples	bu.	350	425		
Strawberries	qt.	1,000	600	625	375
Raspberries	qt.	60	50	38	31
Blueberries	lb.	2,500	3,500	1,250	1,750



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Kind of Fruit	Unit	Estimated Production			
		Volumetric Units		Tons	
		1958	1959	1958	1959
		'000	'000		
Quebec -					
Apples	bu.	4,465	3,780		
Strawberries	qt.	6,300	5,449	3,938	3,406
Raspberries	qt.	425	340	266	212
Blueberries	lb.	6,917	10,461	3,458	5,230
Ontario -					
Apples	bu.	4,720	4,215		
Pears	bu.	865	612	21,625	15,300
Plums and prunes	bu.	422	257	10,550	6,425
Peaches	bu.	2,588	1,397	64,700	34,925
Cherries, sweet	bu.	176	139	4,400	3,475
Cherries, sour	bu.	460	227	11,500	5,675
Strawberries	qt.	6,854	4,457	4,284	2,786
Raspberries	qt.	2,882	2,416	1,801	1,510
Grapes	lb.	103,874	72,704	51,937	36,352
Blueberries	lb.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
British Columbia -					
Apples	bu.	6,016	4,277		
Pears	bu.	624	566	15,606	14,159
Plums and prunes	bu.	221	219	5,525	5,474
Peaches	bu.	455	488	11,374	12,210
Apricots	bu.	231	172	5,777	4,306
Cherries, sweet	bu.	121	61	3,016	1,516
Strawberries	qt.	6,770	5,853	5,078	4,390
Raspberries	qt.	7,605	6,719	5,704	5,039
Loganberries	lb.	893	1,330	446	665
Grapes	lb.	2,348	2,482	1,174	1,241
Blueberries	lb.	1,922	2,002	961	1,001

For all Provinces other than British Columbia the original estimates secured by the Bureau were stated in measures of volume (except grapes and blueberries). These were converted to tons at the following rates: 1 quart of strawberries, raspberries or blueberries = 1.25 pounds and one bushel of all other fruits = 50 pounds (net weight). In the case of British Columbia tree fruits, the volumetric estimates were calculated as follows: 1 bushel = 50 pounds and in the case of berries 1 quart = 1.5 pounds.

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

	1958	1959
	cents per quart	
Strawberries <u>1/</u>	16.25	16.25
Raspberries (No. 1 grade) <u>1/</u> <u>2/</u> .	22.0	25.0
	cents per lb.	
White sweet cherries <u>3/</u>	11.0	11.0
Black sweet cherries <u>3/</u>	12.0	12.0
	\$ per ton	
Sour cherries <u>3/</u>	165.50	175.50
Bartlett pears <u>3/</u>		
not less than 2 inches in diameter	100.00	105.50
not less than 1 3/4 inches and less than 2 inches in diameter	60.00	65.50
less than 1 3/4 inches in diameter	60.00	65.50
Kieffer pears <u>3/</u>	50.00	57.50
All varieties other than Bartlett or Kieffer	60.00	65.50
Peaches <u>3/</u>		
Jubilee, Marilyn, Victory, Elberta and all other varieties of the Elberta type		92.50
Other varieties		82.50
Plums and prunes <u>3/</u>		
Felenburg, German and Stanley prunes	65.00	70.50
Damson plums	65.00	70.50
Other varieties	53.00	55.50
Grapes <u>4/</u>	85.00	90.00

- 1/ Source: Ontario Berry Growers' Marketing Board.  
2/ Purple raspberries of the Columbia or Sodus type varieties.  
3/ Source: Ontario Tender Fruit Growers' Marketing Board.  
4/ Source: Ontario Grape Growers' Marketing Board.

TABLE 3. - Estimate of Commercial Production of Apples, Pears, Peaches, Cherries Sweet and Sour, Strawberries and Grapes in United States 1958 and 1959.

Kind of Fruit	Unit	Estimated Production			
		Volumetric Units		Tons	
		1958	1959	1958	1959
		'000	'000		
United States -					
Apples 1/	bu.	126,610	118,274		
Pears 1/	bu.	28,890	31,308	707,875	765,032
Peaches 1/	bu.	71,069	72,356	1,705,656	1,736,544
Apricots 1/	bu.	4,500	9,575	108,000	229,800
Cherries, sweet 2/	bu.	3,129	2,859	87,610	80,050
Cherries, sour 2/	bu.	3,711	4,972	103,920	139,210
Strawberries 3/	qt.	356,237	314,953	267,178	236,215
Grapes 1/	lb.	6,052,140	6,163,800	3,026,070	3,081,900
California -					
Strawberries 3/	qt.	143,360	105,600	107,520	79,200

1/ Source: Crop Production as of September 1, 1959 - United States Department of Agriculture.

2/ Source: Crop Production as of August 1, 1959 - United States Department of Agriculture.

3/ Source: Vegetables - Fresh Market as of August 1, 1959 - 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. Conversion rates used to express pears and peaches in tons were: 1 bu. of pears = 50 lb. except California where 1 bu. = 48 lb.; 1 bu. of peaches = 48 lb. Conversion rates used to express apricots and cherries in bushels were: 1 bu. of apricots = 48 lb.; 1 bu. of cherries = 56 lb. Strawberries were converted at the rate of 1 qt. = 1.5 lb. (Conversion Factors and Weights and Measures for Agricultural Commodities and Their Products - United States Department of Agriculture, May, 1952).

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