

THIRD ESTIMATE^{1/} OF THE COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION OF FRUITS 1961

Apples - Latest estimates place the 1961 apple crop at 15.1 million bushels, practically the same as that of 1960. However, production is higher this year in Nova Scotia and Ontario, but is down in Quebec and British Columbia. In New Brunswick it is anticipated that about the same amount of fruit will be harvested as in 1960.

Pears - The 1961 crop is estimated at 1.7 million bushels, up 9 per cent from 1960. Growers in all provinces in which this crop is produced harvested larger crops this season than last.

Sweet Cherries - Sweet cherry output is estimated at 308,000 bushels, up 53 per cent from that of last year. Yields were higher in both Ontario and British Columbia, the two provinces where this fruit is grown.

Sour Cherries - The 1961 sour cherry crop was estimated at 504,000 bushels, almost twice as great as last year's 254,000.

Strawberries - Production reached an estimated 23.2 million quarts in 1961, 11 per cent below the 1960 crop. Lower output in Quebec and Ontario more than offset increases in production in the other provinces for which strawberry estimates are available.

Raspberries - Raspberry production, placed at 11.5 million quarts in 1961, was 3 per cent below that of the previous year. Most of this reduction was due to a smaller crop in British Columbia this year.

Loganberries - This crop, produced commercially only in British Columbia, is estimated at 1.2 million pounds, 9 per cent above last year's production.

Grapes - The 1961 grape crop is expected to result in an output of 84.5 million pounds, 25 per cent less than last year's final figure of 112.2 million. Yields in Ontario were sharply lower this year compared with last, but in British Columbia grape production in 1961 was much above that of 1960.

^{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 Ontario and British Columbia and the middle of October for the other provinces. 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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REGIONAL SUMMARY

Maritimes - Latest estimates indicate an apple crop in Nova Scotia of 2.6 million bushels, 16 per cent above the revised 1960 figure of 2.2 million bushels. Reports from the Annapolis Valley state that most of this production took place in orchards given proper care. Uncared-for apple trees yielded very little fruit in contrast to 1960 when a considerable quantity was harvested from such sources. A better than average bloom coupled with a good set contributed to the increased output this year. Although the dry summer retarded sizing, rains in late August and September very largely corrected this situation. By October 10, growers had completed harvesting Gravensteins and almost finished picking McIntosh apples. Picking of the late varieties was still in progress. The crop is of excellent quality. New Brunswick apple orchards also had a good bloom and an average set of fruit. The fruit growing area had somewhat more rain than the rest of the province during the summer. Apples sized well and are relatively free of insect and fungus damage. In recent weeks the apple crop in the Maritime provinces was twice threatened by hurricanes; however, neither reached the area to cause damage.

The 1961 Nova Scotia pear crop, at 47,000 bushels was very much above last year's 28,000. This increased output is attributed to a heavy bloom with a good set followed by satisfactory sizing. There has also been some increase in the area of producing orchards.

Strawberry production was up this year over last in Prince Edward Island, the same in both years in Nova Scotia and down slightly in New Brunswick. Throughout the Maritimes, plantations came through the winter in good condition due mainly to the heavy snow fall and ample rain received up to picking time. Although conditions turned drier during picking, soil moisture supplies were sufficient to carry the crop. In Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick, output was probably less than would otherwise have been the case due to poor runnering of new plantings set out in 1960 when conditions were too dry for proper development.

Raspberries wintered well and the crop was Dry weather from July on did not appear to greatly affect this fruit.

Blueberries showed a heavy bloom and a heavy set of fruit, and early prospects were for a record crop. The drought of July and August, however, seriously retarded the sizing of the berries and in some cases the fruit withered. As a result poor quality and dry berries were encountered. All blueberry producing areas in Nova Scotia were affected by the dry weather while in New Brunswick, the Charlotte County area had more moisture than the northern part of the province where the weather was very dry. The increase in volume of blueberries picked in Prince Edward Island in 1961 over that in 1960 is attributed to good wintering conditions, a good bloom and set and a lack of frost damage, in contrast to the situation during the previous season.

Quebec - The production of apples in Quebec in 1961 is estimated at 2.5 million bushels, 20 per cent down from the 1960 output. Reports based on conditions at the middle of October indicate that growers were nearly finished picking and that most McIntosh orchards had been cleaned up by that time. By the end of the harvest, colour was excellent and the apples were running from medium to large in size. Earlier in the picking season the fruit had been somewhat green. This was attributed to the late season and the need to commence harvest as soon as possible while weather conditions were favourable. Fameuse picking was going on during the third week of October.

Quebec - continued - The 1961 strawberry crop was lower than that of 1960 due to frost damage to blossoms at the end of May. However, later blossoms produced unusually good results under the circumstances.

Raspberry production in 1961 estimated at 1.3 million quarts was very close to that of 1960. At the beginning of the season the outlook had been very favourable. However, frequent rains caused a rather poor fruit set and later brought about a fairly abrupt stop to production in many plantations. Some yield reduction was also attributed to various virus diseases. Although no total estimate of the 1961 blueberry crop is available as yet, indications point to a substantial reduction in output.

Ontario - In 1961, Ontario fruit growers harvested larger amounts of all crops for which statistics are available, except strawberries and grapes. Earliest reports on the 1961 fruit crops indicated that orchards had come through the winter well. However, cool weather prevailed in May and crop development was delayed. Some frost was reported at the end of May and lower than usual temperatures continued until almost mid-July with heavy rains from June 15 to July 10. In Western Ontario a heavy set of fruit was followed by a heavy drop, while in Eastern Ontario the weather at pollination time was not favourable. As the summer progressed it became apparent that fruit crops were about one week to 10 days later than usual. Continued adequate moisture ensured good growth of both trees and fruit. No hail was reported in July.

Abundant moisture supplies continued into August when slightly above normal temperatures developed. Vigorous growth was reported in orchards, with all crops developing well and showing good size. Western Ontario reported plentiful rainfall continuing into September accompanied by high temperatures and high humidity. As a result fruit crops advanced rapidly and by September 15 maturity dates were about normal. Some hail fell but damage was limited. In the Niagara Peninsula the peach crop matured very rapidly after having been delayed earlier. As a result several varieties were ready for harvest at the same time. Sizing of most kinds of fruits was better than average, and yield prospects increased during the last two weeks of August and the first two weeks of September. Reports as of September 15 indicated that apples were maturing rapidly, but that cooler weather was needed to increase the colour in certain varieties. Fruit in Eastern Ontario was sizing well and crop prospects were improved by September 15. Colour was developing better with the cooler weather.

Strawberry production was curtailed in some important producing counties by heavy rains at picking time.

British Columbia - Latest estimates indicate larger crops in 1961 than in 1960 for all fruits except apples, prunes and raspberries. The apple crop, placed at 4.5 million bushels, is 16 per cent below that of last year.

Growing conditions in the fruit producing areas of the province were generally favourable during the 1961 season. The winter of 1960-61 was mild, and first indications were for an early spring. However, this did not fully materialize and mid-May reports indicated a concern for the fruit set. The possibility of a reduced apple crop became apparent early in the season with a light set.

As the season progressed, weekly reports indicated warm weather interspersed with rain. By mid-June considerable heat was reported and, except for some cooler weather in early July, temperatures continued high. By August, hot, dry weather had retarded the sizing of some of the fruit crops. On several occasions hail was reported with varying amounts of local damage. However, in spite of this,

British Columbia - continued - all tender tree fruits except prunes sized well and reports suggests that this factor accounted in part for the larger crops. Quality was generally high. Cherry growers harvested a very good crop now estimated at 177,000 bushels, 62 per cent above that of last year. Size and quality were very good and in spite of some rain in July, splitting, as well as hail and bird damage, was very limited this season. Prunes were also of good quality but the crop was light. In September there was some disappointment in the colour and sizing of McIntosh apples in the Okanagan although the colour improved later in the season. Sizing and colour of Delicious and other varieties was more satisfactory.

TABLE 1. - Third Estimate of the Commercial Production of All Fruits 1961 with Latest Estimates for 1960

Kind of Fruit		Estimated Production			
		Volumetric Units or Pounds		Tons	
		Unit	1960	1961	1960
		'000	'000		
Canada -					
Apples	bu.	14,913	15,081	335,543	338,067
Pears	bu.	1,526	1,668	38,143	37,944
Plums and prunes	bu.	467	541	11,674	12,624
Peaches	bu.	2,362	3,168	59,056	75,594
Apricots	bu.	305	363	7,635	7,269
Cherries, sweet	bu.	201	308	5,031	6,820
Cherries, sour	bu.	254	504	6,350	12,600
Strawberries	qt.	26,114	23,255	16,937	14,773
Raspberries	qt.	11,899	11,507	8,382	7,475
Loganberries	lb.	1,095	1,195	548	598
Grapes	lb.	113,167	84,520	56,583	42,310
Newfoundland -					
Blueberries	lb.	2,900	3,000	1,450	1,500
Prince Edward Island -					
Strawberries	qt.	1,730	1,900	1,081	1,188
Blueberries	lb.	130	451	65	226
Nova Scotia -					
Apples	bu.	2,243	2,600	50,468	58,500
Pears	bu.	28	47	700	1,175
Plums	bu.	5	5	125	125
Strawberries	qt.	2,295	2,300	1,434	1,438
Raspberries	qt.	30	35	19	22
Blueberries	lb.	5,400	5,500	2,700	2,750
New Brunswick -					
Apples	bu.	400	400	9,000	9,000
Strawberries	qt.	1,500	1,400	938	875
Raspberries	qt.	60	55	38	34
Blueberries	lb.	3,500	4,000	1,750	2,000

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Kind of Fruit		Estimated Production			
		Volumetric Units or Pounds		Tons	
		Unit	1960	1961	1960
		'000	'000		
Quebec -					
Apples	bu.	3,130	2,505	70,425	56,363
Strawberries	qt.	6,500	4,100	4,062	2,562
Raspberries	qt.	1,294	1,300	809	812
Blueberries	lb.	6,098	1/	3,049	
Ontario -					
Apples	bu.	3,761	5,041	84,622	113,422
Pears	bu.	849	868	21,225	21,700
Plums and prunes	bu.	267	355	6,675	8,875
Peaches	bu.	1,773	2,447	44,325	61,175
Cherries, sweet	bu.	92	131	2,300	3,275
Cherries, sour	bu.	254	504	6,350	12,600
Strawberries	qt.	9,159	7,852	5,724	4,908
Raspberries	qt.	2,969	3,287	1,856	2,054
Grapes	lb.	111,838	81,644	55,919	40,822
Blueberries	lb.	1/	1/		
British Columbia -					
Apples	bu.	5,379	4,535	121,028	100,782
Pears	bu.	649	753	16,218	15,069
Plums and prunes	bu.	195	181	4,874	3,624
Peaches	bu.	589	721	14,731	14,419
Apricots	bu.	305	363	7,635	7,269
Cherries, sweet	bu.	109	177	2,731	3,545
Strawberries	qt.	4,930	5,703	3,698	3,802
Raspberries	qt.	7,546	6,830	5,660	4,553
Loganberries	lb.	1,095	1,195	548	598
Grapes	lb.	1,329	2,876	664	1,488
Blueberries	lb.	1,663	1,907	832	954

1/ Not available.

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; 1 bushel of apples = 45 pounds; 1 bushel of all other tree fruits = 50 pounds (net weight). In the case of British Columbia tree fruits, the volumetric estimates were calculated as follows: 1 bushel of apples = 45 pounds; 1 bushel of all other tree fruits = 50 pounds (net weight); 1 quart of berries = 1.5 pounds.

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

	1960	1961
	cents per quart	
Strawberries <u>1/</u>	17.0	17.0
Raspberries (No. 1 grade) <u>1/</u> <u>2/</u>	27.0	27.0
	cents per pound	
White sweet cherries <u>3/</u>	13.0	13.0
Black sweet cherries <u>3/</u>	14.0	14.0
Sour cherries <u>3/</u>	10.0	9.5
	\$ per ton	
Bartlett pears <u>3/</u>		
not less than 2 inches in diameter	115.50	108.50
not less than 1 3/4 inches and less than 2 inches in diameter	70.50	63.50
less than 1 3/4 inches in diameter	70.50	63.50
Kieffer pears <u>3/</u>		
not less than 2 1/16 inches in diameter	59.00	57.00
not less than 1 3/4 inches and less than 2 1/16 inches in diameter	35.00	33.00
All varieties other than Bartlett or Kieffer	70.50	63.50
Peaches <u>3/</u>		
Jubilee, Marilyn, Victory, Elberta and all other varieties of the Elberta type	105.50	94.00
Other varieties	105.50	89.00
Plums and prunes <u>3/</u>		
Felenburg, German and Stanley prunes	80.50	80.50
Damson plums	80.50	80.50
Other varieties	63.00	63.00
Grapes <u>4/</u>	95.00	96.00

- 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, Apricots, Cherries, Sweet and Sour, Strawberries and Grapes in United States 1960 and 1961.

Kind of Fruit		Estimated Production				
		Volumetric Units or Pounds		Tons		
		Unit	1960	1961	1960	1961
			'000	'000		
United States -						
Apples <u>1</u> /	bu.	108,515	125,155			
Pears <u>1</u> /	bu.	25,621	26,225	625,399	641,290	
Peaches <u>1</u> /	bu.	74,315	77,262	1,819,955	1,890,922	
Apricots <u>1</u> /	bu.	12,155	9,565	243,100	191,300	
Cherries, sweet <u>2</u> /	bu.	2,519	3,482	70,532	97,496	
Cherries, sour <u>2</u> /	bu.	4,148	4,940	116,144	138,320	
Strawberries <u>3</u> /	qt.	313,006	323,401	234,754	242,551	
Grapes <u>1</u> /	lb.	5,993,280	6,459,560	2,996,640	3,229,780	
California -						
Strawberries <u>3</u> /	qt.	104,520	117,000	78,390	87,750	

1/ Source: Crop Production as of September 1, 1961 - United States Department of Agriculture.

2/ Source: Crop Production as of August 1, 1961 - United States Department of Agriculture.

3/ Source: Vegetables - Fresh Market as of August 1, 1961 - 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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