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I. FORECAST OF COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION OF STRAWBERRIES, RASPBERRIES, CHERRIES AND APRICOTS 1953 AND REPORT ON CONDITION OF FRUITS IN JUNE

S U M M A R Y

Strawberries Present indications suggest a commercial strawberry crop in 1953 of about 28.9 million quarts, some 1.1 million less than in 1952. It is estimated that production in Quebec will be down by 2.7 million quarts from 1952, the reduction being attributed to two weeks of unfavourably hot, dry weather experienced during the latter part of June. The Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island crops are both down by 12 and 15 per cent, respectively. However, strawberry production in Ontario and British Columbia is expected to be somewhat higher this year than last while New Brunswick also anticipates a small increase.

Raspberries The 1953 raspberry crop is tentatively placed at 13.0 million quarts which is about 10 per cent greater than the 1952 crop. Although no producing areas show decreases this year, virtually all of the total gain will be in British Columbia where about three-quarters of the raspberry crop is produced.

Cherries The cherry crop this year is forecast at 449,000 bushels, about 72,000 bushels less than last year.

Apricots The production of apricots is expected to be 255,000 bushels, an increase of 5,000 bushels from the 1952 crop.

Other Fruits Although it is too early to forecast the crops of other tree fruits this season, some indications of probable developments are becoming evident. Reports from most of the apple producing provinces suggest that the 1953 crop may be a little larger than last year's. The pack of McIntosh apples, however, may make up a smaller proportion of the total crop than in 1952, due to anticipated declines in the production of this variety in British Columbia and Quebec. The production of pears, peaches and plums and prunes may be larger this year, these increases being more marked in British Columbia than in the eastern provinces.

Prince Edward Island

The strawberry crop in Prince Edward Island, although down from the larger-than-usual crop of last year, is still good. Cool, wet weather in this province, however, has retarded the growth of berries to some extent this season.

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Nova Scotia

In the apple orchards of Nova Scotia the heavy bloom this year was accompanied by only fair conditions for pollination. As a result, there are doubts as to whether the set of fruit was satisfactory. However, production this year may exceed that of 1952, although a bumper crop is not anticipated. The effect of spring frosts seems to have been limited. Pears and plums blossomed heavily but unfavourable weather conditions during pollination time resulted in a light set and large crops are not anticipated.

The Nova Scotia strawberry crop is down by about 12 per cent this year due to reductions in both acreage and yield. The raspberry crop is expected to be about 20 per cent above last year's.

New Brunswick

Although the apple blossom in New Brunswick orchards was fairly heavy this year, wet, cool weather at that time is thought to have restricted insect activity with a consequent reduction in the set of fruit. Weather has not been favourable for the application of the calyx sprays.

Strawberry plantations in New Brunswick blossomed fairly heavily with the blossom being spread over a longer period than usual.

Quebec

Although the blossom was very heavy on all varieties of apples throughout the province, the set has not been correspondingly good due to unfavourable weather at pollination time. Wet weather experienced some weeks ago made scab control difficult. An almost complete crop failure in non-commercial orchards is anticipated because of tent caterpillar injury. Present indications are that the Quebec apple crop will be somewhat below that of last year.

The strawberry crop in Quebec had appeared promising with good growth and heavy set of fruit reported until dry weather set in about the middle of June. This reduced the production substantially in all sections of the province, the effect being more pronounced in the Montreal and Eastern Townships districts than in the areas adjacent to Quebec City. Raspberry plantations are showing good growth and have suffered no damage from the dry weather. A crop of about the same size as last year's is anticipated.

Ontario

In Ontario, although the set of fruit in apple orchards is variable, there are some indications of a better crop than in 1952. The effect of the "June drop" is not yet completely apparent. In Eastern Ontario, particularly, it is reported that the set on the McIntosh variety is not as promising as for other varieties. The weather has favoured apple scab infection in all districts. In Eastern Ontario fruit development is about one week ahead of average.

Pears in Western Ontario show some variation between the different varieties; Kieffers are less promising than the others. Throughout the province the fruit is sizing well although a quite heavy drop has been reported. Insect pests and diseases are under control. Present indications point to a pear crop somewhat larger than that of 1952.

The bloom and set on plums were quite heavy but the drop substantially reduced prospects for a large crop. The set of fruit is average in Eastern Ontario and heavy in Western Ontario. The drop is continuing to be heavy but no serious insect or disease problems are reported.

Peach blossom and set were heavy and thinning will be necessary in almost all orchards. Insects and disease are not proving troublesome.

The sweet cherry crop is smaller this year. This is attributed to reduced vitality in old trees caused by dry weather in 1952, as well as a very hot period around mid-May this year when the trees were in bloom. A heavy drop followed the set and there are reports of some splitting of early varieties due to frequent rains. Sour cherry production is down about 10 per cent from last year. The crop is generally rather light except in the Georgian Bay area where prospects are excellent.

Strawberry plantations throughout Ontario appear to have had a satisfactory season. The crop in Eastern Ontario is about the same as last year while a 10 per cent increase is reported in Western Ontario. Raspberries have been making good cane growth with sufficient blossom for a crop of approximately last year's average level.

Grapes wintered well and growth has been good this season. Wet soils earlier in the season hindered cultivation in the vineyards but no harm has been done. The set of fruit is good.

British Columbia

During the past three weeks the weather throughout British Columbia has been unseasonably cool and showery. Strawberry picking in the Lower Fraser Valley, although frequently interrupted by rain, was reaching its peak about June 23. In the same area raspberry plantings are in good condition and picking is starting.

In some of the important tree fruit growing sections of the Okanagan Valley the wet weather has resulted in the development of apple scab infection. This is quite unusual in the Okanagan. Powdery mildew of apples and pears and peach mildew are also showing up. Although warmer weather would be welcome to mature cherries and apricots the early sizing of stone fruits has been good.

The British Columbia Department of Agriculture has released their first estimate of fruit production for 1953. This indicates an apple crop of 6,363,000 bushels, very slightly above the 1952 production. In general the indications point to larger soft fruit crops in British Columbia this year than

last, cherries being the only exception. The pear crop is expected to be substantially greater than last year, 602,000 bushels compared with 463,000. Peach production is placed at 604,000 bushels, 79,000 bushels more than in 1952. Apricots estimated at 255,000 bushels are up slightly from last year's 250,000 bushels. Plums and prunes at 398,000 bushels show an increase of about 12 per cent over the 355,000 bushel crop of 1952.

Table 1.- Forecast of Commercial Production of Strawberries, Raspberries, Cherries and Apricots, 1953, with Comparable Figures for 1952

Kind of Fruit	Unit	Production	
		1 9 5 2	1 9 5 3
		'000	'000
<u>CANADA^{1/}</u>			
Strawberries	qt.	30,022	28,898
Raspberries	qt.	11,963	13,039
Cherries	bu.	521	449
Apricots	bu.	250	255
<u>PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND</u>			
Strawberries	qt.	671	570
<u>NOVA SCOTIA</u>			
Strawberries	qt.	1,084	950
Raspberries	qt.	22	26
<u>NEW BRUNSWICK</u>			
Strawberries	qt.	1,159	1,194
Raspberries	qt.	25	38
<u>QUEBEC</u>			
Strawberries	qt.	7,250	4,500
Raspberries	qt.	275	275
<u>ONTARIO^{2/}</u>			
Strawberries	qt.	9,590	10,287
Raspberries	qt.	3,248	3,300
Cherries	bu.	372	309
<u>BRITISH COLUMBIA</u>			
Strawberries	qt.	10,268	11,397
Raspberries	qt.	8,393	9,400
Cherries	bu.	149	140
Apricots	bu.	250	255
Apples	bu.	6,335	6,363
Pears	bu.	463	602
Peaches	bu.	525	604
Plums and Prunes	bu.	355	398
Loganberries	lb.	1,449	1,782
Grapes	lb.	2,603	2,724

^{1/} No forecasts of 1953 production of other fruits are as yet available except for British Columbia. ^{2/} The 1952 estimates of fruit production in Ontario have been revised by the Ontario Committee on Fruit & Vegetable Statistics. Revised series for past years will be prepared and published in the near future.

II. ESTIMATED ACREAGES OF VEGETABLES CONTRACTED FOR PROCESSING, 1953

The estimated contracted acreages of asparagus, beans, corn, peas and tomatoes for 1953 with comparable figures for the three previous years are set out in Table 2. It will be noted that the acreage contracted is down for all crops except asparagus. The greatest reductions occurred in corn and tomatoes with the bean acreage declining somewhat less. A large proportion of the reduction in contracted acreages of all of these crops occurred in the province of Ontario which is by far the largest producing province.

The estimates of contracted acreages are compiled from a survey made of all licensed canners packing these products in Canada. Questionnaires are sent out and are for the most part completed and returned during the month of May. Therefore, these figures represent the total acreage reported contracted or to be contracted at the time of reporting. Subsequent changes in plans occasioned by variations in the weather or in economic conditions, etc. may result in modifications of these estimates.

This report was prepared in the Agriculture Division of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from information received from the various Provincial Departments of Agriculture and the Canada Department of Agriculture. The material for Ontario was submitted by the Ontario Committee on Fruit and Vegetable Statistics. Reports from Ontario were prepared as of the middle of June. Material dealing with the other provinces was prepared during the second half of the month of June.



Table 2.- Estimated Acreages of Asparagus, Beans, Corn, Peas and Tomatoes Contracted by Processors, 1950, 1951, 1952 and 1953

Province	Kind	1950	1951	1952	1953
- acres -					
Maritimes -	Beans	530	490	490	460
	Peas	1,920	1,900	1,350	1,350
Quebec -	Asparagus	60	1/	1/	1/
	Beans	3,860	4,480	6,480	4,920
	Corn	9,050	12,150	9,800	8,500
	Peas	8,730	10,760	9,840	9,820
	Tomatoes	3,100	5,280	5,820	5,030
Ontario -	Asparagus	700	1,200	900	880
	Beans	620	630	990	600
	Corn	14,060	27,560	22,730	13,590
	Peas	17,880	22,670	23,930	23,010
	Tomatoes	23,650	34,300	33,730	23,300
Prairie Provinces -	Asparagus	1/	-	-	-
	Beans	500	550	580	870
	Corn	5,100	6,250	5,220	4,680
	Peas	4,610	5,570	5,010	4,590
British Columbia -	Asparagus	170	120	120	300
	Beans	740	1,100	1,210	1,280
	Corn	1,880	1,900	2,620	2,050
	Peas	4,120	4,640	4,580	4,370
	Tomatoes	2,430	2,580	3,080	2,620
CANADA -	Asparagus	930	1,320	1,020	1,180
	Beans	6,250	7,250	9,750	8,130
	Corn	30,090	47,760	40,370	28,820
	Peas	37,260	45,540	44,710	43,140
	Tomatoes	29,180	42,160	42,630	30,950

1/ Cannot be published as less than three firms reporting. Not included in total.

Note: Some contracts were signed on a tonnage basis and the quantity involved was converted to an acreage basis using the following standard yields per acre: asparagus, 1 ton; beans, 2 tons; corn, 3 tons; peas, 1 ton; tomatoes, 5 1/2 tons.