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CONDITION OF FRUIT CROPS, JUNE 1952 AND CONTRACTED ACREAGES OF VEGETABLES FOR PROCESSING 1952

Summary: In most areas of Canada it is still too early to venture other than tentative preliminary estimates of 1952 fruit production. Development of most of the 1952 fruit crops may still be greatly influenced by weather conditions during the growing season. However, some indications of production prospects are becoming apparent. It appears that all fruit crops in British Columbia will be considerably larger this year than last. The British Columbia apple crop will still be smaller than in 1949 and 1950 but is expected to exceed that of 1951 by about 1.7 million bushels.

The outlook for the apple crops in Ontario and Quebec is for rather substantial reductions from 1951 levels. It is still rather early to obtain very definite indications from the Maritime Provinces but there is some suggestion that at least in Nova Scotia the crop will be somewhat larger than in 1951. Throughout eastern Canada it appears that the production of the McIntosh variety will not be heavy although in British Columbia indications are that this variety will yield well.

In Ontario production of soft tree fruits will probably be about the same as in 1951 when yields were high. This along with the increases in production in British Columbia will mean large total crops of tender tree fruits in Canada this year.

Prepared in the Crops Section, Agriculture Division, Dominion Bureau of Statistics,
in co-operation with the Federal and Provincial Departments of Agriculture.

Nova Scotia: The apple orchards of the Annapolis Valley generally showed a good blossom this season. Unfortunately the weather was subsequently unfavourable for pollination and as a result the set of fruit was not as good as had been expected. However, it is anticipated that the 1952 crop will exceed the 1951 harvest.

New Brunswick: Reports based on observations of orchard conditions in New Brunswick classify the blossom as having been generally good. Although the McIntosh variety blossomed heavily, the set appears to be light. Some improvement in the spraying program was reported this year.

Present indications are that the strawberry crop in New Brunswick will exceed that of last year despite heavy rains which reduced prospects for an even greater production earlier in the year. Raspberries on the other hand suffered winter injury due to excessive breakage of canes and damage to bark and it is anticipated that there will be a much smaller crop than in 1951.

Quebec: The set of fruit in Quebec apple orchards was poor this year for many varieties, particularly McIntosh. This is attributed in part to the unfavourable weather prevailing at the time of pollination. For the same reason scab infection is heavy. Present indications are that the crop will be much lower than that of last year. The strawberry harvest is almost completed in the Montreal area and is underway in lower Quebec.

Ontario: In south-western and central Ontario, dry weather has been experienced for three weeks starting June 15. This has materially reduced fruit crop prospects in the section of the province west of Toronto which is by far the more important fruit producing area of Ontario.

The set of fruit in apple orchards has been light in western Ontario particularly for McIntosh and Delicious. In the case of pears, the set of fruit was irregular but a crop of about the same size as in 1951 is anticipated with a heavier production of Kieffer and a lighter crop of Bartlett.

The plum crop is expected to be lighter than in 1951 and peach production should be at least as great as the heavier-than-average crop harvested last year. Sweet cherry trees had a good set of fruit and a crop larger than last year's is anticipated. Sour cherry production will be noticeably down. Strawberry production west of Toronto suffered in both volume and quality and as a result the crop fell short of that of last year.

In eastern Ontario the effects of the recent dry weather have been much less marked. Rather general scab infection on foliage in apple orchards is attributed to the wet spring weather. Due to patchy blossom and a reduced set of fruit a light crop of apples is anticipated except in the St-Lawrence Valley district. The crops of McIntosh and Delicious will be particularly reduced. Preliminary indications suggested a strawberry crop about 15% greater than in 1951 for eastern Ontario. Raspberries were also showing good growth and a heavy blossom with a crop at least as large as that of 1951 in prospect.

The present situation in Ontario is, therefore, that the apple crop will probably be less than in 1951 when the harvest was large. McIntosh and Delicious, particularly, may be down. The production of peaches, pears and sweet cherries will probably be close to that of last year while sour cherry production will be down. The strawberry crop has been substantially reduced due to dry weather experienced during June and early July. The raspberry crop, although closer to the 1951 levels than the strawberry crop, will probably be somewhat smaller than last year.

British Columbia: In the tree fruit area of the Okanagan Valley weather conditions during the past two weeks have been cool with varying amounts of precipitation in different districts. Although conditions of growth and fruit development in the orchards appear to be satisfactory, warmer weather is desired. Estimates prepared by the British Columbia Department of Agriculture place the 1952 commercial apple crop in the province at 6,798,000 bushels (5,103,000 bushels in 1951); pears 522,000 bushels (600,000 bushels); plums and prunes 318,000 bushels (306,000 bushels); peaches 644,000 bushels (418,000 bushels); apricots 321,000 bushels (49,000 bushels); cherries 164,000 bushels (80,000 bushels); strawberries 9,510,000 quarts (7,150,000 quarts); raspberries 9,517,000 quarts (8,065,000 quarts).

Preliminary estimates indicate that there will be a substantial increase in the production of McIntosh apples in British Columbia this year.

All these crops are larger this year than last and in the case of pears and apricots the 1949 crops will be approximated. (In the winter of 1949-50 severe frost damage occurred which reduced the production of tree fruits in British Columbia during the last two seasons). The cool weather which prevailed in the Lower Fraser Valley of British Columbia favoured strawberry production and the development of raspberries.

ESTIMATED ACREAGES OF ASPARAGUS, BEANS, CORN, PEAS AND TOMATOES,
1950, 1951 AND 1952,
CONTRACTED BY PROCESSORS

		1950 acres	1951 acres	1952 acres
MARITIMES -	Beans	530	490	490
	Peas	1,920	1,900	1,350
QUEBEC -	Asparagus	60		
	Beans	3,860	4,480	6,480
	Corn	9,050	12,150	9,800
	Peas	8,730	10,760	9,840
	Tomatoes	3,100	5,280	5,820
ONTARIO -	Asparagus	700	1,200	900
	Beans	620	630	990
	Corn	14,060	27,460	22,730
	Peas	17,880	22,670	23,930
	Tomatoes	23,650	34,300	33,730
PRAIRIE PROVINCES -	Asparagus	1/	-	-
	Beans	500	550	51
	Corn	5,100	6,250	5,220
	Peas	4,610	5,570	5,010
BRITISH COLUMBIA -	Asparagus	170	140 2/	130 2/
	Beans	740	1,100	1,210
	Corn	1,880	1,900	2,620
	Peas	4,120	4,640	4,580
	Tomatoes	2,430	2,580	3,080
CANADA -	Asparagus	930	1,340	1,030
	Beans	6,250	7,250	9,750
	Corn	30,090	47,760	40,370
	Peas	37,260	45,540	44,710
	Tomatoes	29,180	42,160	42,630

1/ Cannot be published as only one firm reporting. Not included in total.

2/ Includes Quebec.

Notes:- 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.

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