

2-10-4
DOI22-003
no. 4
1953
c. 1CIRCULATE
3.S. MEMORANDUM

PRETER

Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa, Canada

No. Release
September 11, 1953

P.V.R. No. 6, 1953

Price: 31.00 for 1953 series.

FIRST ESTIMATE OF FRUIT PRODUCTION 1953PROPERTY OF THE
LIBRARYApples

Present estimates place the 1953 apple crop at about 12.0 million bushels which is practically the same as that of 1952. In Nova Scotia apple production will be the same as last year, in Quebec it will be up and in all other producing provinces down. The present situation indicates that in Eastern Canada the production of the variety MacIntosh will make up a smaller proportion of the total crop than usual. The reduced production this year in Eastern Canada is attributed very largely to a poor set of fruit caused by unfavourable weather during pollination.

Pears

The 1953 pear crop is placed at 1.4 million bushels, about 10 per cent larger than in 1952. Increases are recorded in both Ontario and British Columbia with the larger taking place in the west.

Plums and Prunes

Present estimates place the 1953 crop of plums and prunes at 911,000 bushels, an increase of about 2 per cent from last year's crop of 896,000 bushels. This increase is due entirely to the larger crop in British Columbia, the Ontario crop being somewhat smaller this year.

Peaches

Peach production in 1953 is slightly larger than in 1952, this year's crop of 2,965,000 bushels being 2 per cent greater than last year. Increases took place in both Ontario and British Columbia with the larger increase in British Columbia.

Apricots

The 1953 apricot crop of 180,000 bushels was considerably smaller than that of 1952. Commercial production of this fruit is confined to British Columbia. This drop in production follows a period of increasing crops since 1950.

Cherries

Cherry production this year was considerably smaller than in 1952. The crop of 450,000 bushels was down by 11 per cent. There were declines in both Ontario and British Columbia, the greater being in Ontario.

Strawberries

The 1953 strawberry crop is estimated at 28.0 million quarts, a reduction of 13 per cent from 1952. Declines were reported this year in all producing provinces except Prince Edward Island. Reduced crops this year were attributed largely to unfavourably dry weather encountered as the berries reached maturity.

Raspberries

The 1953 raspberry crop is placed at 11.7 million quarts, about 8 per cent greater than in 1952. Increases occurred in all provinces producing this crop commercially.

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Loganberries

This year's loganberry crop is estimated at 1.5 million pounds, about 23 per cent larger than last year.

Grapes

At the present time a grape crop of \$3.7 million pounds is anticipated. This is somewhat less than the \$6.5 million pounds harvested last year.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

The estimate of strawberry production for 1953 in Prince Edward Island remains unchanged from last month's figure of 707,000 quarts. Prince Edward Island is the only province showing an increase in the production of this fruit this year. With the later season rains were received in time to increase yields.

NOVA SCOTIA

The Nova Scotia apple crop is estimated at 1,526,000 bushels, the same as last year. Although there was a light set of fruit it is anticipated that sizing will be good, given favourable weather conditions during the remainder of the season.

The Nova Scotia pear crop is placed at 42,000 bushels, 25 per cent less than in 1952. Plums and prunes, the production of which is placed at 10,000 bushels, are also down from that of last year by about 25 per cent.

The strawberry crop estimated at 715,000 quarts is unchanged from last month and 33 per cent less than in 1952. This was attributed to winter injury, frosts during the blossom period and dry weather at harvest time. The raspberry crop of 35,000 quarts is also unchanged from the previous estimate, and is 60 per cent above that of 1952.

NEW BRUNSWICK

The estimate of apple production in New Brunswick remains unchanged from last month at 250,000 bushels. This is a decline of 13 per cent from last year. Strawberry production in New Brunswick is now estimated at 700,000 quarts, a decrease of about 60 per cent from last year. The raspberry crop is placed at 38,000 quarts, up 9 per cent from 1952.

QUEBEC

The 1953 apple crop in Quebec is estimated at 1,740,000 bushels, 24 per cent above that of 1952. Due to the extremely warm and dry weather apples have not sized as well as they would have under more usual conditions. It is expected that the production of MacIntosh will make up a smaller proportion of the total crop this year in Quebec as the set of this variety was light.

Production of strawberries in Quebec in 1953 was 4,500,000 quarts, down by about 38 per cent from 1952. This reduction is attributed to the hot, dry weather experienced during harvest. Raspberry production, placed at about 300,000 quarts, was 9 per cent above that of 1952.

ONTARIO

This year's apple crop in Ontario is now estimated at 2.2 million bushels, a reduction of about 5 per cent from the 1952 crop of 2.4 million. Reports indicate that the crop is spotty this year. Recently, prospects for the varieties MacIntosh, Spy and Snow in Western Ontario improved while the outlook for Delicious and Greening became poorer. Scab is reported to be serious this year and may limit the proportion of the crop that can be sold as fresh fruit. In Eastern Ontario good sizing of fruit is reported. Localized hail damage has occurred particularly in the Georgian Bay area.

Latest estimates placed the 1953 pear crop at 772,000 bushels, up about 5 per cent from that of last year. As reported last month it appears that the Kieffer crop is about the same as last year with increases occurring in other varieties. Rains in the early part of August in the Niagara Peninsula brought about good sizing in the later varieties. The crop appears to be quite clean.

The 1953 plum crop is now placed at 512,000 bushels, about 4 per cent less than that of last year. In Western Ontario the Japanese varieties are up about 19 per cent with European varieties and prunes down 5 per cent and 10 per cent respectively. Fruit is sizing well and appears to be clean.

The peach crop, placed at 2.4 million bushels, is almost the same as that of last year. The fruit sized well compensating for a heavy drop. The trees are in a very healthy state and the condition of the fruit is good.

The cherry crop is placed at 329,000 bushels this year, a decrease of 12 per cent from last year. Most of this decrease occurred in sweet cherries in Western Ontario, the production of which was down by about 39,000 bushels. The reduction was attributed to a poor set, however, the crop sized well and was of good quality. In the case of sour cherries, production was off in the Niagara Peninsula but up in the Georgian Bay district and in Norfolk County.

The 1953 strawberry crop is now estimated at 9,102,000 quarts, a decrease of 5 per cent from last year's production of 9,590,000 quarts. This year's raspberry crop is now placed at 3,290,000 quarts, practically unchanged from that of last year.

The 1953 grape crop is forecast at 80.6 million pounds, about 4 per cent less than that of last year. This is attributed entirely to a reduction in the Blue varieties, the Whites and Reds being expected to be the same as last year. Although vines and foliage are in good condition the bunches are somewhat uneven and in the eastern end of the peninsula some losses through hail injury have been sustained.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

The 1953 apple crop in British Columbia is now estimated at 6,171,000 bushels, a 3 per cent decline from that of last year. In the Okanagan Valley, which is the principal area producing apples for shipment out of the province, the change from last year is a decline of less than one per cent. The greatest decline has occurred in the Kootenay district where fruit crops in general appear to be poor this year. In the Okanagan it is anticipated that the production of the MacIntosh variety will be about 3 per cent less than in 1952 while Delicious, Winesap and Jonathan will be up considerably.

The 1953 pear crop is estimated at 621,000 bushels, a 22 per cent increase from the 509,000 bushel crop of 1952. Plums and prunes are now placed at 389,000 bushels, an 11 per cent increase from last year. Peaches are estimated at 532,000 bushels, up almost 10 per cent from 1952.

Apriocot production was down by 26 per cent this year, the crop now being placed at 180,000 bushels. Cherry production in 1953 was 121,000 bushels, a decline of about 9 per cent from that of last year.

The weather in the Okanagan district where most of the tree fruit is produced has been hot and dry. Since irrigation is used, this has generally been favourable to the development and ripening of crops. Reports indicate that, generally speaking, the fruit is developing satisfactorily.

In the Lower Fraser Valley and on Vancouver Island the weather has also been hot and dry recently and crops are showing the effects of drought. However, the season for most small fruits except grapes is finished for this year. The strawberry crop was estimated at 12.4 million quarts, about 2 per cent less than the 12.6 million quarts of last year. The raspberry crop of 8.0 million quarts was up by 11 per cent from 1952. The loganberry crop of 1.5 million pounds was 23 per cent above last year. Present indications are that there will be a 17 per cent increase in the grape harvest giving a total production of 3.0 million pounds this year.

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 August. Material dealing with the other provinces was prepared during the second half of the month of August.

On September 7 a severe storm hit the Annapolis Valley of Nova Scotia. Although there are reports that the apple crop suffered considerable damage, it has not yet been possible to prepare an estimate of the amount of damage.

First Estimate of Fruit Production 1953, with Revised Estimates for 1952

	Unit	1952	1953
Canada -			
Apples	'000 bu.	12,049	12,054
Pears	"	1,303	1,435
Plums and prunes	"	896	911
Peaches	"	2,917	2,965
Apriots	"	243	180
Cherries	"	335	450
Strawberries	'000 qt.	32,368	28,086
Raspberries	"	10,829	11,720
Loganberries	'000 lb.	1,240	1,525
Grapes	"	85,481	83,698
Prince Edward Island -			
Strawberries	'000 qt.	671	707
Nova Scotia -			
Apples	'000 bu.	1,626	1,626
Pears	"	56	42
Plums and prunes	"	14	10
Strawberries	'000 qt.	1,864	715
Raspberries	"	22	35
New Brunswick -			
Apples	'000 bu.	300	260
Strawberries	'000 qt.	1,169	700
Raspberries	"	25	38
Quebec -			
Apples	'000 bu.	1,460	1,740
Strawberries	'000 qt.	7,250	4,500
Raspberries	"	275	300



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First Estimate of Fruit production 1953, with Revised Estimates for 1952

	Unit	1952	1953
Ontario -			
Apples	'000 bu.	2,388	2,257
Pears	"	738	772
Plums and prunes	"	532	512
Peaches	"	2,373	2,353
Cherries	"	372	329
Strawberries	'000 qt.	9,590	9,102
Raspberries	"	3,248	3,290
Grapes	'000 lb.	63,894	80,674
British Columbia -			
Apples	'000 bu.	6,335	6,171
Pears	"	509	621
Plums and prunes	"	350	389
Peaches	"	544	582
Apricots	"	243	180
Cherries	"	133	121
Strawberries	'000 qt.	12,614	12,362
Raspberries	"	7,259	8,057
Loganberries	'000 lb.	1,240	1,525
Grapes	"	2,587	3,024