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FIRST FORECAST OF COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION OF ALL FRUITS, 1954 AND
REPORT ON CONDITION OF FRUIT CROPS IN JULY 1954.

Information on crop conditions and the outlook for production as set out in this release is based on reports made on crop conditions as of the middle of July for Ontario and British Columbia and during the latter part of June for the Maritimes and Quebec. Accordingly all estimates apply to the situation as it existed at the time when the reports concerned were made.

Apples

The first forecast of production for 1954 indicates an apple crop of 12.2 million bushels, about 4 per cent greater than that of last year. Increases are anticipated in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Ontario and declines in Quebec and British Columbia. The largest increase is in Nova Scotia where a crop more than 80 per cent above that of 1953 is anticipated. Production in Quebec and British Columbia is expected to decline by 15 per cent and 6 per cent respectively.

The fruit is sizing well in Nova Scotia and is comparatively free from disease and insect damage with a crop of 1,968,000 bushels in prospect. In New Brunswick although difficulty has been encountered in maintaining proper spray covers, a crop of 286,000 bushels is forecast, an increase over that of last year.

Quebec orchards appeared promising at blossom time but since then it has become apparent that the outlook is for a crop smaller than that of 1953. Nevertheless in certain districts prospects are quite favourable. Reports indicate that scab is generally restricted to the foliage. Present indications are for a crop of 1,470,000 bushels.

Mid-July forecasts place the 1954 apple crop in Ontario at 2.8 million bushels, 5 per cent above 1953. In eastern Ontario the outlook is for a crop above that of last year. The principal part of the increase is anticipated in Prince Edward county and the eastern section of Northumberland county. In the St. Lawrence Valley counties and elsewhere in eastern Ontario prospects are less favourable. Although the weather was dry from June 25th to July 15th, scab is proving a problem in many orchards. Some hail damage was also reported during June in a few orchards in Ontario county. However, apples were showing fair development up until the middle of July. In western Ontario a prolonged June drop extended into July affecting the McIntosh and Snow varieties especially in the Georgian Bay area. Indications are that the drop along with scab infection and dry, hot weather caused some deterioration of crop prospects. If adequate rain is not received the effect of the dry weather is expected to be more serious.

In British Columbia apples were sizing well in the Interior, the total crop for the present being placed at 5.7 million bushels. Some codling moth entries were reported, presumably the result of disrupted spray programmes due to

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unsuitable weather for spraying. Apple scab is reported in the Vernon and Kelowna areas. Extra sprays are being applied but warm weather is needed to check the spread of the disease. Considerably more hand thinning than usual is being carried out in British Columbia apple orchards this year. At the southern end of the Okanagan picking of the first cooking apples has started.

Pears

Latest forecasts place the 1954 pear crop at approximately 1.2 million bushels about 20 per cent down from 1953. Smaller crops are expected in both Ontario and British Columbia, the major producing areas. In western Ontario where most of the Ontario pears are grown, it was expected that both the Bartlett and Kieffer crops would be below those of last year due to poor sets of fruit. However, sizing is reported to be normal particularly in the case of Bartletts and there is some possibility that this may partially offset the effects of the poor set of fruit. Other varieties of pears are expected to yield better than they did in 1953. Elsewhere in Ontario the pear crop is patchy although the fruit is sizing well. It is expected that the crop in eastern Ontario will not be much greater than one-half of the 1953 crop. Throughout Ontario insects and disease on pears are well under control. In British Columbia pears are sizing well although some fire blight was reported from the Kelowna district.

Plums and Prunes

The mid-July estimate places the 1954 crop of plums and prunes at 793,000 bushels, about 2 per cent larger than in 1953. The situation with respect to this fruit varies between Ontario and British Columbia. In Ontario a crop about 6 per cent smaller than that of last year is anticipated while in British Columbia an increase of about 15 per cent is in prospect. In the principal growing area of western Ontario the crop reduction is due to the effects of a poor initial set of fruit on Japanese plums and to drought conditions. European varieties were showing much irregularity in different areas and in different orchards. Prunes, however, looked very good with an increase from last year's crop anticipated.

Peaches

First forecasts of commercial peach production this year place the 1954 crop at 2.5 million bushels about 14 per cent less than last year. As in the case of cherries a small decline is anticipated in the Ontario crop while the outlook is for a production in British Columbia about half of what it was last year. In the peach growing districts of Ontario the fruit is reported to be sizing satisfactorily and the outlook is for a somewhat larger crop than was anticipated one month earlier. Damage to the crop from insects, diseases and adverse weather conditions has been limited so far this season and, if favourable conditions are encountered, later prospects may be further improved. In the peach growing area of the Interior of British Columbia the crop is reported to be sizing reasonably well. The reduction from last year's volume was brought about by frost damage to the blossoms earlier in the year.

Apricots

Present indications are for an apricot crop about 30 per cent less than in 1953. This fruit is grown commercially only in British Columbia. Reports from the soft fruit growing area in the Interior indicate that the crop is at least one week later than usual. The fruit is developing well although some drop is still going on.

Cherries

Indications as of July place the 1954 cherry crop at 357,000 bushels about 20 per cent below 1953. This decline in production was brought about by a moderate reduction in Ontario and the fact that the British Columbia crop is about one-half of that of last year due to frost injury earlier in the season. In Ontario, sweet cherry production is estimated at about 57,000 bushels, a 25 per cent decrease from 1953. This crop has now been all harvested and marketed. In the case of sour cherries in the same area, a heavy set of fruit was reported in all districts except Georgian Bay. However, the fruit had not reached a satisfactory size by July when the first of the Montmorency variety was reaching the market. By mid-July in the Okanagan Valley of British Columbia some varieties of cherries were being picked, with others still not mature. Rain was reported in the soft fruit growing district of the Interior during the week prior to the crop reporting date, but the cherry crop escaped any appreciable damage (splitting). In the Summerland district Black Tartarian cherries were being picked while towards the southern end of the lake the harvesting of Royal Annes was under way and at the southern end of the valley growers were picking Lambert cherries.

Strawberries

The latest estimate of production for 1954 placed the commercial strawberry crop at 28.7 million quarts a reduction of about 5 per cent from that of 1953. Decreases in production were reported in Ontario and British Columbia. Production was up in all other areas where this fruit is produced commercially except Nova Scotia where the 1954 crop was equal to that of the previous year. Strawberry crops in the Maritime Provinces, however, were smaller than anticipated earlier in the season due largely to unfavourable weather developments. The fact that total production was not much lower this year than last in spite of fairly substantial declines in Ontario and British Columbia was due to the heavy crop in Quebec. Weather conditions in Quebec were favourable this year. Rain helped the development of the plants at the proper time and shipments were heavy. In Ontario dry, hot weather during the period of fruit development and harvest reduced the crop. The season was shorter than usual in British Columbia with total yields disappointing.

Raspberries

Latest crop estimates placed the 1954 raspberry crop at 16.0 million quarts, an increase of about 6 per cent from that of 1953. The expectation was that the Ontario crop would be down somewhat from last year while in British Columbia an increase of about 1 million quarts was anticipated. In Ontario a heavy crop of raspberries had set and conditions appeared favourable. However, dry weather throughout the producing areas resulted in poor sizing of the fruit and reduced crop prospects below those of last year. In British Columbia by mid-July raspberries were just starting to move from the earlier sections of the Lower Fraser Valley, the principal growing area. Conditions at the time of reporting suggested a crop equal or better than that of last year although it was stated that weather conditions would still exert considerable influence on the size of the crop.

Grapes

Latest available forecasts place the 1954 grape crop at 87.9 million pounds, 9 per cent larger than last year. An increased crop in Ontario will more than offset anticipated reductions in British Columbia production.

Regional Summary

Prince Edward Island

Latest estimates place the 1954 Prince Edward Island strawberry crop at 715,000 quarts, very slightly above last year's production of 708,000 quarts. The possibilities of a larger harvest which had been anticipated earlier in the season were ruined by heavy rains after a period of dry weather. This moisture softened the remaining berries so that they could not be used for processing purposes.

Nova Scotia

Recent dry weather in Nova Scotia had an adverse effect on the strawberry crop which was estimated at 715,000 quarts, the same as that of last year. Dry weather occurred during the developing and ripening stage of the fruit and reduced earlier prospects materially. Small areas under irrigation in the Annapolis Valley, however, fared better. Some harvesting was still under way in Cape Breton Island towards the end of July. Dry weather is also regarded as responsible for lowering the raspberry crop prospects. Fruiting is not heavy and the canes did not stand up well under the dry weather conditions. As a result, a crop of 30,000 quarts, about 20 per cent below that of 1953 was anticipated.

Apples in the Annapolis Valley were reported to be sizing well with the fruit comparatively free of spot and insect damage. At the end of July some thinning was being carried out. The crop was estimated at 1,968,000 bushels, an increase of about 80 per cent from last year's small production. The outlook for both pears and prunes is for an increase from last year. It is expected that about 40,000 bushels of pears will be harvested this year, an increase of 25 per cent from the 1953 crop, while latest indications suggest a plum crop of 20,000 bushels, twice as great as that of last year.

New Brunswick

Strawberry yields in New Brunswick were very disappointing in most areas of the province, yields being below what had been anticipated on the basis of the appearance of the plantations. However, the crop was still above that of last year. The latest estimates placed the 1954 strawberry crop at 775,000 quarts, an increase of about 11 per cent from 1953. Raspberry production was estimated at 55,000 quarts, an increase of 45 per cent from last year. For this yield to be realized, however, warm weather was needed. The first raspberries were expected on the market by about July 26.

The first forecasts of production place the 1954 New Brunswick apple crop at 286,000 bushels about 10 per cent higher than last year. Wet weather rendered it difficult to keep the spray cover on and scab is fairly prevalent. Although the normal drop was about over by late July, some further drop of badly infested or poorly pollinated fruit is anticipated.

Quebec

Strawberry production in Quebec was up considerably this year. Last year's crop, however, was small. The raspberry harvest is larger than in 1953 but apples are expected to be down. Wet weather in the strawberry growing areas came at the right time for good plant development and a crop considerably larger than that of last year was harvested. By the latter part of July raspberry picking was

well under way throughout most of the province. Favourable weather and healthy canes were expected to result in a crop larger than in 1953.

Conditions in Quebec apple orchards are now less promising than earlier in the season and the general outlook is for a crop of 1,470,000 bushels, 15 per cent less than last year.

Ontario

In Ontario latest available figures indicate that production of all fruits except apples and grapes will be in most cases moderately lower this year than in 1953. Unfavourable factors were cool, backward weather followed by a dry period which prevailed during the latter part of June and during July. Lack of moisture was an important factor particularly in reducing the strawberry crop below that of last year. The smaller raspberry crop was also attributed to the drought. The effect on tree fruits is regarded as less pronounced but if rain is not received soon there will be some risk to these crops.

British Columbia

The production of all fruits except raspberries was expected to be lower in British Columbia this year. Weather during the early part of the season was cool and wet and did not improve until shortly before the middle of July. Accordingly the season was later than usual. At the Coast and on Vancouver Island the strawberry crop was just about finished by the middle of July. Due to the wet weather some damage from mildew was reported on Vancouver Island. Yields on the Mainland were lower than average. In the interior of British Columbia rather substantial reductions in the production of soft fruits except plums and prunes were in prospect for 1954. This is as anticipated earlier and is due to frost damage to the blossoms at the end of April and the beginning of May of this year. Some losses of young trees because of frost injury sustained at that time were reported in the Okanagan Valley.

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.

Forecast of Fruit Production, 1954, with Comparable
Estimates for 1953

Kind of Fruit	Production in Volumetric Units			Production in Tons	
	Unit	1953 '000	1954 '000	1953 tons	1954 tons
Canada -					
Apples	bu.	11,731	12,178		
Pears	bu.	1,435	1,174	35,875	29,350
Plums & prunes	bu.	775	793	19,375	19,825
Peaches	bu.	2,893	2,504	72,325	62,600
Apricots	bu.	165	117	4,125	2,925
Cherries	bu.	449	357	11,225	8,925
Strawberries	qt.	30,075	28,688	18,797	17,930
Raspberries	qt.	15,113	16,009	9,446	10,006
Loganberries	lb.	1,687	1,518	844	759
Grapes	lb.	80,533	87,897	40,266	43,948
Prince Edward Island -					
Strawberries	qt.	708	715	442	447
Nova Scotia -					
Apples	bu.	1,087	1,968		
Pears	bu.	32	40	800	1,000
Plums & prunes	bu.	10	20	250	500
Strawberries	qt.	715	715	447	447
Raspberries	qt.	37	30	23	19
New Brunswick -					
Apples	bu.	260	286		
Strawberries	qt.	700	775	438	484
Raspberries	qt.	38	55	24	34
Quebec -					
Apples	bu.	1,740	1,470		
Strawberries	qt.	4,500	8,500	2,812	5,312
Raspberries	qt.	300	350	188	219
Ontario -					
Apples	bu.	2,642	2,783		
Pears	bu.	754	673	18,650	16,825
Plums & prunes	bu.	513	484	12,825	12,100
Peaches	bu.	2,350	2,249	58,750	56,225
Cherries	bu.	319	293	7,975	7,325
Strawberries	qt.	9,255	8,045	5,784	5,028
Raspberries	qt.	3,182	2,978	1,989	1,861
Grapes	lb.	78,268	86,000	39,134	43,000

Forecast of Fruit Production, 1954, with Comparable
Estimates for 1953

Kind of Fruit	Production in Volumetric Units			Production in Tons	
	Unit	1953	1954	1953	1954
		'000	'000	tons	tons
British Columbia -					
Apples	bu.	6,002	5,671		
Pears	bu.	649	461	16,225	11,525
Plums & prunes	bu.	252	289	6,300	7,225
Peaches	bu.	543	255	13,575	6,375
Apricots	bu.	165	117	4,125	2,925
Cherries	bu.	130	64	3,250	1,600
Strawberries	qt.	14,197	9,938	8,873	6,211
Raspberries	qt.	11,556	12,596	7,222	7,872
Loganberries	lb.	1,687	1,518	844	759
Grapes	lb.	2,265	1,897	1,132	948

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