

22-003
DOMINION no. 4
(1955
c. 1

Published by Authority

DOMINION BUREAU
OF STATISTICS
CANADA



DOMINION BUREAU
OF STATISTICS

AUG 8 1955
Memorandum

August 8, 1955

Price \$1.00 for 1955 series

N.V.R. No. 6

FIRST ESTIMATE OF THE COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION OF ALL FRUITS, 1955,
AND REPORT ON CONDITIONS OF FRUIT CROPS IN JULY, 1/ 1955.

Throughout most of the fruit growing regions of central and eastern Canada there has been little rain since June 15th while higher than normal temperatures prevailed. By the latter part of July this hot, dry weather was having adverse effects on fruit crops. Strawberry yields had been reduced considerably and the rather favourable outlook earlier in the season was not realized. With hot, dry weather at picking time the berries failed to develop in some areas as well as would otherwise have been the case. Drought was also blamed for a reduction in the raspberry crop. Earlier in the season the outlook had been quite favourable for small fruit production in practically all parts of eastern Canada. A generally heavy blossom escaped early frost injury and set well.

In the case of tree fruits, plums, prunes and peaches in Western Ontario were reported to be sizing less rapidly than normal due to dry weather. The apple and pear crops would only reach the estimated figures if rain were received. Grapes in Ontario, however, were not showing any adverse effects of the drought.

In British Columbia the season was later than usual due to cool, wet weather which prevailed until quite recently. In the coastal areas excessive moisture had an adverse effect on the strawberry crop although raspberry prospects were good. In the interior a recent change in the weather bringing higher temperatures and more sunshine was welcomed. Tree fruits in British Columbia were later than usual this year but the general outlook was favourable, with the earlier prospects for a good crop likely to be realized.

Apples: The first estimate of production based on conditions in the latter part of July indicates a 1955 apple crop of 17.6 million bushels, 1.3 million bushels or 22 per cent greater than last year's 14.5 million bushel crop. The outlook was for an increase in all provinces in which apples are grown commercially. The largest increase, however, was expected in Nova Scotia, where the 1955 crop may be 1.3 million bushels or 60 per cent greater than in 1954. If these forecasts are realized, 7 million bushels of apples will be produced east of Ontario while last year the figure was about 5 million bushels. Production in Ontario may be up about 20 per cent this year while the anticipated increase in British Columbia of about 436,000 bushels represents an increase of about 7 per cent over last year.

1/ Material in this release is based on reports made on crop conditions during the latter part of July. 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.

5502-552.06

The dry, hot weather experienced throughout Eastern Canada has had an unfavourable effect on the apple orchards of Quebec and Ontario. In order for the above estimates to be realized rain is needed during the remainder of the season. Should moisture supplies remain inadequate, it is not likely that the crop will size very well and estimates would have to be reduced. In Nova Scotia weather conditions have also been dry but it is not expected that the apple crop will be adversely effected this year.

Pears: Latest estimates place the 1955 pear crop at 1.4 million bushels, a 12 per cent increase over last years 1.2 million bushels. The pear crop in Western Ontario was reported at the middle of July to be developing satisfactorily in spite of the adverse hot, dry weather. Moisture, however, was needed if the increase in production over last year was to be realized in this area. The outlook was for a higher production of all principal varieties particularly Bartletts. In British Columbia all indications pointed to a crop of good quality and larger than that of 1954. The fruit was sizing well but due to the lateness of the season no movement to market was anticipated before the last two weeks of August.

Plums and Prunes: Present indications are for a plum and prune crop of about 806,000 bushels this year, 13 per cent above 1954. The crop in Western Ontario was in need of moisture. The early Japanese types, which were reaching the market by mid-July, were smaller than usual. In order for the preliminary estimates to be realized rain will be needed. In Eastern Ontario the fruit was sizing slowly with rain needed there also.

Peaches: The 1955 peach crop is now estimated at 2.6 million bushels, 7 per cent up from 1954. A very substantial proportional increase was expected in British Columbia while indications were that there would be a small decline in the Ontario crop from last year. In the Niagara district of Ontario the fruit was developing fairly well in spite of the heat and drought, but peach leaf curl and tree mortality were likely to reduce production somewhat. In British Columbia peaches were sizing well and prospects were favourable for a very much larger crop than in 1954. Quality was good.

Apricots: Conditions during the latter part of July indicated an apricot crop of 181,000 bushels, 53 per cent higher than that of 1954. In the southern Okanagan prospects were for a full crop. The size and quality were generally above average and shipments were anticipated from the early districts by about July 26th or 27th. Hail in the Keremeos area on July 16th caused some damage, however.

Cherries: Latest production estimates indicate a 525,000 bushel cherry crop this year, 5 per cent above the 1954 production of 500,000 bushels. A considerable proportional increase in British Columbia more than off-sets the moderate decline indicated in the Ontario crop. The sweet cherry harvest in Western Ontario had been nearly completed by July 15th with the quality being very good except for some splitting in early varieties. Sour cherry production was lighter particularly in some areas. In Eastern Ontario rains on July 15th improved the size and quality of sour cherries with the yield expected to be considerably higher than last year. British Columbia cherries suffered some splitting following heavy rains in the Southern Okanagan. However, it is expected that most of the injured fruit will be fit for shipping.

Strawberries: The most recent strawberry estimate placed the 1955 crop at 22.7 million quarts, 19 per cent below 1954. The drop this year was due to substantial decreases in Quebec and British Columbia. Dry weather at picking time was the reason for reduced output in Quebec while in British Columbia rain at harvest time in the Fraser Valley caused serious losses.

In the Maritimes and Ontario production was up this year although yields were not as high as they would have been had there been more favourable weather conditions. Some increases in acreage and irrigation in certain areas were credited to a certain extent with sustaining production. The British Columbia crop was later than usual due to backward weather, while production in the other provinces was ahead of last year.

Raspberries: It was anticipated that the 1955 raspberry crop would be about 12.5 million quarts, 3 per cent lower than in 1954.

A reduction of 20 per cent in the Ontario production setting the output for that province at 2.5 million quarts was somewhat offset by a 4 per cent increase for British Columbia, where the crop was expected to reach about 9.6 million quarts. A decrease was expected for Quebec and New Brunswick with an increase anticipated in Nova Scotia. Dry, hot weather was having an unfavourable effect on raspberry yields in Eastern Canada but prospects appeared favourable in British Columbia.

Loganberries: British Columbia is the only province for which loganberry statistics are prepared. Latest estimates place the loganberry crop in that province at 1.5 million pounds, 39 per cent higher than last year's crop. Picking had just started on Vancouver Island by July 25th.

Grapes: It was expected that the 1955 grape crop would reach 92 million pounds, 4 per cent above last year. Increases were expected in British Columbia and Ontario, the two grape-producing provinces. In the important grape-growing area of Western Ontario it was reported that vine and lateral growth were very good and the fruit was developing well.

Regional Summary

Maritime Provinces: The Prince Edward Island strawberry crop, estimated at 790,000 quarts, 1 per cent above that of last year, did not come up to earlier expectations. This was attributed to the dry weather during the growing and harvesting period.

In Nova Scotia apple orchards promised a heavy crop. Insects and scab were well under control during the latter part of July and although the drop was continuing it was not excessive. It was estimated that the 1955 crop will approximate 3.4 million bushels, 60 per cent above that of 1954 and reports indicate that the varieties Gravenstein, King and Northern Spy would be heavy in all areas, while indications pointed to a record crop of Delicious. Dry weather was not expected to affect the apple crop prospects unless conditions became unfavourable to a considerable degree.

Pear orchards have an irregular crop in prospect. Production, however, was estimated at 52,000 bushels, a 30 per cent increase over last year. The plum crop, estimated at 30,000 bushels, 50 per cent above 1954, should be better than average.

Dry weather during the harvesting period had an adverse effect on the strawberry crop. However, this was offset to some extent by the use of irrigation in some areas and the fact that acreage was somewhat larger than last year. The latest estimate stands at 825,000 quarts, 15 per cent higher than in 1954. Raspberries in Nova Scotia were being harvested during the last of July and early part of August. It was expected that total production would be about 45,000 quarts, 22 per cent above the 1954 figure. Nevertheless, dry weather was having an unfavourable effect on yields.

First estimates placed the 1955 New Brunswick apple crop at 400,000 bushels, 60 per cent above 1954. Reports state that insects and diseases were well under control and fruit was of good average size and development. The strawberry production estimate in New Brunswick stands at 850,000 quarts, 10 per cent higher than that of 1954, while the raspberry figure of 45,000 quarts is 10 per cent below last year.

The blueberry crop in Prince Edward Island appeared promising at the end of July with an excellent harvest expected. In Nova Scotia, however, it was anticipated that dry weather would reduce both size of fruit and yield.

Increased acreage this year should make up for lower anticipated yields and a crop of about the same size of that of 1954 was in prospect.

Quebec: Present indications point to an apple crop in Quebec of about 3.2 million bushels, 27 per cent over 1954. The blossom was heavy on all varieties and the set was fair to good. In the main producing areas late varieties, of which McIntosh is by far the most important, were promising a crop about 40 per cent greater than last year while early varieties were about 20 per cent down from 1954. In order for these estimates to be realised, however, rain will be needed. In the early varieties, Melba and Transparents were small and ripening fast during the end of July. Fameuse were small as were McIntosh.

The strawberry crop estimated at 5 million quarts, 41 per cent less than last year, was considerably reduced from early prospects due to the drought. The raspberry estimate placed at 300,000 quarts was 14 per cent below that of last year, dry weather having had an undesirable effect on the crop.

Ontario: In practically all sections of Western Ontario moisture supplies have been inadequate in recent weeks. This, coupled with high temperatures, slowed growth and development in all crops and was beginning to curtail size except where irrigation was available. Sun scald was reported on several types of fruit. The weather encouraged insect activity but discouraged the development of many plant diseases. Unfortunately apple scab was reported to be established in some areas where rainfall had been more adequate. Eastern Ontario had some relief with rain on July 15, but more moisture was needed there also. Drought cut the strawberry crop considerably in the eastern region.

Latest indications pointed to an apple crop of 3.7 million bushels, 19 per cent above that of 1954. Pear prospects are for an output of 737,000 bushels, 11 per cent above last year. Increases in all varieties are expected with Bartletts 20 per cent and Keifers 10 per cent up from 1954. Although plums were showing the need of moisture, with sizing of early Japanese varieties being curtailed, an increase of 11 per cent over last year's crop was expected to place the 1955 production at 541,000 bushels. Peach production will be down 8 per cent, it is expected, with this year's crop standing at about 2 million bushels. The crop was developing fairly well in the Niagara district in spite of the heat. Peach leaf curl and tree mortality both there and in Norfolk County were expected to result in the anticipated moderate reduction in output.

British Columbia: The weather in the interior turned hot and dry in July with some local thunderstorms and hail reported. Indications during the latter part of July were for a good crop of all commercial varieties of apples with a total production of 6.96 million bushels, 7 per cent above last year. The scab situation in the Okanagan was very much better than at the same time in 1954. All indications pointed to a good quality pear crop estimated at 627,000 bushels, 13 per cent higher than in 1954.

Peaches were sizing well and prospects indicated a high quality crop substantially greater than last year. Estimates indicated an output of 624,000 bushels, 130 per cent above 1954, when the harvest was smaller than usual. Apricots were also promising, with an 181,000 bushel harvest anticipated, 53 per cent above that of 1954. British Columbia's cherry production at 130,000 bushels was 44 per cent above that of last year.

In the Lower Fraser Valley rain caused serious losses to the strawberry crop the provincial production of which was estimated at 6.4 million quarts, 31 per cent below that of last year. It was expected that the end of July would see the finish of the Fraser Valley crop which was later than usual this year. The Vancouver Island harvest was completed by July 15th. Prospects were for a good crop of high quality raspberries in 1955 with shipments in quantity by the last week of July. A 4 per cent increase over 1954 placed this year's raspberry crop at 9.6 million quarts.

First Estimate of Fruit Production, 1955, with Comparable
Figures for 1954

Kind of Fruit	Production in Volumetric Units			Production in Tons <u>1/</u>	
	Unit	1954	1955	1954	1955
		'000	'000	tons	tons
Canada -					
Apples	bu.	14,500	17,646		
Pears	bu.	1,261	1,416	31,525	35,400
Plums & prunes	bu.	716	806	17,900	20,150
Peaches	bu.	2,425	2,604	60,625	65,100
Apricots	bu.	118	181	2,950	4,525
Cherries	bu.	500	525	12,500	13,125
Strawberries	qt.	27,971	22,663	18,633	14,962
Raspberries	qt.	12,839	12,485	9,178	9,000
Loganberries	lb.	1,056	1,463	528	732
Grapes	lb.	88,876	91,998	44,438	45,999
Prince Edward Island -					
Strawberries	qt.	780	790	488	494
Nova Scotia -					
Apples	bu.	2,157	3,450		
Pears	bu.	40	52	1,000	1,300
Plums & prunes	bu.	20	30	500	750
Strawberries	qt.	715	825	447	516
Raspberries	qt.	37	45	23	28
New Brunswick -					
Apples	bu.	250	400		
Strawberries	qt.	775	850	484	531
Raspberries	qt.	50	45	31	28
Quebec -					
Apples	bu.	2,500	3,175		
Strawberries	qt.	8,500	5,000	5,312	3,125
Raspberries	qt.	350	300	219	188
Ontario -					
Apples	bu.	3,071	3,663		
Pears	bu.	664	737	16,600	18,425
Plums and prunes	bu.	486	541	12,150	13,525
Peaches	bu.	2,154	1,980	53,850	49,500
Cherries	bu.	410	395	10,250	9,875
Strawberries	qt.	7,992	8,822	4,995	5,514
Raspberries	qt.	3,170	2,521	1,981	1,576
Grapes	lb.	87,102	90,000	43,551	45,000



1010686290

First Estimate of Fruit Production, 1955, with Comparable
Figures for 1954

Kind of Fruit	Unit	Production in Volumetric Units		Production in Tons ^{1/}	
		1954	1955	1954	1955
		'000	'000	tons	tons
British Columbia -					
Apples	bu.	6,522	6,958		
Pears	bu.	557	627	13,925	15,675
Plums and prunes	bu.	210	235	5,250	5,875
Peaches	bu.	271	624	6,775	15,600
Apricots	bu.	118	181	2,950	4,525
Cherries	bu.	90	130	2,250	3,250
Strawberries	qt.	9,209	6,376	6,907	4,782
Raspberries	qt.	9,232	9,574	6,924	7,180
Loganberries	lb.	1,056	1,463	528	732
Grapes	lb.	1,774	1,998	887	999

^{1/} The original estimates secured by the Bureau were stated in measures of volume (except loganberries and grapes). These were converted to tons at the following rates; 1 quart of strawberries or raspberries = 1.25 pounds (except in British Columbia where the rate of 1 quart = 1.50 pounds was used) and one bushel of all other fruits = 50 pounds (net weight.)