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FIRST ESTIMATE OF THE COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION OF ALL FRUITS, 1956  
AND REPORT ON CONDITIONS OF FRUIT CROPS IN JULY, 1/ 1956

SUMMARY

Throughout most of the fruit-growing regions of Central and Eastern Canada the 1956 season so far has been cool and wet. Although moisture supplies have been adequate crops are later than usual. In British Columbia weather conditions have been generally quite favourable for the past month; the season is not retarded in that province.

Indications are that production of all fruits will be lower in 1956 than in 1955. However, most fruit crops were exceptionally heavy last year. Frost damage in the late spring and early summer in Ontario and the results of low temperature injury last winter in British Columbia are largely responsible for the lower anticipated output. A heavy drop of apples in the Maritimes this year was also a significant factor. Crops of strawberries, however, were higher in the Maritimes, Quebec and Eastern Ontario.

Apples - The first estimate of production, based on conditions in the latter part of July, indicates a 1956 apple crop of 12.2 million bushels, 36 per cent less than last year's 19.1 million bushels. If these estimates are realized, this year's crop will be the smallest since 1953 when 11.7 million bushels were harvested. The 1955 output, however, was larger than usual, being exceeded only by that of 1946.

Production will be down substantially in all apple-producing provinces with the largest decline expected in the Province of Quebec where a total crop of three million bushels is anticipated, down sharply from last year's revised figure of five million bushels. The reduced production in Quebec is attributed to a variable set following frost injury to the blossoms earlier this season and frost damage last winter while in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick a heavy drop occurred after the fruit set. Reports from Eastern Ontario also mention a heavy drop after the fruit set while frost damage cut production prospects in Western Ontario. The anticipated reduction in output in British Columbia is due to the results of winter injury. Of the total anticipated decline from 1955 to 1956 of 6.9 million bushels, 5.3 million is expected to be accounted for in the Eastern Provinces and 1.6 million in British Columbia.

Pears - The most recent estimates available on pear production place the crop this year at 1.4 million bushels, nine per cent down from last year's 1.5 million bushel crop. Production in Nova Scotia was expected to be about the same as in 1955. In

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.

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Ontario the 1956 crop of pears, placed at 812,000 bushels, was down eight per cent from last year. In Eastern Ontario there was a heavy drop after a good initial set of fruit. Reports from the important pear-producing sections of Western Ontario report that all varieties will be down as a result of early frosts. Recent severe storms have caused further damage in many orchards. However, the balance of the crop is sizing rapidly. Present indications placed the British Columbia crop at 522,000 bushels, 10 per cent less than in 1955.

Plums and Prunes - Estimates based on conditions during the latter part of July placed the 1956 crop of plums and prunes at 516,000 bushels, 38 per cent less than in 1955. Much of this decline is due to anticipated reductions in Ontario where this year's crop of 305,000 bushels of plums is 47 per cent below 1955. A poor initial set and subsequent losses from stem rot and normal dropping brought about the decline. British Columbia prospects were for an output of 191,000 bushels, 18 per cent below last year.

Peaches - The 1956 peach crop is now placed at 2.3 million bushels, 22 per cent down from last year. The Ontario crop of 1.8 million bushels is 22 per cent below 1955. Wind, tree mortality and the "drop" are regarded as the cause of this drop in anticipated output. Insects and disease were well under control, however, and, as of July 15, the fruit was sizing rapidly. In British Columbia the outlook was for a peach crop of 406,000 bushels, 21 per cent below that of 1955. Reduced yields were attributed to winter injury.

Apricots - Latest reports estimate the 1956 apricot crop at 93,000 bushels, about half as large as in 1955. This fruit, grown commercially only in British Columbia, was hard hit by low temperatures last winter.

Sweet Cherries - It is expected that the sweet cherry crop will be about 90,000 bushels in 1956, 59 per cent below last year's larger than average output. In Western Ontario a crop of 47,000 bushels was estimated, 55 per cent down from 1955. The light crop was further reduced through brown rot, birds and splitting. The British Columbia crop of 43,000 bushels is 63 per cent less than in 1955, this cut being attributed to winter injury last season and to splitting from rain and hail immediately prior to harvest.

Sour Cherries - The prospects for this crop, grown exclusively in Ontario, were relatively better than for sweet cherries. A crop of 383,000 bushels was anticipated as of the middle of July. This is 29 per cent below last year. Wind-whipping during frequent thunderstorms caused some damage.

Strawberries - Latest estimates placed the 1956 strawberry crop at 17.1 million quarts, 25 per cent below last year's 22.7 million. Production this year was expected to be up in the Maritime Provinces and Quebec but down in Ontario and British Columbia. This year, Quebec was the largest producer with a crop of 6.2 million quarts and Ontario was second. In British Columbia, which ordinarily is the largest producer, the crop was very drastically reduced by winter damage. It is now placed at 1.6 million quarts, almost 80 per cent down from 1955. In Eastern Canada, although the weather was cool, there was no shortage of moisture and crops were generally good except in Western Ontario where drought last summer hampered runner formation which, in turn, resulted in a smaller output this year. In some areas increased acreages were reported.

Raspberries - It is expected that the 1956 raspberry crop will be about 5.3 million quarts, 56 per cent below last year's 12.1 million. Reduction will be due to a severe cut of 79 per cent from last year in British Columbia where a crop of 1.9



million quarts was estimated. Production in Ontario is placed at 3.0 million quarts, 16 per cent above last year. Production is also up in Quebec and New Brunswick and the same as last year in Nova Scotia. In Ontario a heavy set of fruit was reported west of Toronto while conditions were favourable elsewhere in the province. Plantings in Eastern Ontario have benefitted from the ample supplies of moisture.

Grapes - Present indications are for a grape crop of 79.9 million pounds, 16 per cent down from 1955. It is expected that yields will be down in both Ontario and British Columbia.

Loganberries - Loganberries were very severely hit by low temperature injury last winter. This crop, grown commercially in British Columbia, is estimated at 344,000 pounds, 72 per cent below 1955. Production this year is confined to the Saanich Peninsula of Vancouver Island.

#### REGIONAL SUMMARY

Maritime Provinces - In Prince Edward Island the strawberry crop is placed at 1,250,000 quarts, the largest on record. Much of this increase in production (40 per cent above 1955) is attributed to larger acreages for harvest. Most of the strawberries are being processed. Blueberry prospects are fairly good.

In Nova Scotia a heavy drop of apples occurred after the fruit set. The crop is estimated at 1.7 million bushels. The Gravenstein variety is expected to reach only 33 per cent of last year's crop, McIntosh, 55 per cent, Wagners, Cortland and Delicious, about 50 per cent. By the latter part of July sizing was fairly well advanced considering the late bloom and insects and fungus diseases well controlled.

Pear production at 42,000 bushels will be the same as in 1955. The plum crop, in spite of damage due to black knot disease, is expected to be the same as last year's 20,000 bushels.

Picking of the 950,000 quart strawberry crop (15 per cent larger than last year) was nearly finished in the early areas by July 24, but still underway in the later districts. Raspberry production is estimated at 40,000 quarts and harvesting was expected to start during the last week of July. Blueberry prospects are for an average crop. No frost damage was reported and moisture is adequate.

In New Brunswick an apple crop of 275,000 bushels, 39 per cent less than in 1955, is anticipated. Although the season is later than last year, the apples are showing reasonably good size. The spray programs are being well maintained in commercial orchards.

Quebec - The first estimate places the 1956 apple crop at 3.0 million bushels, down 40 per cent from last year when the crop was much larger than usual. Reports indicate that the set of fruit is very variable. Although heavy rains and high humidity have rendered the task difficult, growers have, through diligent spray applications, kept fungus diseases well under control. Considerable difficulties from codling moths are also reported but the situation is under control. A subsequent report indicated hail damage on July 27 and 28 to the Quebec crop.

Strawberry picking was about over by July 26. Production is estimated at 6.2 million quarts, 25 per cent greater than last season. Quality has been good.

Raspberries were coming on the market by the end of July. Excellent quality was reported and the crop estimate stands at 350,000 quarts, 17 per cent above 1955.

Ontario - In Eastern Ontario dry weather and below average temperatures prevailed from June 15 to 30. During the first half of July there were numerous heavy showers and the weather continued cool, with some scattered hail damage to apples reported. Foliage and terminal growth are vigorous on all fruit trees. In Western Ontario temperatures were below normal and rainfall exceeded requirements. Violent thunderstorms were reported, with wind and hail doing considerable damage in some areas. As a result of the excessive rainfall, plant diseases were more prevalent than usual.

The outlook based on conditions at mid-July was for an apple crop of 2.5 million bushels, 39 per cent less than last year. Frost during the blossom period, followed by a heavy drop, brought about the reduced crop prospects. Existing fruit was sizing rapidly at the middle of July in Western Ontario.

All pear varieties indicated varying decreases in yield prospects as a result of early frosts. Severe storms caused further damage but the remaining fruit was reported to be sizing rapidly. A crop of 812,000 bushels, 8 per cent below 1955, is in prospect.

Latest indications are for a plum crop of 305,000 bushels, down 47 per cent from last year. A poor initial set, stem rot and dropping of the fruits all contributed to the reduction in prospective yields. Peach production is estimated at 1.8 million bushels, 22 per cent below 1955. Wind, tree mortality and "drop" were unfavourable factors. Insects and diseases were well controlled, however, and the fruit was sizing rapidly.

A very light crop of sweet cherries was being picked at July 15. Brown rot, birds and splitting cut production, now estimated at 47,000 bushels, a reduction of 55 per cent from 1955. The sour cherry outlook was better with a crop of 383,000 bushels in prospect. Wind damage during frequent thunderstorms was reported, however.

In Western Ontario the ample rainfall prolonged the strawberry harvest period but the bulk of the crop was picked by the middle of July. In Eastern Ontario yields were better than expected with an increased crop reported. The total output of strawberries for the province as a whole is estimated at 5.8 million quarts, 23 per cent below 1955.

It is anticipated that raspberry production will reach three million quarts, an increase of 16 per cent, this year. A heavy set of fruit was maturing rapidly by mid-July in Western Ontario. Most plantings looked good in Eastern Ontario. A grape crop of 78.8 million pounds, 15 per cent below last year, was anticipated. Vine and foliage development were satisfactory with little trouble from insects or diseases reported.

British Columbia - Weather conditions during the past month have been generally favourable. Some localized hail was reported, however, and serious damage to cherries in the southern Okanagan was caused by rain in June. The hot, dry weather in July affected some crops in non-irrigated areas. Except for mites, insects and diseases have not been hard to control. Apple scab is causing no concern so far this year.



All apple varieties, except McIntosh, show a decline. Many trees in the one to twelve-year age group have been seriously damaged by frost and older trees, particularly Delicious, Yellow Newtown and Rome Beauty, also show considerable injury and reduced crops. The total crop is estimated at 4.8 million bushels, 26 per cent below last year.

Pears are the only fruit in British Columbia carrying a normal crop this year. The trees look well, with the variety D'Anjou being especially promising. Production is placed at 522,000 bushels, 90 per cent of last year.

The peach crop, estimated at 406,000 bushels, 21 per cent below last year, is sizing well, about one week to ten days earlier than in 1955. Cherry production, now estimated at 43,000 bushels, down 63 per cent from 1955, was reduced by winter injury and rain which caused splitting during harvesting in the Oliver-Osoyoos area. In the Kootenay region the crop is about normal. Apricot production at 93,000 bushels is not much more than half as great as in 1955. The quality, however, is generally good although hail has caused losses in some localities.

Because of severe low temperature damage to plantations last winter in the Lower Fraser Valley and the Interior, the strawberry crop at 1.6 million quarts was almost 80 per cent below that of last year. However, a very good crop was harvested on the Saanich Peninsula of Vancouver Island. Although size and quality were both very good, most of the fruit was processed. New plantings to replace lost acreage have been quite extensive.

Raspberry production was also severely curtailed as a result of winter damage. The crop this year is now placed at 1.9 million quarts, down 79 per cent from 1955.

First Estimate of Fruit Production, 1956, with Comparable Figures for 1955

Kind of Fruit	Production in Volumetric Units			Production in Tons 1/	
	Unit	1955	1956	1955	1956
		'000	'000	tons	tons
Canada -					
Apples	bu.	19,142	12,217		
Pears	bu.	1,510	1,376	37,750	34,400
Plums and prunes	bu.	828	516	20,700	12,900
Peaches	bu.	2,883	2,255	72,075	56,375
Apricots	bu.	184	93	4,600	2,325
Cherries, sweet	bu.	221	90	5,525	2,250
Cherries, sour	bu.	542	383	13,550	9,575
Strawberries	qt.	22,674	17,059	15,112	10,859
Raspberries	qt.	12,099	5,313	8,706	3,557
Loganberries	lb.	1,237	344	618	172
Grapes	lb.	94,752	79,922	47,376	39,961
Prince Edward Island -					
Strawberries	qt.	890	1,250	556	781
Nova Scotia -					
Apples	bu.	3,250	1,700		
Pears	bu.	42	42	1,050	1,050
Plums and prunes	bu.	20	20	500	500
Strawberries	qt.	825	950	516	594
Raspberries	qt.	40	40	25	25
New Brunswick -					
Apples	bu.	450	275		
Strawberries	qt.	850	1,200	531	750
Raspberries	qt.	45	50	28	31
Quebec -					
Apples	bu.	5,000	3,000		
Strawberries	qt.	5,000	6,250	3,125	3,906
Raspberries	qt.	300	350	188	219
Ontario -					
Apples	bu.	4,037	2,478		
Pears	bu.	887	812	22,175	20,300
Plums and prunes	bu.	576	305	14,400	7,625
Peaches	bu.	2,370	1,849	59,250	46,225
Cherries, sweet	bu.	105	47	2,625	1,175
Cherries, sour	bu.	542	383	13,550	9,575
Strawberries	qt.	7,578	5,830	4,736	3,644
Raspberries	qt.	2,566	2,981	1,604	1,863
Grapes	lb.	92,760	78,812	46,380	39,406

First Estimate of Fruit Production, 1956, with Comparable Figures for 1955

Kind of Fruit	Production in Volumetric Units			Production in Tons <sup>1/</sup>	
	Unit	1955	1956	1955	1956
		'000	'000	tons	tons
British Columbia -					
Apples	bu.	6,405	4,764		
Pears	bu.	581	522	14,525	13,050
Plums and prunes	bu.	232	191	5,800	4,775
Peaches	bu.	513	406	12,825	10,150
Apricots	bu.	184	93	4,600	2,325
Cherries, sweet	bu.	116	43	2,900	1,075
Strawberries	qt.	7,531	1,579	5,648	1,184
Raspberries	qt.	9,148	1,892	6,861	1,419
Loganberries	lb.	1,237	344	618	172
Grapes	lb.	1,992	1,110	996	555

<sup>1/</sup> 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).

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