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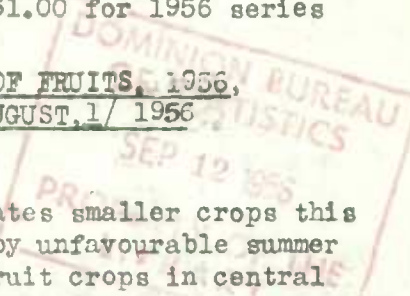
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SECOND ESTIMATE OF THE COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION OF FRUITS, 1956,  
AND REPORT ON CONDITIONS OF FRUIT CROPS IN AUGUST, 1/ 1956



The second estimate of fruit crops for 1956 indicates smaller crops this year than last for all fruits. A backward spring followed by unfavourable summer weather was largely responsible for the reduction in tree fruit crops in central and eastern Canada while in British Columbia severe low temperature damage last winter cut production this season. Fruit crops were generally later than usual in the Maritimes, Ontario and Quebec but ahead of last year in British Columbia. Berry production was heavier in the Maritimes and Quebec this year than last. In Ontario strawberry production was down but the raspberry crop was up. However, the drastic reductions in British Columbia berry crops more than offset increases in the eastern provinces. The fact that almost all fruit crops were better than usual last year renders the difference between this year's crop and last year's somewhat greater than would have been the case had the 1955 harvest been more nearly average.

Apples: Latest estimates place the 1956 apple crop at 11.6 million bushels, 39 per cent less than last year. It is anticipated that crops will be down in all provinces in which this fruit is produced commercially. The most severe reductions, however, are anticipated in Nova Scotia and Quebec where the 1956 crop is not much more than one-half as large as in 1955. In British Columbia the 4.5 million bushel crop which is in prospect is 29 per cent less than 1955; this is the smallest reduction from last year in any province. Thirty-nine per cent of the total Canadian crop this year will be produced in British Columbia while last year orchards in that province accounted for only 33 per cent of the total output.

Pears: The 1956 pear crop is estimated at 1.4 million bushels, 6 per cent below 1955. Decreases in both of the principal pear producing provinces are expected, with the Ontario crop down 5 per cent from last year and the British Columbia crop 9 per cent lower. The latest estimate is slightly above that published in the month of August due to an improvement in crop prospects in all producing areas.

Peaches: Latest estimates place the 1956 peach crop at 1.9 million bushels, 33 per cent below that of last year and somewhat below previous forecasts. The Ontario crop of 1.5 million bushels was expected to be 35 per cent below 1955. Due to weather conditions brown rot disease developed during the period July 15 to August 15. Production in British Columbia estimated at 387,000 bushels is down 25 per cent.

1/ Material in this release is based on reports made on crop conditions during the latter part of August and early September. 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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Sweet Cherries: Sweet cherry production now stands at 83,000 bushels, 62 per cent below 1955. The Ontario crop is estimated at 38,000 bushels, down 64 per cent from last year while the British Columbia crop is 45,000 bushels, 61 per cent below 1955.

Sour Cherries: The 1956 sour cherry crop now estimated at 352,000 bushels is 35 per cent below that of 1955. This crop is produced exclusively in Ontario.

Apricots: Apricot production, which is confined to British Columbia, is now estimated at 89,000 bushels, 52 per cent below last year.

Strawberries: Estimates prepared during the latter part of August and early September place the 1956 strawberry crop at 17.5 million quarts, 23 per cent below last year. The only change from last month's estimate was a slight increase in the Ontario figure.

Raspberries: Latest reports estimate the 1956 raspberry crop at 5.3 million quarts, 56 per cent below that of 1955. Production was up in New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario but down in the very important raspberry growing area of the Lower Fraser Valley in British Columbia.

Loganberries: This crop produced commercially only in British Columbia is currently estimated at 344,000 pounds, 72 per cent less than in 1955.

Grapes: A grape crop of 79.1 million pounds, 17 per cent below last year, is in prospect. This year's crops are down in both Ontario and British Columbia, the two grape-growing provinces.

#### REGIONAL SUMMARY

Maritime Provinces: Latest estimates indicate an apple crop in Nova Scotia of 1.7 million bushels, 48 per cent below last year's 3.2 million bushels. The 1955 crop, however, although not historically a record high, was larger than usual in recent years due to extremely favourable yields. The maturity date of the 1956 crop is about ten days later than last year because of cold weather and lack of sunshine. Reports at the end of August indicated that the harvest of Gravensteins was expected to commence by the tenth of September, with picking general by the twentieth of the month. Some scab was reported and the quality of fruit was not generally as high as in the previous year. In New Brunswick the apple crop is now estimated at 275,000 bushels, 39 per cent below 1955. As in Nova Scotia the season is a week to ten days behind last year with the first early apples expected on the market by about the middle of September.

Nova Scotia pear orchards are expected to produce a crop of 45,000 bushels, 7 per cent above last year. Crop prospects are quite variable from orchard to orchard, however. Present indications point to a plum crop of 15,000 bushels, 25 per cent below last year. A decline in output is the result of a gradually declining tree population due to blackknot disease.

The Nova Scotia strawberry crop stands at 950,000 quarts, 15 per cent above last year. In New Brunswick the strawberry production for 1956 remains at 1.2 million quarts, 41 per cent above last year. Prince Edward Island strawberry production is now estimated at 1.6 million quarts, 74 per cent above that of last year. This is larger than was expected earlier and is, in part, the result of increased plantings in 1955. Raspberry production in Nova Scotia in 1956 has been placed at 40,000 quarts, the same as last year. In New Brunswick the raspberry crop of 50,000 quarts is 11 per cent over that of 1955. Although no estimates are available, reports indicate that the blueberry crop on Prince Edward Island is



considerably below last year while in Nova Scotia output is anticipated to be somewhat larger due to a greater area being covered by pickers this year. Some damage from the Tussock moth is reported in Cumberland county.

Quebec: Estimates prepared during the early part of September indicate an apple crop of 2.6 million bushels, 49 per cent below that of last year. During the last two weeks in August and first week in September intermittent hail storms struck throughout almost all the apple growing districts. However, although hail fell in each district it did not cause damage in all orchards. It is estimated that about 30,000 bushels of apples have been cut by hail to such an extent that they will have to be sold for processing. A further 200,000 bushels have sustained some damage but it is expected that this fruit can be marketed fresh. The crop of early apples is estimated at 475,000 bushels, while the main crop, most of which are McIntosh, stands at 1.8 million bushels. Picking of McIntosh apples is expected to start the week of September 17th. Although the apples are not particularly large, the colour is good. It is reported that the quality is high and the fruit clean despite wet weather and due to the great care exercised in spraying this year.

Ontario: In Eastern Ontario the weather was dry from July 15th to August 5th throughout most of the fruit-growing area. This was followed by some heavy showers, and moisture by the middle of August was adequate. Moderate temperatures during the day time accompanied by cool nights favoured the development of tree fruits and during this period no hail or damage occurred. In Western Ontario higher daytime temperatures and adequate moisture generally favoured fruit crops except where the rainfall was excessive. Although all fruits showed promise of good sizing, scab on pome fruits and brown rot on stone fruits threatened further crop reductions.

At mid-August the outlook was for an apple crop of 2.6 million bushels, 37 per cent below 1955. In Western Ontario several early varieties were ready to market in volume by August 15th in the southern and central counties. Although size was good, colouring was slow. Scab was reported developing on mid-season and late varieties. In Eastern Ontario conditions were a little better than one month previous although the majority of orchards were very patchy. Most insects and scab were under good control. Fruit was sizing well although the season was later than usual.

Latest estimates indicate a pear crop of 843,000 bushels, 5 per cent below last year. This crop in Western Ontario showed the best prospects of any and the fruit was sizing rapidly. Several early varieties were ready in the Niagara District. It was anticipated that production of Bartlett pears would be down in greater proportion than Kieffers.

Latest indications are for a plum crop of 316,000 bushels, 45 per cent below 1955. Reports indicate that this is a very irregular crop with prospects extremely variable in different areas and orchards. Plum curculio and brown rot were very active in all producing sections. By the middle of August the picking of Shiros and other early Japanese types was well advanced in the Niagara District and Essex county.

Estimates based on conditions as of August 15th place the 1956 peach crop at 1.5 million bushels, 35 per cent less than in 1955. Mid-season varieties reaching the market by August 15th commanded high prices because of the short supply. Weather conditions were often extremely favourable to brown rot disease which was developing in many orchards. The crop of late varieties is light but it is expected to size exceptionally well. Production of sweet cherries this year was finished by the beginning of August. The 1956 crop is now estimated at 38,000 bushels, 64 per cent below 1955. Sour cherries estimated at 352,000

bushels, 35 per cent below last year, were finished by mid-August.

The strawberry crop is now estimated at 6.0 million quarts, 21 per cent below last year. Output was lower throughout the province although quality was satisfactory. The latest estimates place this year's raspberry crop at 3.0 million quarts, 17 per cent above 1955. By the middle of August picking was finished in all southern counties in Western Ontario but still under way in the Georgian Bay area. In eastern counties showers and cool weather prolonged the picking season.

Estimates as of August 15th placed the 1956 grape crop at 78.0 million pounds, 16 per cent less than in 1955. The outlook was variable in different vineyards. Berries are expected to be large if the growing season is sufficiently extended but reports indicate mildew and grape berry moth activity. In northern Ontario blueberry picking was in full swing for a week prior to the middle of August with shipments moving to Toronto. An average crop was expected.

British Columbia: The weather throughout British Columbia has been generally hot with temperatures much above the average for the same period last year and all crops are from ten days to two weeks ahead of the 1955 season. The effects of the cold weather of last November and February continue to show up in orchard areas. Trees that at first appeared to be only slightly damaged are now being lost; this is particularly apparent in the case of sweet cherries, Newtown, Delicious and Rome Beauty apples.

Latest estimates place the apple crop at 4.5 million bushels, 29 per cent less than last year. Reports indicate that the McIntosh crop will be about normal and it was expected that picking would start around September 4th or 5th in the earlier locations. The pear crop, estimated at 526,000 bushels, is 9 per cent below that of last year. Prune production, placed in the latest estimates at 185,000 bushels, is 20 per cent below that of last year while peaches, now estimated at 387,000 bushels, are 25 per cent down. Apricots at 89,000 bushels are 52 per cent below last year. The 1956 sweet cherry crop stands at 45,000 bushels, 61 per cent below 1955.

The production of small fruits, except blueberries, is over for this year. Quality was generally good and satisfactory grower prices are reported. Strawberry production, estimated at 1.6 million quarts, was 79 per cent below last year and raspberry production at 1.9 million quarts was also 79 per cent below 1955. Loganberries at 344,000 quarts were down 72 per cent. The grape crop, estimated at 1.1 million pounds, will be 44 per cent less than last year.



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

Kind of Fruit	Production in Volumetric Units			Production in Tons <u>1/</u>	
	Unit	1955 '000	1956 '000	1955 tons	1956 tons
Canada -					
Apples	bu.	19,142	<del>12,614</del>		
Pears	bu.	1,510	1,414	37,750	35,350
Plums and prunes	bu.	828	516	20,700	12,900
Peaches	bu.	2,883	1,933	72,075	48,325
Apricots	bu.	184	89	4,600	2,225
Cherries, sweet	bu.	221	83	5,525	2,075
Cherries, sour	bu.	542	352	13,550	8,800
Strawberries	qt.	22,674	17,505	15,112	11,138
Raspberries	qt.	12,099	5,339	8,706	3,573
Loganberries	lb.	1,237	344	618	172
Grapes	lb.	94,752	79,110	47,376	39,555
Prince Edward Island -					
Strawberries	qt.	890	1,550	556	969
Nova Scotia -					
Apples	bu.	3,250	1,700		
Pears	bu.	42	45	1,050	1,125
Plums and prunes	bu.	20	15	500	375
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	2,555		
Strawberries	qt.	5,000	6,250	3,125	3,906
Raspberries	qt.	300	350	188	219
Ontario -					
Apples	bu.	4,037	2,552		
Pears	bu.	887	843	22,175	21,075
Plums and prunes	bu.	576	316	14,400	7,900
Peaches	bu.	2,370	1,546	59,250	38,650
Cherries, sweet	bu.	105	38	2,625	950
Cherries, sour	bu.	542	352	13,550	8,800
Strawberries	qt.	7,578	5,976	4,736	3,735
Raspberries	qt.	2,566	3,007	1,604	1,879
Grapes	lb.	92,760	78,000	46,380	39,000



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Second 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	4,532		
Pears	bu.	581	526	14,525	13,150
Plums and prunes	bu.	232	185	5,800	4,625
Peaches	bu.	513	387	12,825	9,675
Apricots	bu.	184	89	4,600	2,225
Cherries, sweet	bu.	116	45	2,900	1,125
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).