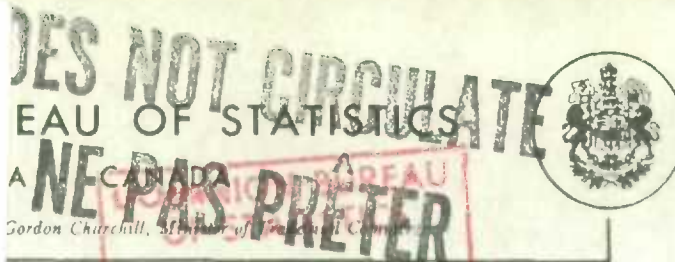


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SECOND ESTIMATE OF THE COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION OF FRUITS, 1957
AND REPORT ON CONDITIONS OF ALL FRUIT CROPS IN AUGUST*, 1957

The second estimate of fruit crops for 1957 indicates increases over last year for all fruits except pears and strawberries. A considerable proportion of the increase in 1956 is attributable to recovery of orchards and small fruit plantations in British Columbia from the severe low temperature damage sustained in the winter of 1955-56. Output in 1956 was very low. Conditions for soft fruits in Ontario have been generally more favourable this year than last. Production in 1956 was reduced by a backward spring, followed by a cool, wet summer.

Apples: Latest estimates place the 1957 apple crop at 13.0 million bushels, 5 per cent above last year. It is anticipated that the British Columbia crop will reach 5.9 million bushels, 44 per cent greater than in 1956. Production in all other provinces except New Brunswick, however, will be considerably less than last year.

Pears: The 1957 pear crop is estimated at 942,000 bushels, 33 per cent below last year's 1.4 million bushels, a large percentage of this reduction being due to a less favourable outlook in Ontario where a total outturn of 309,000 bushels is anticipated, 62 per cent less than in 1956. Output in British Columbia is now placed at 610,000 bushels, 14 per cent above the previous year.

Peaches: The latest estimates place the 1957 peach crop at 2.5 million bushels, 49 per cent above last year's short crop and slightly higher than in 1954 although still somewhat below the 1955 bumper crop. Larger total yields were in prospect in both Ontario and British Columbia, the two peach-growing provinces.

Sweet Cherries: Sweet cherry production is now estimated at 238,000 bushels, 148 per cent above that of 1956. The Ontario crop of 60,000 bushels was 58 per cent above that of last year while the British Columbia output of 178,000 bushels was over three times as large as in 1956 when production was exceptionally low.

Sour Cherries: The 1957 sour cherry crop now estimated at 322,000 bushels is 10 per cent above that of last year.

Apricots: Apricot production which is confined to British Columbia, is now estimated at 252,000 bushels, three times as great as the short crop harvested in 1956.

* Material in this release is based on reports made on crop conditions during the latter part of August. 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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Strawberries: Estimates prepared during the latter part of August place the 1957 strawberry crop at 15.4 million quarts, 19 per cent down from last year. Very large increases over 1956 in British Columbia failed to completely offset reduced yields in Eastern Canada where drought during and immediately preceding the picking season cut output.

Raspberries: Latest reports estimate the 1957 raspberry crop at 10.6 million quarts, 59 per cent greater than in 1956. A much larger crop was harvested this year in British Columbia where production in 1956 had been severely reduced.

Loganberries: This crop, produced commercially only in British Columbia, is currently estimated at 1,000,000 pounds, very substantially above last year's exceptionally short crop of 279,000 pounds.

Grapes: A grape crop of 81 million pounds, 1 per cent above 1956 is in prospect. This increase is due to larger anticipated production in British Columbia with the output in Ontario remaining the same as in 1956.

REGIONAL SUMMARY

Maritimes: Latest estimates indicate an apple crop in Nova Scotia of 2.0 million bushels, 9 per cent below last year's production. Reports indicate that dry weather had reduced sizing, although it was felt that if favourable weather prevailed after the end of August, later varieties might still grow rapidly. Uncared-for orchards are not expected to produce a significant proportion of the crop this year as was the case in 1956. Much of the reduction in output is attributed to this factor. Fruit in commercial orchards is exceptionally clean and free from insect damage. Although some early varieties were on the market by the end of August, picking was not expected to be general until September 20. In New Brunswick, the apple crop is estimated at 375,000 bushels, 36 per cent above last year. The apples were maturing well in spite of some dry periods and sizing is good. The fruit is cleaner than average especially in the case of early maturing varieties. The harvest of several of the early varieties has been completed and the picking of a promising crop of Melbas as well as Duchess was under way at the end of August.

Nova Scotia pear orchards are expected to produce 23,000 bushels, 49 per cent less than last year. The set of fruit was light as a result of early frost on the bloom. However, the fruit on the trees was expected to size well and it was anticipated that picking would be general during September. Present indications are for a plum crop of 5,000 bushels, 67 per cent less than in 1956. The fruit was being harvested and sold locally. The reduced production is attributed to frost damage in the spring and black knot disease on the trees.

The Nova Scotia strawberry crop now stands at 650,000 quarts, 32 per cent below last year's 950,000 quarts. The reduction was attributed largely to dry weather earlier in the year when moisture was needed for proper development of the fruit. Prince Edward Island strawberry production is now estimated at 971,000 quarts, 37 per cent down from 1956. Some of this cut in output is attributed to a smaller area harvested this year. In New Brunswick, the latest estimate for strawberries is 700,000 quarts, 42 per cent less than in 1956. Raspberry production in Nova Scotia has been placed at 40,000 quarts the same as last year while in New Brunswick, this crop is estimated at 45,000 quarts, 10 per cent below 1956.

Quebec: Estimates prepared at the end of August place the 1957 apple crop in Quebec at 2.1 million bushels, 26 per cent down from last year's 2.8 million. Reports indicate that there is considerable variation in crop prospects throughout the apple growing districts of the province. Frost during blossom time last May reduced prospects in different areas and orchards in varying degrees. The harvest of the early varieties is finished and turned out quite well. Present indications point to good colouring of the main crop with size variable. Latest estimates place the strawberry crop at 3.1 million quarts, only one half as great as in 1956. The raspberry crop was better than anticipated earlier and is now estimated at 412,000 quarts, 18 per cent above that of last year. The quality was excellent and demand was strong.

Ontario: Weather conditions in Ontario from mid-July to mid-August were warm with very little rain. In the fruit growing districts of Western Ontario, scab development was checked but insects became more active. The effect of the drought on tree fruits was limited, but rain was needed to promote sizing. At mid-August, the outlook was for an apple crop of 2.6 million bushels, 12 per cent less than in 1956. In Western Ontario, the harvesting of early varieties was well advanced with yield and quality good, although colouring was not completely satisfactory in some sections due to the hot weather. In some areas of Eastern Ontario, the lack of rain was hampering proper sizing of the fruit. Scab was reported present but generally held in check by control measures and weather conditions. Insects were also generally well under control.

Latest estimates place pear production at 309,000 bushels, 62 per cent less than in 1956. Some early varieties were reaching the market by the middle of August and good-sized fruit was reported. Pests were generally well under control.

Mid-August indications pointed to a plum crop of 312,000 bushels, 11 per cent above that of last year. Early varieties turned out quite well and later varieties were sizing and maturing rapidly by August 15. However, rain would have been helpful. The peach crop estimated at 1.9 million bushels was 41 per cent above 1956. By the middle of August, early varieties had all been picked and Jubilees were coming on the market. Weather conditions were generally favourable for development of the fruit with the exception of some very hot days early in August when high temperatures were injurious to nearly ripened fruit. Generally the crop was clean and quality good.

The sweet cherry crop, estimated at 60,000 bushels, was 58 per cent greater than in 1956. Except for some splitting, quality was high. Sour cherry orchards yielded some 322,000 bushels, 10 per cent over 1956. Size and quality were good.

Present indications are for a grape crop of 79.8 million pounds the same as in 1956. Some variation in this crop is, however, apparent. The berries are reported to be sizing well but the size and compactness of the bunches is variable. Mildew is reported. Some vineyards show the present of grape berry moth.

British Columbia: Estimates as of August 15, place the 1957 apple crop at 5.9 million bushels, an increase of 44 per cent over last year's output of 4.1 million bushels, and also somewhat above the July 15 estimate of 5.6 million bushels.

Pear orchards, according to the latest estimates, are expected to produce a total of 610,000 bushels in 1957, 14 per cent above last year. Plums and prunes now estimated at 231,000 bushels, are the only fruit crop in British Columbia to fall short of 1956 when production was 3 per cent greater than is anticipated this year. Peach production in 1957, at 556,000 bushels, is 85 per cent above last year's 300,000 bushels. The apricot harvest, now estimated at 252,000 bushels was 200 per cent above that of last year. A total of 178,000 bushels of sweet cherries were harvested this season, an increase of over 200 per cent from 1956. A grape crop of 1.1 million pounds is in prospect, 150 per cent greater than last year.

With the one exception plums and prunes, the production of all fruits is very much better in 1957 than in the previous year. This year's output of pears, peaches, apricots and sweet cherries also surpasses production in both 1954 and 1955. Yields in 1956 were very sharply reduced due to low-temperature damage the previous winter. Latest estimates would seem to indicate that a very considerable degree of recovery has been achieved.

Due to the fact that in 1956 a number of fruit crops were much smaller than usual and in 1955 much larger than usual, comparable figures are shown in the following Table for the years 1954, 1955, 1956, to facilitate comparison with the current season's forecasts.

Second Estimate of Fruit Production 1957 with Comparable Figures for 1956

Kind of Fruit	Unit	Production in Volumetric Units			
		1954	1955	1956	1957
		'000	'000	'000	'000
Canada -					
Apples	bu.	14,500	19,142	12,424	13,039
Pears	bu.	1,261	1,510	1,400	942
Plums and prunes	bu.	716	828	534	548
Peaches	bu.	2,425	2,883	1,667	2,484
Apricots	bu.	118	184	84	252
Cherries, sweet	bu.	174	221	96	238
Cherries, sour	bu.	426	542	292	322
Strawberries	qt.	27,971	22,674	19,112	15,426
Raspberries	qt.	12,839	12,099	6,656	10,559
Loganberries	lb.	1,056	1,237	279	1,026
Grapes	lb.	88,876	94,752	80,274	80,983
Prince Edward Island -					
Strawberries	qt.	780	890	1,550	971
Nova Scotia -					
Apples	bu.	2,157	3,250	2,206	2,000
Pears	bu.	40	42	45	23
Plums and prunes	bu.	20	20	15	5
Strawberries	qt.	715	825	950	650
Raspberries	qt.	37	40	40	40

Second Estimate of Fruit Production 1957 with Comparable Figures for 1956

Kind of Fruit	Unit	Production in Volumetric Units			
		1954	1955	1956	1957
		'000	'000	'000	'000
New Brunswick -					
Apples	bu.	250	450	275	375
Strawberries	qt.	775	850	1,200	700
Raspberries	qt.	50	45	50	45
Quebec -					
Apples	bu.	2,500	5,000	2,820	2,100
Strawberries	qt.	8,500	5,000	6,250	3,100
Raspberries	qt.	350	300	350	412
Ontario -					
Apples	bu.	3,071	4,037	2,992	2,631
Pears	bu.	664	887	819	309
Plums and prunes	bu.	486	576	281	312
Peaches	bu.	2,154	2,370	1,367	1,928
Cherries, sweet	bu.	84	105	38	60
Cherries, sour	bu.	426	542	292	322
Strawberries	qt.	7,992	7,578	7,524	6,205
Raspberries	qt.	3,170	2,566	2,721	2,326
Grapes	lb.	87,102	92,760	79,814	79,834
British Columbia -					
Apples	bu.	6,522	6,405	4,131	5,933
Pears	bu.	557	581	536	610
Plums and prunes	bu.	210	232	238	231
Peaches	bu.	271	513	300	556
Apricots	bu.	118	184	84	252
Cherries, sweet	bu.	90	116	58	178
Strawberries	qt.	9,209	7,531	1,638	3,800
Raspberries	qt.	9,232	9,148	3,495	7,736
Loganberries	lb.	1,056	1,237	279	1,026
Grapes	lb.	1,774	1,992	460	1,149

Production in Tons 1/

	1954	1955	1956	1957
	tons	tons	tons	tons
Canada -				
Pears	31,525	37,750	35,000	23,550
Plums and prunes	17,900	20,700	13,350	13,700
Peaches	60,625	72,075	41,675	62,100
Apricots	2,950	4,600	2,100	6,300
Cherries, sweet	4,350	5,525	2,400	5,950
Cherries, sour	10,650	13,550	7,300	8,050
Strawberries	18,633	15,112	12,149	10,117
Raspberries	9,178	8,706	4,597	7,567
Loganberries	528	618	140	513
Grapes	44,438	47,376	40,137	40,491



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Second Estimate of Fruit Production 1957 with Comparable Figures for 1956

Kind of Fruit	Production in Tons ^{1/}			
	1954	1955	1956	1957
	tons	tons	tons	tons
Prince Edward Island -				
Strawberries	488	556	969	607
Nova Scotia -				
Pears	1,000	1,050	1,125	575
Plums and prunes	500	500	375	125
Strawberries	447	516	594	406
Raspberries	23	25	25	25
New Brunswick -				
Strawberries	484	531	750	438
Raspberries	31	28	31	28
Quebec -				
Strawberries	5,312	3,125	3,906	1,938
Raspberries	219	188	219	258
Ontario -				
Pears	16,600	22,175	20,475	7,725
Plums and prunes	12,150	14,400	7,025	7,800
Peaches	53,850	59,250	34,175	48,200
Cherries, sweet	2,100	2,625	950	1,500
Cherries, sour	10,650	13,550	7,300	8,050
Strawberries	4,995	4,736	4,702	3,878
Raspberries	1,981	1,604	1,701	1,454
Grapes	43,551	46,380	39,907	39,917
British Columbia -				
Pears	13,925	14,525	13,400	15,250
Plums and prunes	5,250	5,800	5,950	5,775
Peaches	6,775	12,825	7,500	13,900
Apricots	2,950	4,600	2,100	6,300
Cherries, sweet	2,250	2,900	1,450	4,450
Strawberries	6,907	5,648	1,228	2,850
Raspberries	6,924	6,861	2,621	5,802
Loganberries	528	618	140	513
Grapes	887	936	230	574

^{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).