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November 27, 1956.FOURTH ESTIMATE OF COMMERCIAL FRUIT PRODUCTION 1956

The information on estimates of production of fruits as set out in this release is based on reports made as of the middle of October for Ontario and the middle of November for the Maritime Provinces, Quebec and British Columbia. Accordingly all estimates apply to the situation as it existed at the time when the reports concerned were made.

Apples

The latest estimates place the 1956 apple crop at 12.0 million bushels, 37 per cent below last year's crop of 19.1 million bushels. The substantial reduction from the 1955 output is attributed to unfavourable weather conditions during the growing season in the Maritime Provinces, Quebec and Ontario and the results of winter injury sustained last season in the orchards of the Okanagan Valley in British Columbia. This year's outturn is the smallest since 1953, production being much lower than last year in all apple-producing provinces.

Latest estimates place the Nova Scotia apple crop at 1.7 million bushels, 49 per cent less than in 1955. Early frosts on October 24 and 25 caused a reduction of about 10 per cent from estimates prepared earlier in the season. Reports indicate that the damage was mostly confined to Ben Davis, Gano, Stark and Spys.

In Quebec, November 15 estimates indicate a crop of 2.8 million bushels, 44 per cent below that of last year but slightly higher than indicated earlier in the season. Quality of the crop has been good this year with a high colour. Heavy frosts caused some losses to windfall apples held in barn storages for delivery to processing plants. Production in Ontario, estimated at 2,727 thousand bushels is 32 per cent less than in 1955. Latest estimates place the British Columbia crop at 4.6 million bushels, 28 per cent below last year.

Pears

The total production of pears in Canada in 1956 is estimated at 1.4 million bushels, 5 per cent below the 1955 crop. Production was almost the same this year as last in Ontario but down 12 per cent in British Columbia.

Plums and Prunes

Latest estimates indicate a 1956 crop of plums and prunes of 612,000 bushels, 26 per cent below last year. Production declined in all provinces in which this crop is grown commercially.

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Peaches

A total of 1.6 million bushels of peaches was harvested in Canada in 1956, a sharp reduction of 45 per cent from last year's record output. Crops were smaller in both Ontario and British Columbia, the two peach-growing provinces.

Apricots

Production of apricots in 1956 stood at 111,000 bushels, 40 per cent less than in 1955. The smaller output of this crop, which is grown commercially in British Columbia only, was attributed to the results of last season's winter damage to the orchards in the Okanagan Valley of British Columbia.

Cherries

The 1956 crop of sweet cherries is now estimated at 109,000 bushels, 51 per cent below the 1955 figure. Crops were smaller this year than last in both Ontario and British Columbia. Sour cherry production in Ontario at 352,000 pounds, was 35 per cent below 1955.

Small Fruits

The 1956 strawberry crop is now estimated at 17.5 million quarts, 23 per cent less than last year. Raspberry production at 6.4 million quarts was 47 per cent below 1955. A total of 297,000 pounds of loganberries was picked this year, 76 per cent less than last year's 1.2 million pound crop. The 1956 grape production is estimated at 80.4 million pounds, 15 per cent less than in 1955.

This report was prepared in the Agriculture Division of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from information received from the various Provincial Departments of Agriculture, the Quebec Provincial Bureau of Statistics and the Canada Department of Agriculture. The material for Ontario was submitted by the Ontario Committee on Fruit and Vegetable Statistics.

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

Kind of Fruit	Production in Volumetric Units			Production in Tons 1/	
	Unit	1955 '000	1956 '000	1955 tons	1956 tons
Canada -					
Apples	bu.	19,142	12,042		
Pears	bu.	1,510	1,437	37,750	35,925
Plums and prunes	bu.	828	612	20,700	15,300
Peaches	bu.	2,883	1,591	72,075	39,775
Apricots	bu.	184	111	4,600	2,775
Cherries, sweet	bu.	221	109	5,525	2,725
Cherries, sour	bu.	542	352	13,550	8,800
Strawberries	qt.	22,674	17,515	15,112	11,146
Raspberries	qt.	12,099	6,394	8,706	4,364
Loganberries	lb.	1,237	297	618	148
Grapes	lb.	94,752	80,423	47,376	40,212
Prince Edward Island -					
Strawberries	qt.	890	1,550	556	969
Nova Scotia -					
Apples	bu.	3,250	1,665		
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	250		
Strawberries	qt.	850	1,200	531	750
Raspberries	qt.	45	50	28	31
Quebec -					
Apples	bu.	5,000	2,820		
Strawberries	qt.	5,000	6,250	3,125	3,906
Raspberries	qt.	300	350	188	219
Ontario -					
Apples	bu.	4,037	2,727		
Pears	bu.	887	883	22,175	22,075
Plums and prunes	bu.	576	382	14,400	9,550
Peaches	bu.	2,370	1,335	59,250	33,375
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	80,000	46,380	40,000



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

Kind of Fruit	Production in Volumetric Units			Production in Tons ^{1/}	
	Unit	1955 '000	1956 '000	1955 tons	1956 tons
British Columbia -					
Apples	bu.	6,405	4,580		
Pears	bu.	581	509	14,525	12,725
Plums and prunes	bu.	232	215	5,800	5,375
Peaches	bu.	513	256	12,825	6,400
Apricots	bu.	184	111	4,600	2,775
Cherries, sweet	bu.	116	71	2,900	1,775
Strawberries	qt.	7,531	1,589	5,648	1,192
Raspberries	qt.	9,148	2,947	6,861	2,210
Loganberries	lb.	1,237	297	618	148
Grapes	lb.	1,992	423	996	212

^{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).