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Fruit and Vegetable Crop Report

Ottawa, June 20, 1936 - The Dominion Bureau of Statistics in co-operation with the Fruit Branch of the Department of Agriculture and the Provincial Departments of Agriculture issues to-day a report showing the condition of fruit and vegetable crops throughout Canada with prospects for the current season.

SUMMARY

Tree and small fruits came through the winter without injury in all eastern provinces with the exception of damage by mice and rabbits, chiefly in Ontario orchards. In British Columbia, considerable damage was done to trees by severe weather in February as well as by the early frost of last October. Less hardy varieties of raspberries were also damaged. The season is backward in all provinces. Sharp frosts during May were common to all eastern Canada and damage in varying amounts was caused to fruit bloom and early truck crops. British Columbia was not affected by spring frosts. Moisture conditions are generally satisfactory in all provinces. British Columbia has had excessive rain during early June and warm bright weather is needed there. Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime provinces have had good rains though more rain in parts of Ontario would be beneficial. Spraying has been difficult in the Maritimes and British Columbia and fungous pests are gaining a foothold. Prospects are for reduced yields of most fruit crops in all provinces. Considerable replacement planting has been done and some new orchards have been set out. Substantial new plantings of stone fruits have been made in Ontario with comparatively little new planting of grapes. Vegetable crops promise larger yields from increased acreages in Ontario and Quebec, particularly canning crops, with some reductions in British Columbia. Manitoba and the Maritime Provinces show little change in vegetable acreage. Cutworms have caused considerable damage in Ontario and British Columbia while flea beetles have injured early cabbage and cauliflower in Manitoba. Strawberries are moving in full supply from British Columbia while early districts of Ontario are shipping heavily. The main crop will be on the market in about a week. Field grown vegetables are now available in most parts of the country with early districts in full production.

Note: - Where condition figures are quoted in the following reports, the basis is as follows: 1-poor; 2-below average; 3-average; 4-above average; 5-exceptionally good.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Tree and small fruits came through the winter without injury. Weather during May was rather wet and cold but on the whole temperatures and moisture conditions have been satisfactory. No damage has been reported from spring frosts except in the case of a few early strawberry blooms. Present prospects indicate an excellent crop of all fruits. Vegetable crops look promising.

NOVA SCOTIA

A mild open autumn continued into December and the short winter was followed by an early spring. Trees wintered without injury. Some dead wood was in evidence, mostly on old trees and resulting from the effects of the exceptional winter of 1933-34. Small fruits came through the winter in good condition. Some injury occurred to raspberries in late December as a result of heavy snow which drifted and stripped buds from the cames as it settled. Strawberry plants uncovered in bright green condition.

Early summer-like weather of March brought about premature development of buds on trees and small fruits with the result that bloom was probably the earliest on record. During May, weather was cool with several frosts which did some damage to apple and strawberry blooms. Moisture supplies have been generally adequate for spring growth. Cool showery weather adversely affected pollination and was unfavourable for spraying although conditions had improved by mid-June. Whenever the weather was fit,

Department and state of the sta growers have carried out spraying vigorously and many have resorted to dusting to protect the trees. Outside the frosted area there is a very heavy set. Even in many orchards touched by frost there are plenty of apples for a crop. Some growers, however, in the badly frosted areas cut down on spraying with serious results insofar as scab is concerned.

Thoroughly sprayed orchards are showing up clean with every prospect for a good crop, except in frosted areas. This does not apply to Baldwins. In poorly sprayed orchards there is a large amount of scab on leaves. This is also showing on the fruit and there is some question as to what extent these apples are going to drop and to what extent the spotted fruit will remain and thus be a menace to the crop this fall. Nicotine sprays are being applied to control oyster shell scale in some orchards.

Good returns received for the 1935 crop stimulated a revival of interest in fruit growing and considerable new planting has been done as a result. Apple trees account for the bulk of this although some pears and plums have been set out. In addition, quantities of apple stocks have been imported for propagating nursery trees for future plantings. Growers report plantings of Cortland, Golden Russet and Wagener. Replacement of blanks in orchards has been general. Evidence of renewed interest is also seen in the fact that fertilizer sales have been heavier than usual and growers are feeding trees well.

Acreage under strawberries and raspberries will be about the same as last year. In eastern Nova Scotia the late bloom has taken the place of the frosted early bloom and there is still a good chance for a crop. It has been very dry but this drouth has apparently broken, which will materially help production. The loss by frost in the Annapolis Valley is severe and the crop there will be light. The Chebogue district at Yarmouth escaped the frosts but some places in the Yarmouth district did not. Canners have been scouting around for a supply for canning but thus far they have failed to obtain such a supply, due to hesitancy on the part of growers to sell quantities. The strawberry crop for the province is estimated from 20 to 50 per cent less than 1935 on account of frost damage. Raspberry production is estimated about the same as last year. Cherries and plums promise full crops. Pears are generally good though there has been some frost injury to the blossoms.

The following table shows the condition of tree fruits at the middle of

June:

Varieties of Apples				Other kinds of		
Gravenstein Ribston Cox Orange McIntosh Golden Russet	3.3 3.3 3.0	King	2.4 3.2 2.7	tree fruit Pears		

NEW BRUNSWICK

While a few trees have died as a result of injuries incurred during the winter of 1933-34, no damage of any account was done to apple orchards during the past winter. Strawberries and raspberries also came through the winter unharmed. Spring has been a little backward but present temperature and moisture conditions are very satisfactory and crops are making good growth. Some slight frost injury occurred on strawberry blooms but this was not serious.

Apple bloom was light but favourable weather conditions during the blooming period ensured a good set and prospects are for a good crop. Dull cool weather over a two weeks' period prior to bloom favoured the development of scab but in well sprayed orchards, insect and fungous pests are under control. Strawberries and raspberries promise some increase in production. White grub injury to strawberry roots has been noticed in some sections but the damage has not been extensive.

New plantings of strawberries have been above average this spring. There has been little activity in the way of setting out new orchards but considerable replacement of trees killed in previous winters. McIntosh, Cortland and to a lesser extent Melba and some of the other new varieties have been set out. Some topworking has been done this spring.

 The condition of apples is shown in the following table:

Early Varieties	Mid-Season Varieties	Late Winter Varieties				
Crimson Beauty 2.4 Transparent 3.0 Melba 2.7 Duchess 3.1 Wealthy 2.3	Fameuse	Bishop Pippin 2.1 Golden Russet 2.6 Bethel 3.0 Spy 2.6				
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QUEBEC

Apple trees came through the winter in good condition with little or no injury beyond some trunk damage which continued to show up as a result of the 1933-34 winter. Growers were advised to apply remedial measures in such cases, Raspberries and strawberries also wintered well.

Throughout the province the season is backward. Cool dull weather with frequent heavy rains during May delayed field work and retarded the development of fruit bloom. Market gardeners were unable to get on their land as early as usual. Severe frosts were experienced on May 15 and 16 resulting in considerable damage, mostly in the Montreal area. During early June, weather conditions improved, stimulating growth and bringing all crops along rapidly.

Apple trees in the Montreal area were seriously affected by May frosts. There has been considerable improvement, however, and present prospects indicate a fair crop of most varieties. In the Quebec and lower St. Lawrence districts apples were not so far advanced and thus escaped frost injury. Strawberries were somewhat affected around Montreal but the secondary bloom was heavy and the crop though later than usual, should be about 75 per cent of normal. Elsewhere in the province prospects are for a normal crop. Raspberries promise a full crop providing modature supplies are well maintained. There is an increase of about 13 per cent in area devoted to raspberries. No serious outbreaks of insect or fungous pests have been reported.

Market gardeners lost heavily by the May frosts. Crops in frames were injured and field crops of beans and corn had to be reseeded in some cases. In the Quebec area, the damage to vegetables is estimated at 50 per cent. In the Montreal district all crops are growing well and supplies of early field grown vegetables are now available. Within the next two weeks there will be liberal quantities of all early crops on the market. For the province as a whole, there is an estimated increase of from eight to ten per cent in the area under truck crops for market and canning factory use, exclusive of city gardens. Increases are anticipated as follows: Lettuce 10 per cent; corn 16 per cent; onions 24 per cent; peas 4 per cent; tomatoes 23 per cent; early potatoes 11 per cent; other vegetables 8 per cent. Decreases are looked for in the following crops: Carrots 5 per cent; colery 9 per cent; cabbage 2 per cent; beans 15 to 20 per cent.

ONTARIO

Injury to fruit trees during the past winter was chiefly confined to serious damage in most areas by mice and rabbits. Frost killing was practically negligible, but many trees continue to succumb from the winter effects of 1933-34. Tree replacements have been heavy this spring in all parts of the Province. Strawberries came through the winter in normal condition, but the effects of last summer's drought is apparent in many plantations. Raspberry canes suffered actual winter-killing in Essex and Kent, cane breakage, due to heavy snow, in York and Peel, and some mouse injury in Elgin, Middlesex and Huron. In other areas plantations wintered well.

Spring temperature conditions varied greatly in the month of May, when a period of abnormal heat was followed by cold weather with some accompanying frosts during blossom and setting time. This was in turn followed by drying winds with the threat of drought in Western and Central Ontario, which was relieved by rains in early June. Some producing areas, including the eastern part of the Niagara district, Essex, Norfolk, Middlesex, and Oshawa-Kingston section, were badly in need of rain again by the middle of the month. Heavy showers, generally throughout the province on Wednesday, June 17, provided good supplies of moisture. The frost injury was most severe in Eastern Ontario and in the eastern part of Central Ontario, particularly the Trenton-Brighton district. Vegetables and early fruit and strawberry blossoms which were out at that time suffered heavily in this area. In Central Ontario and the Niagara Peninsula, frost damage was

-Distribution less severe, but, nevertheless, quite extensive. Varying damage was done to apples, pears, grapes, and the first bloom on strawberries.

Strawberries had an extremely heavy showing of blossoms in all parts of the province this season, but owing to frost damage the yield per acre will be approximately 25 per cent less than the heavy crop of 1935. First pickings commenced on June 4, and the commercial movement started on June 9. Plantings this season will be about normal.

The acreage of bearing strawberry plants is smaller than a year ago but there is an increased acreage of raspberries.

Considerable deadwood injury is in evidence in many sweet cherry orchards. Indications are for a very good crop of sweet cherries, above average, and for a slightly under average crop of sour cherries. First harvesting of sweet cherries began about June 13, with commercial shipments about June 19.

The bloom on pear trees was very heavy, but frost damage and unfavourable weather during the setting period have greatly lessened prospects, and production will be below average. Pests are well under control in pear orchards, and there is very little blight in evidence.

Serious wood injury and considerable mortality is becoming apparent in the older peach orchards in the Niagara district. Younger trees are in fair condition, and give prospects of a good crop, but the older trees have only a light set of fruit and the total crop is now estimated slightly below average. Japanese and European plums are below average, and prunes are very light. Both plum and pear trees set extremely light in Halton, Peel and Burlington areas. Older plum trees, particularly the Reine Claude variety, show extensive wood injury. This year's grape crop was reduced an estimated 30 per cent by late frosts in May and two severe hail storms which occurred in quite restricted areas.

Plantings of peaches, plums, cherries and pears, have been made on quite an extensive scale this spring. Some new plantings of grape vines have been also made, but the increased acreage is very limited as compared with last year.

The production of apples in Eastern Ontario, where chiefly early varieties are grown, will be quite light. This is true of the early varieties throughout the Province, and is due principally to the heavy crop of 1935. In Central Ontario, Snow, Baldwin and Greening will be light crops. Spy shows a good set as does also Wealthy. McIntosh and Stark are expected to be an average crop. The prospects for Southern and Western Ontario are set out below:

Early varieties: below average to average, mostly average.

Wealthy: slightly below average.

Snow: below average (poor to below average in Georgian Bay, Norfolk and Burlington districts; average in other areas).

McIntosh: slightly below average (average in Essex-Kent-Lambton, Elgin-Oxford, Middlesex, and Huron; below average other areas),

Baldwin: slightly below average (average in York-Peel, Brant, Elgin-Oxford, Middlesex, Georgian Bay, Burlington and Norfolk; below average other areas).

Greening: average in all areas except Elgin-Oxford which is reported below average.

Spy: average to above average in all areas except Burlington district, which is below average.

Stark: generally average.

Other Varieties: slightly below average (averages in all areas except Niagara and Essex-Kent-Lambton, which report below average.

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CONDITION OF FRUITS

FRUIT	Eastern Ontario	Central Ontario	Western Ontario	Southern Ontario	Average Province
Apples					
Early Varieties Wealthy Snow	2.0 2.9 1.6 2.5	2.6 3.3 2.0 3.0	2.5 2.5 1.8 2.7	2.6 2.7 2.0 2.9	2.5 2.9 1.8 2.8
Baldwin	3.0	1.7 2.4 3.6 3.0 3.0	1.9 3.0 3.5 3.0 2.9	2.7 3.0 3.0 3.0 2.8	2.4 2.9 3.3 3.0 2.9
Cherries					
Sweet	2.5	2.5	2.5	4.0	3.8 2.5
Bartlett	2.0	2.3 3.0 2.4	1.5 2.8 2.9	2.4 2.8 3.0	2.0 2.8 2.7
Peaches	~ ~ w			2.4	2.7
Plums					
Japanese	1.3	2.0	2.0	2.6	2.4
Grapes		on order	2.0	2.5	2.4
Strawberries					
Production	30%d 10%d	30%d 8%i	20%d 10%d	20%d 10%d	23%d 8%d
Raspberries					
Production Bearing Plants	5%d 5% £	same 10%i	15%i 10%i	12%i 10%i	10%i 9%i

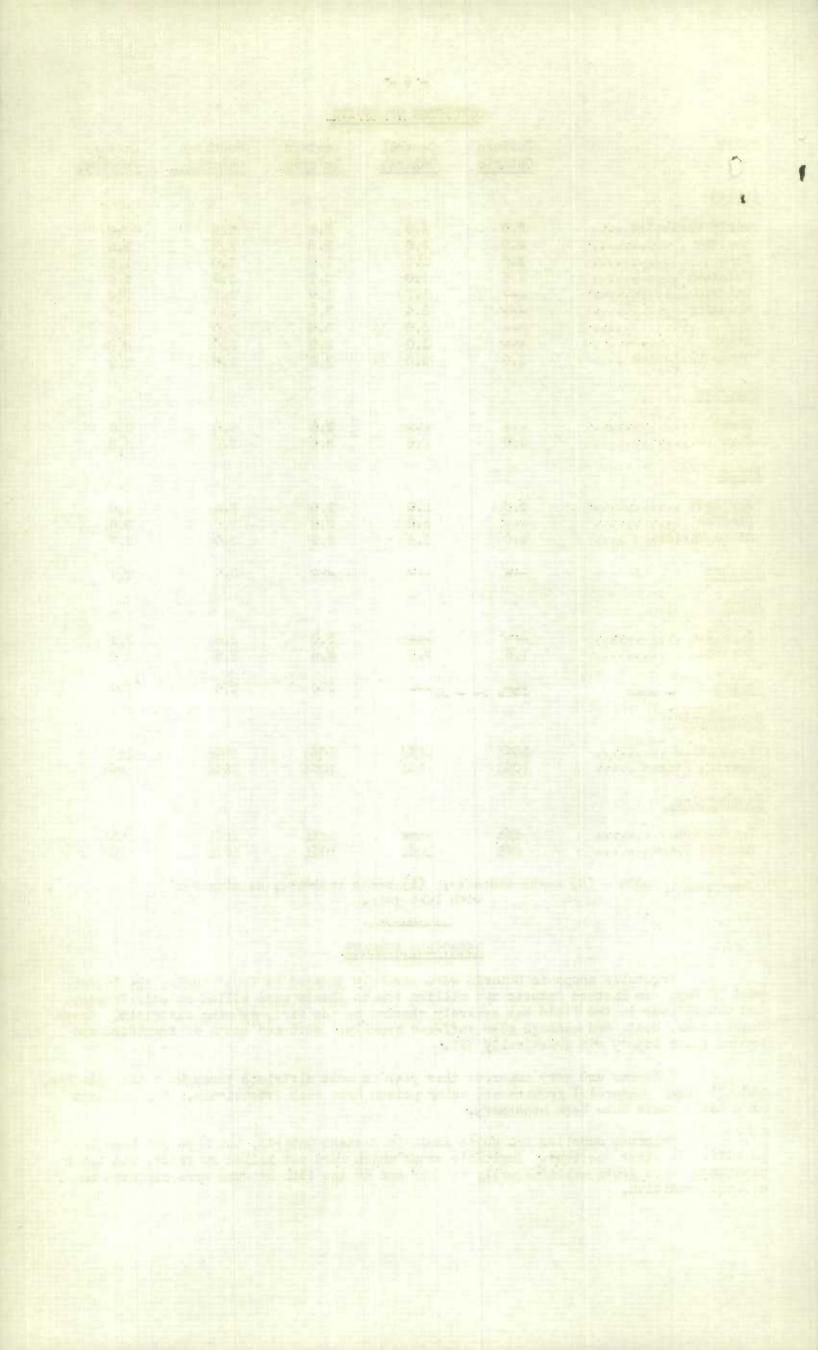
note - (d) means decrease; (1) means increase, as compared with last year.

VEGETABLE SUMMARY

Vegetable crops in Ontario were severely damaged by frost during the latter part of May. In Eastern Ontario two million tomato plants were killed in cold frames, and cauliflower in the field was severely checked in the early growing districts. Green beans, peas, beets and cabbage also suffered heavily. West and south of Brantford and London frost injury was practically nil.

Cutworms are very numerous this year in most districts throughout the province, and all large commercial growers are using poison bran bait extensively. Replacements on a large scale have been necessary.

Moisture supplies are quite ample in Eastern Ontario, but have not been too plentiful in other sections. Vegetable crops which were not killed by frost, and later plantings, have grown satisfactorily to date and at the 15th of June were reported in average condition.



CONDITION OF VEGETABLES

(Condition on basis of present acreage)

Vegetables	Eastern Ontario	Central Ontario	Western Ontario	Southern Ontario	Average Province
Asparagus	2.6	3.3	3.0	2.9	2.95
Beans	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.3	3.0
Cabbage	2.8	2.8	2.3	3.5	3.0
Cauliflower	1.5	1.3	1.0	3.0	2.3
Carrots	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.4	3.1
Celery	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.5	3.2
Corn	2.8	2.7	3.5	3.4	3.8
Lettuce	3.0	3.0	3.2	3.4	3.2
Onions	2.7	3.3	2.8	3.1	3.0
Peas	3.0	2.5	2.8	3.6	3.3
Potatoes	3.2	3.4	3.0	3.7	3.4
Spinach	3.3	2.7	3.4	3.4	3.2
Early Tomatoes	3.0	3.0	3.3	3.1	3.1
Main Field "	3.2	3.1	3.0	3.2	3.2
Other Vegetables	2.8	2.9	3.0	2.8	3.0

Note - The above condition figures relate to the condition of the growing vegetable crops and disregard entirely any vegetables killed by frost. Such vegetables have generally been replaced.

The estimated percentage change in acreage of vegetables in Southern and Western Ontario, or Southernestern Ontario, and the estimated date of commercial shipments are set out below. Shipments in commercial volume from Central and Eastern Ontario will be a week to ten days later and the estimated change in acreage will be available next month.

Asparagus - 10% increase. Essex on April 30 - May 3; Niagara on May 4 - 8. Beans - same June 24 - 29 Cabbage - 2% increase May 30 - June 5 (early Cauliflower- same May 27 - June 1 Carrots(E) - same June 15 - 19 Celery (E) - 15% increase July 10 - 20 Corn (sweet) - 5% increase July 10 - 17 Lettuce -10% increase Head lettuce May 25 Onions - 5% decrease July 6 Peas(garden) - 2% increase July 12 - 16 Potatoes(E) - 5% increase June 18 - 20 Spinach - same Essex-early May 2 - 16
Tomatoes(E) -10% increase June 24 - July 1
Tomatoes(main field)-30% increase July 8th Bur July 8th Burlington Other vegetable crops - same

MANI TOBA.

The market gardening season was a little late. Cool weather prevented the drying of the soil sufficiently to permit working. Heavy rains early in May further retarded seeding and formed a hard crust. Extremely hot weather in early May was followed by a sharp drop in temperature but no damage from frost has been reported. Present moisture and temperature conditions are satisfactory and most crops are making good growth. Insect pests have not been unduly active although some growers report that flea beetles have seriously damaged early cauliflower and cabbage plantings. These crops will be light as a result.

There is little evidence of any increase in vegetable acreage this year except in the case of potatoes where a slight increase has been made. The condition of growing crops is on the whole fairly good with some growers reporting condition well above average for the middle of June. Asparagus, spinach and head lettuce are now on the market in liberal quantities.

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BRITISH COLUMBIA

The month of February was the coldest on record in the province. The latter part of March and early April were dull and cool, retarding growth. From then on, warm weather brought all crops along rapidly and the season is now about normal. Some winter injury is reported to tree and bush fruits. Cherries show effects of winter damage and apricots are practically a failure. Strawberries also were affected to some extent. During the first half of June, weather conditions throughout the whole province have been unusually dull and cloudy with frequent heavy rains. Some damage from flooding is reported in the Lower Mainland area. A few bright days during the period helped to bring crops along quickly and the moisture situation is now very good though more bright warm weather is needed.

Brown rot on cherries and scab on apples have made considerable progress during the past few weeks. Aphids are generally distributed throughout the Okanagan Valley and are multiplying rapidly. Spraying has been difficult on account of weather conditions. Spittle bugs have been giving trouble on strawberries at some interior points and spraying has been necessary to control them. Cutworms have been active in tomato plantings and onion magget has been responsible for considerable damage.

On Vancouver Island, strawberry prospects have improved from 15 to 20 per cent as a result of the recent rains but fine weather is now required to permit harvesting. On the Lower Mainland, the peak of the season is expected by the 23rd of the month. Creston district expects a 70 per cent crop while other sections report good erop of this fruit in prospect. Raspberries suffered considerable winter injury in the Salmon Arm district and a small crop is expected. Cuthberts were severely injured in the Lower Mainland and Kootenay-Arrow Lakes districts, but other varieties are showing fairly good prospects. On Vancouver Island there is a good set of raspberries. Currants and gooseberries promise good crops throughout the province.

All tree fruits indicate smaller crops than last year. There was a heavy bloom in some districts but the set was light and there has been a considerable drop. Little thinning will be required except on some of the early apples and possibly peaches. In most districts there is a fair prospect for early apples but McIntosh and later varieties will be light crops. Pears are good in the Kootenay section but elsewhere they are light. Cherries are fair to good on the Lower Mainland and in the Summerland area but in other districts they are below average. Plums and prunes are variable - light in most cases but the later varieties are better than early ones.

Hothouse tomatoes and cucumbers are in full volume. All vegetable crops have benefited from recent rains and most kinds are now moving in large quantities. No frost injury has been reported and present indications are for heavy yields of all crops. No serious outbreaks of insect pests have been reported. Weeds have been a problem owing to frequent rains which stimulated growth and interfered with cultivation. There have been slight reductions in acreage of most vegetable crops with an increase in late potatoes and in the acreage of vegetables grown for seed.

UNITED STATES

A report of the United States Department of Agriculture released June 10 shows the condition of the apple crop as 46.7 per cent, the lowest since 1921. Condition is below the ten-year average in all states except South Dakota, Nebraska, Mississippi, Utah and California. Present indications point to one of the smallest crops in recent years. This is attributed in most cases to low temperatures during the past winter and spring. Peach production is forecast as the smallest since 1921, winter and spring frosts being largely responsible for this condition. Pear prospects are a little below last year and the average for the past ten years. Many buds were killed by April and May frosts. Sweet and sour cherries showed a condition of 57.1 per cent on June 1. Rains in June have caused considerable damage to the fruit and the cherry tonnage will be reduced still further below that of last year.

With the exception of carrots, lettuce and tomatoes, all commercial truck crops show poorer conditions than at the same period last season. Early potatoes indicate the poorest prospects since 1924 in the leading producing states of the south.



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