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Published by Authority of the HON. W. D. EULER, M.P.,
Minister of Trade and Commerce

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Fruit and Vegetable Crop Report

Ottawa, September 21, 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. Preliminary estimates of production are given along with the final estimates of the 1935 fruit crops.

SUMMARY

Generous rainfall over large areas of the country has greatly improved the crop picture in Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba and British Columbia during the past month. In Ontario where sizing of apples was almost at a standstill before the rains, marked improvement has taken place and the crop promises to be somewhat larger than was estimated last month. The rain came too late to save the grape crop which is now past the peak with the crop in sight the lightest in years. Both bunches and berries are small as a result of the dry weather. Field tomatoes have also picked up wonderfully since the rain but will not come up to average production. Other late vegetable crops show much more promise but are still below average in most cases. Quebec has had a little more rain then was needed. All crops have made good growth but the dull weather has hindered the colouring of apples and ripening of tomatoes. While some districts have short apple crops those in other sections are turning out better than expected owing to the large size of the fruit. All late vegetable crops in Manitoba have shown appreciable gains since the rain but will fail to reach average condition. In Nova Scotia, the continued impairment of the apple crop as a result of aphis and scab damage has necessitated a further reduction in the crop estimate. New Brunswick will have little better than half a crop of apples but the quality is satisfactory. Potato prospects in the Maritimes are good although late blight is fairly prevalent and is causing some loss from rot. British Columbia has had ample rainfall during the past month and all tree and ground crops have responded. Early fruits are practically off the market and the movement of McIntosh apples is now in full swing. Prices received by growers this season have been satisfactory. World apple prospects indicate a crop considerably smaller than that of the past two years.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

During recent weeks, dull weather with abundant rainfall and cool temperature have made outside work difficult and have interfered with the development of colour on apples. Apple scab and other fungous pests of fruit crops have been spreading under the influence of the wet weather and in poorly sprayed orchards they are particularly bad. Apple magget is reported to be more abundant than usual. Prices received by growers for plums have ranged around 50 cents per six quart basket while early apples have been bringing from 50 cents to \$1.25 per bushel, depending on the variety and quality. So far this season there have been no damaging wind storms.

The cool damp weather has caused some spread of blight on potatoes although the tops are now fairly well matured and there is little danger of a serious epidemic. Stock already dug is of good size and quality and prices to growers have been satisfactory. Harvesting of the crop will be general within another week. The turnip crop is of good quality and yield prospects are above normal. Loading is now general throughout the province.

NOVA SCOTIA

Throughout the past month considerable dull weather has retarded the colouring of apples and has increased the amount of late scab infection and the possibility of storage scab. Toward the western end of the Annapolis Valley, light soils had become quite dry by early September. Good rains on the third of the month relieved this condition but the fruit has not sized up as well as expected.

The destructive effects of widespread aphis and scab infestations continue to show up and the situation is much worse than was represented by earlier reports. As a result of the extensive injury from these pests, and the failure of the fruit to size up properly, the estimate production for the province has been reduced and the crop is now placed at 1,850,000 barrels. Cravenstein and Ben Davis varieties were most severely attacked by the aphis pest and the yield will be lowered accordingly with Gravenstein most seriously affected. Despite the fact that the crop as a whole will run to higher percentages of demestic grade than has been the case for the past few years, there are many orchards where pests have been well controlled and high quality fruit will be packed. Export movement of early varieties has commenced and shipments to local and Upper Canadian markets are now general.

Considering the apple crop by varieties, Gravenstein shows a sharp reduction in all parts of the Valley with the crop estimated at not more than 40 per cent of last year. Stark is also off considerably, the crop being estimated at about 75 per cent of last year. King, Ribston and McIntosh are average or a little better while Baldwin and Ben Davis will probably be somewhat below last year although some growers report increases in these varieties. Spy should turn out at least 25 per cent ahead of last season while Golden Russet and Cox Orange show increases ranging from ten to 50 per cent.

The plum crop continues to show excellent promise and the production estimate has been raised considerably. The crop is now expected to yield 15,000 bushels with quality and size good except in some cases where trees were overloaded. Brown rot has been well controlled and weather conditions have been satisfactory for normal development of fruit.

While some growers report their pear prospects as poorer than last season, on the whole, the crop should equal that of 1935 with perhaps a slight increase. Considerable russeting was caused by the frosts at blooming time and psylla injury has been fairly general. Size and quality of the fruit are, on the whole, good.

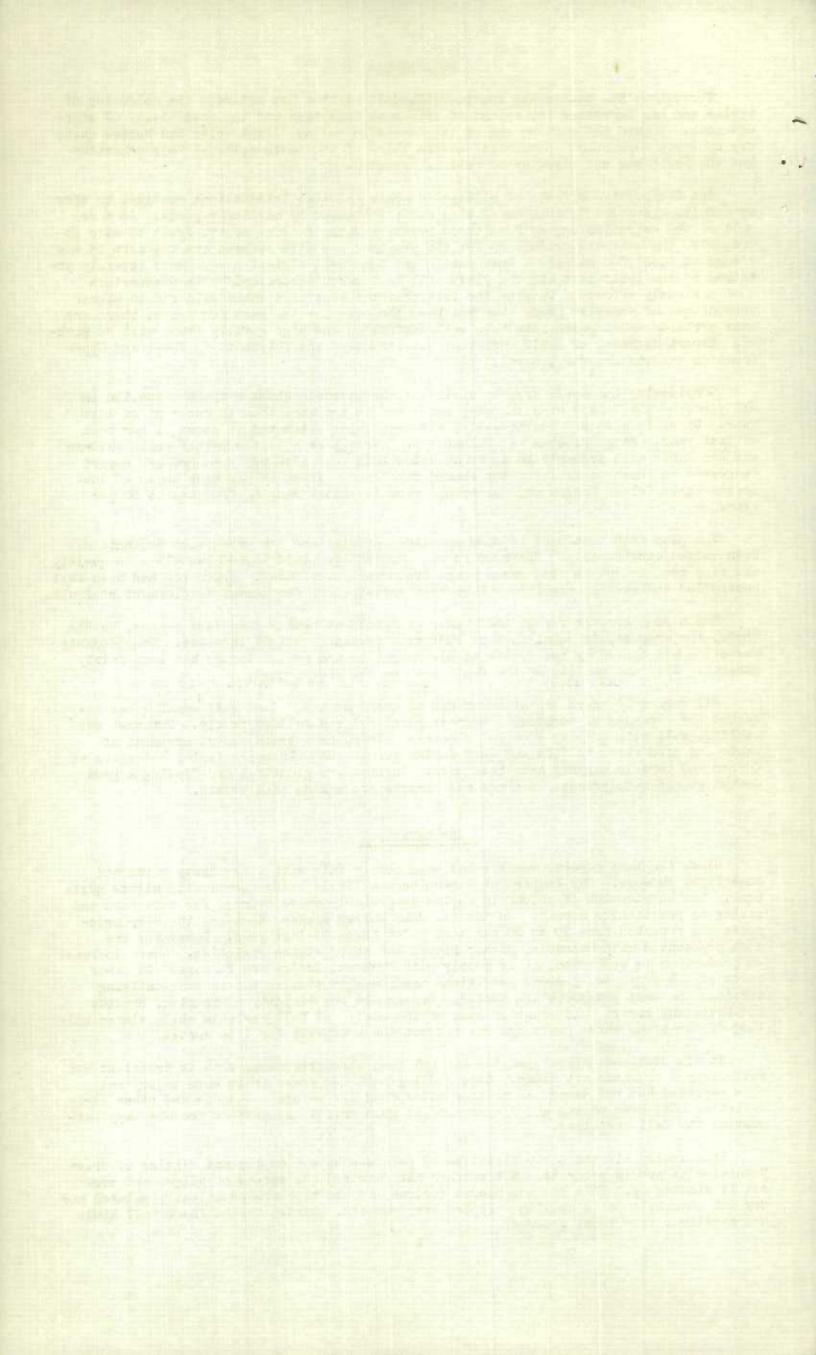
All vegetable crops are abundant and of good quality. Cool dull weather has retarded the ripening of tomatoes. Corn is plentiful and selling freely. Potatoes are yielding well with quality average or better. There is a brisk export movement of table and seed stock to Cuba and West Indian ports. Some interprovincial shipments to Quebec and Ontario markets have been made. Turnips are plentiful and finding a good demand at moderate prices. Cabbage and carrots are making good growth.

NEW BRUNSWICK

Since the last report, weather has been mostly fair with a few heavy rains and some light showers. Day temperatures have been a little below normal with nights quite cool. The development of colour in apples is probably above average for this date and sizing is practically normal. In the St. John Valley orchard section, the crop prospects are reported from 30 to 50 per cent below those of last year. Decreases are most pronounced with McIntosh, Bishop Pippin and other winter varieties. Where increased production is mentioned, it is mostly with Duchess, Dudley and Fameuse. In other parts of the province, general conditions are somewhat similar but in some outlying sections the crop prospects are better. Growers in the vicinity of Moncton, Shediac and Buctouche report full crops of some of the early and fall varieties while winter killing of the trees three years ago has reduced the prospects for late sorts.

In all sections, where spraying has not been throughly done, scab is prevalent but well-sprayed orchards are clean. Some codling moth and green fruit worm injury has been reported but the damage is neither widespread nor severe. Duchess and other early varieties have been picked and disposed of at good prices and growers are now busy harvesting the fall varieties.

Practically all the early varieties of potatoes have been dug and digging of Green Mountains is now in progress. Wet weather has favoured the spread of blight and some rot is showing up. This may not become serious, as the tops are practically matured and dry but meanwhile it is causing shippers some concern. Garden vegetables of all kinds are available from local growers.



QUEBEC

Since the last report, frequent heavy showers have provided an abundance of moisture and in some cases an excess. Cool, dull weather which accompanied the rain has slowed up the ripening of tomatoes and the colouring of apples. Some late scab has developed on apples under the influence of the weather. All green vegetables have responded to the favourable growing conditions. Cabbage and cauliflower are plentiful and of good quality. Corn is generally of good quality and free from borer but the crop is a little below that of last year. Onions are a good crop but unless better curing weather comes soon, it may be difficult to save the crop in good condition. Green peas in the Gaspe region were a good crop. A number of carlot shipments were made to Montreal and Toronto markets and considerable quantities were frozen for sale in Montreal. The canning crops of peas and beans were of average size and quality. Early potatoes are all harvested and the late crop has been suffering from too much rain. Blight is general and is expected to reduce the crop appreciably.

The yield prospects for truck crops as reported at the end of August are as follows:

Late Cabbages	4	Cauliflowers	4	Carrots	4
Celery	3.2	Corn	3	Lettuce	4
Onions	4.5	Tomatoes		Other vegetables	3.6

The basis for these figures is as follows: 1 - poor; 2 - below average; 3 - average; 4 - above average; 5 - excellent.

In the Quebec and Lower St. Lawrence districts, late apples are colouring poorly. The same is true to a lesser extent of the orchard areas south and east of Montreal. The Hemmingford district reports a light crop which was further reduced by hail. In the Covey Hill and Franklyn Centre districts, the crop is turning out better than was anticipated because of the extra large size of the fruit. Picking is now in full swing, the chief varieties being McIntosh and Fameuse. In the Chateauguay district harvesting of the apple crop is just nicely started.

The total apple crop for the province is now estimated at 50 per cent of last year. By varieties, the yield is expected to be as follows: Wealthy 98 per cent of a crop; McIntosh, 45 per cent of a crop; Fameuse, 40 per cent of a crop.

ONTARIO

Rains during the past month have greatly improved conditions of practically all vegetable crops, and have ensured the satisfactory sizing of the fall and winter apple crop.

In Eastern Ontario recent rains have provided moisture for late development of the apple crop and at the present time sizing and colouring are nearly as good as last year. Picking and packing of the fall varieties has commenced and sales are being made at very favourable prices. Sideworm injury is prevalent in many orchards and corky core is also reported present over quite a wide area. This will reduce, to some extent, the pack of McIntosh, Wealthy, and Snow. The total output of apples is expected to be considerably larger in Eastern and Central Ontario than last year.

In Western Ontario moderate temperatures with beneficial rainfalls have resulted in improved tree and fruit development, and apples are sizing and colouring satisfactorily. Scab infestation has been very light, but sideworm injury is quite pronounced. This latter injury together with winds in some areas has caused considerable "drop", offsetting to a large extent the improvement in sizing. The apple crop in Western Ontario is estimated at approximately 80% of last year. For the whole province estimated production shows a reduction of 15% from 1935.

Despite earlier drought and excessive heat, the quality, sizing and colour of the peach crop has been exceptionally good. Peach shipments for the season are now past peak and will be practically completed by about September 24th. A heavy volume is moving to processors. This year's crop is placed at 385,250 bushels, as compared with 575,000 bushels a year ago. Plums, which suffered most severely from the summer drought, responded only slightly to recent precipitation. While the quality of the fruit harvested has been fairly good, some drought spot injury has been apparent in the European varieties. Tree mortality is quite heavy...

The 1936 crop is estimated at only 49,500 bushels, as compared with 110,000 bushels in 1935. Notwithstanding this reduction in yield, the available supplies of the two main later varieties, Grand Duke and Reine Claude, should be sufficient to provide all Canadian markets with good fruit, as no shipments will be made to the United Kingdom this year. Bartletts and later varieties of pears are of good size and quality in the eastern part of the Niagara district, but somewhat below normal in the western section. Blight and pear pyslla have been well controlled, although some worm injury is now in evidence. The output of pears also shows a considerable reduction from last year, being estimated at 142,500 bushels this year and at 190,000 bushels last year. A very light crop of grapes will be harvested owing to frost damage in the spring followed by prolonged drought and general adverse growing conditions. Continued vine mortality is in evidence. The main crop grape movement is now at or nearing peak point. A crop of 19,058,000 pounds is forecast as against 41,430,000 pounds in 1935, when the yield was about average.

The condition of vegetable crops in Ontario on September 15, 1936 is set out in the table below, expressed numerically as follows, (1-poor; 2-below average; 3-average; 4-above average; 5-exceptionally good).

	Southern	Western	Central	Eastern	Average
	Ontario	Ontario	Ontario	Ontarió	Province
Late Cabbage	2.2	2.3	2.0	3.2	2.3
Late Cauliflower	1.8	2.0	2.0	3.0	2.2
Late Carrots	3.0	3.0	2.7	3.8	3.1
Late Celery	2.8	3.4	2.4	3.3	3.1
Sweet Corn	2.8	2.2	2.2	4.0	2.6
Lettuce	1.6	3.2	1.7	3.3	3.0
Onions	3.2	3.0	2.8	3.5	3.2
Spinach	3.2	3.1	2.9	3.2	3.1
Field Tomatoes	2.3	2.2	2.5	3.2	2.4

The following table shows the provisional estimate of fruit crops in Ontario expressed as a percentage of last years crop.

	Southern Ontario	Western Ontario	Central Ontario	Eastern Ontario	Average Province
Peaches	67%	MIN ON MIN	com com mo		67%
Pears					
Bartlett	70%	70%	115%	to an me	72%
Kieffer	85%	85%	55%		84%
Other Varieties	90%	90%	90%	er. em	90%
Plums					
Japanese	65%	65%			65%
European	45%	35%	200%		41%
Prunes	25%			***	25%
					20/0
Grapes					
Blue	45%	50%			45%
White	50%			00 mg mg-	50%
Red	50%				50%
Apples					
Total all Apples	78%	79%	135%	108%	85%
Early Varieties	80%	87%	100%	100%	83%
Wealthy	70%	83%	130%	110%	
Baldwin	85%	85%	90%	110/0	92% 88%
	135%	95%	200%		*
Spy	,		,		150%
Greening	115%	85%	100%		110%
Stark	95%	90%	135%	4000	120%
Snow	85%	80%	40%	40%	68%
McIntosh	65%	65%	70%	110%	75%
Other Late Varieties	90%	91%	120%		105%

MANITOBA

Between September 4 and September 8 there were widespread rains in Manitoba. Crops have improved in yield, and prospects are that late crops will approach the average. In areas where rains fell early in August, tree fruits were of about usual size. Total yield is below average due to unfavourable summer conditions. Irrigated raspberries continued to yield good crops of high quality fruit into late August.

July as rains were localized, so must improvement in the general vegetable situation be reported. Where insects were kept under control, late cabbage and cauliflower are better in quality at present than they have been throughout the summer, but yields are low. Cabbage worms have been numerous. Vines and warm season crops continue to give satisfactory returns; onions are of good quality, but below average in size and yield. Parsnips will need the full growing season to be of desirable storage size, but carrots and beets are now around average. Most celery is under irrigation, and returns will be about average. Tomatoes are plentiful.

Early potatoes are about one-quarter to one-third of a crop, and can make no further growth. Late potatoes have improved greatly, and with recent heavy rain in many districts will yield as high as one-half crop. There has been some second growth of early potatoes.

Prices reported by growers:

Beans, snap -- 2 and 3 cents per lb.

Beets ----- 50 cents to \$1.50 per 100 lbs.

Cabbage ---- \$2.00 to \$2.50 " " "

Carrots ---- 90 cents to \$1.25 " "

Cauliflowers - \$1.00 to \$2.00 per dozen

Celery ----- \$1.25 to \$1.40 per crate

Corn ----- 6 and 7 cents per dozen

Cucumbers --- \$40.00 per ton; \$1.50 per 100 lbs.

Lettuce ----- \$40 cents per dozen

Onions ----- \$1.25 to \$1.50 per cwt; \$25 to \$32 per ton

Tomatoes ---- 3 cents per lb.

Potatoes ---- 90 cents to \$1.20 per bushel

The condition of vegetable crops at September 15, as reported by correspondents, is shown in the following table:

Beans	2.5	Celery	3.0	Onions 1.6
Beets	2.5	Corn	2.2	Parsnips 2.0
Cabbage	1.0	Cucumbers	2.3 t	Tomatoes 3.0
Carrots	2.8	Lettuce	1.0	Others 1.3
Cauliflowers	1.2			(Potatoes)

* Some irrigated.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Late August and early September brought generous rainfall to all producing districts in the province and relieved the drought which had persisted since early July. The rains have been followed by periods of fine weather and this combination of circumstances has materially helped all stone and other tree fruits. Vegetable crops have also benefited from the increased supplies of soil moisture and the tomato crop which threatened to be cut short, now promises an extended picking season. So far there have been no damaging frosts in any of the Lower Mainland sections. Some hail damage has been caused by hail storms late in August and again on September 13. The Vernon and Kelowna districts were chiefly affected and damage is fairly severe over restricted areas. The rains following the long dry period have improved small fruit conditions and on the whole, strawberries, raspberries and other crops of a similar nature give indications of going into the winter in excellent shape.

In the Coast sections, pears are turning out a very satisfactory crop of good quality and the canners are securing plenty for all their requirements. Prunes are an excellent crop and in many sections have been entirely cleaned up with the

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canneries paying a satisfactory price for all they can secure. Shipments of everbearing strawberries from the Lower Mainland district are about finished and the quality on the whole has been satisfactory. Latterly, supplies have been going to the jam factories rather than to the fresh fruit trade. Everbearing raspberries are still available in moderate supply.

In the interior of the province, distribution for the most part has been satisfactory and the quality of stone fruits such as plums, peaches and prunes has been excellent. There is still a quantity of prunes and peaches to be disposed of and it is a little too early to say just how satisfactory the price may be. The movement of pears has been good and Duchess and other early varieties of apples are all cleaned up satisfactorily. The movement of Wealthy apples has perhaps been a little better than in previous years with the result that the quantity overlapping on the McIntosh was a great deal less than anticipated. The movement of McIntosh apples did not start until the middle of September and opening prices were all that could be expected. The movement is now in full swing with the crop running heavily to extra fancy and fancy grades. Grape harvesting is well advanced with the tonnage running lighter than last year. Mixed car shipments of grapes are being made.

UNITED STATES

The indicated production of apples, on the basis of the September 1 condition of the crop is three per cent larger than the forecast of August 1, due largely to continued favourable growing conditions in the western States and beneficial rains in the eastern States. Despite this improvement, the crop now estimated at 105,856,000 bushels is 34 per cent below the 5-year average, 1928-32, of 161,333,000 bushels and is the smallest since 1921. Commercial production, or that part of the total crop which will probably be sold for fresh consumption, is now placed at 66,452,000 bushels compared with 93,866,000 bushels in 1935. An unusually large proportion of the crop is being produced in the western States where frost damage in the spring was less severe than in the east. For the most part, the crop is cleaner than usual but late brood codling moth injury is still a possibility. Of other fruits, pears alone show an increase in production with the estimate three per cent above 1935. Peach production is 22 per cent below the five year average. Plums and prunes are slightly below average and grapes are 15 per cent below the five year average. Cranberry production, estimated at 531,000 barrels is a little ahead of last year but below the average.

Potato prospects show considerable improvement over a month ago. The late crop has made substantial gains due to timely rains in Pennsylvania and most of the north central States. Owing to the lateness of planting, the length of the growing season will be an important factor in determining the yield. Although a short crop is inevitable, closer utilization of the lower grades should provide nearly enough potatoes for the usual food requirements since shipments from the south usually increase following a short crop in the late potato states.

August rainfall was of some benefit to other vegetables. Supplies in farm gardens are generally short but the condition of commercial vegetable crops in northern and eastern States shows a general improvement over a month ago. Drought has cut the cabbage production far below the usual requirements and southern growers are increasing their fall plantings as a result of present high prices. Late beet and carrot crops have also suffered from unfavourable conditions but production of celery, onions and tomatoes is expected to exceed that of last year. Supplies of vegetables for manufacture have been generally shorter than usual and the pack of snap beans, corn and peas will be lower than 1935. Tomatoes, on the other hand, promise an increase.

WORLD APPLE PROSPECTS

According to the Foreign Agricultural Service of the United States Bureau of Agricultural Economics, the total 1936 world apple crop will probably be between 420,000,000 and 450,000,000 bushels, compared with roughly 470,000,000 bushels in 1935 and 540,000,000 bushels in 1934. Besides the United States, short crops are expected in Germany, Belgium, Holland, Switzerland, Sweden and Roumania. On the other hand, England, France, Italy, Austria and Czechoslovakia expect a larger production than last year. The Canadian crop is estimated at 12,236,000 bushels.

Preliminary estimate of fruit production, 1936 as compared with the final estimate of production for the year 1935.

market and the second		
CANADA	Preliminary estimate of production, 1936	Final estimate of production, 1935.
Apples	4,078,700 brl.	4,432,700 brl.
Pears	362,000 bu.	423,100 bu.
Plums and prunes	164,400 "	263,100 "
Peaches	423,200 "	
	100,000	010,000
Apricots	۵,000	99,900 "
Cherries	193,200 "	214,500 "
Strawberries	19,836,000 qts.	27,506,000 qts.
Raspberries	5,819,600 "	8,140,200 "
Grapes	20,522,000 lbs.	42,945,500 lbs.
		12,010,000 1000
NOVA SCOTIA		
Apples	1 850 000 h-1	3 000 000 1 1
	1,850,000 brl.	1,800,000 br1.
Pears	9,000 bu.	7,000 bu.
Plums	15,000 "	8,000 "
Strawberries	1,100,000 qts.	976,000 qts.
Raspberries	72,000 "	60,000 "
	12,000	00,000
NEW BRUNSWICK		
	00,000,3	
Apples	20,000 brl.	32,500 brl.
Strawberries	1,500,000 qts.	1,100,000 qts.
Raspberries	50,000 "	41,000 "
QUEBEC		
(mm)		
Apples	110,000 brl.	222,000 brl.
Strawberries	6,970,000 qts.	6,160,000 qts.
Raspberries	2,720,000 "	2,544,000 "
ONTARIO		
Apples	616 000 hml	707 000 1 1
Pears	616,000 brl.	727,000 brl.
	142,500 bu.	190,000 bu.
Plums and prunes	49,500 "	110,000 "
Peaches	385,000 "	575,000 "
Cherries	154,000 "	160,000 "
Strawberries	6,168,000 qts.	11,819,000 qts.
Raspberries	1,800,000	
Grapes		3,640,000 "
orapes	19,058,000 lbs.	41,430,000 lbs.
BRITISH COLUMBIA (1)		
Annles	1 440 700 }	
Apples	4,448,100 boxes	5,144,700 boxes
Pears	250,700 "	269,200 "
Plums and prunes	299,800 cases	435,400 cases
Peaches	114,600 "	133,700 "
Apricots	8,000 "	99,900 "
Cherries	147,500 "	
Strawberries		100,000
	±00,000	620,900 "
Raspberries	101,800 "	154,600 "
Grapes	1,464,000 lbs.	1,515,500 lbs.

⁽¹⁾ Estimates for British Columbia have been converted on the following basis: Apples, three boxes to the barrel; pears, box 42 lbs. bushel 50 lbs.; plums and prunes, peaches apricots and cherries, three crates to the bushel; strawberries and raspberries, 12 quarts to the crate.

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