

22-003

Published by Authority of the Hon. J. D. EULYER, M.P.,
Minister of Trade and CommerceDEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS - CANADA
AGRICULTURAL BRANCH

Dominion Statistician:	R. H. Coats, LL.D., F.R.S.C., F.S.S. (Hon.)
Chief, Agricultural Branch:	T. W. Grindley, Ph.D.
In Charge, Horticultural Statistics:	J. S. McGiffin, B.S.A.

Fruit and Vegetable Crop Report

Ottawa, October 22, 1937 - 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 summarizing conditions during the harvesting season, together with estimates of production and comparative data for last year.

SUMMARY

During the past month weather conditions have been satisfactory for the normal development of late fruit and vegetable crops in all sections of the country. There have been no serious losses from wind storms during the period while rainfall and temperature have favoured the sizing and colouring of late apples. Little if any frost damage had occurred up to the middle of the month and while tomato picking in Ontario was terminated by frosts during the second week, little loss was experienced since the crop was practically all harvested. Nearly all the apple crop has now been picked in Nova Scotia and packing for domestic and export markets is going ahead rapidly. Already there has been a substantial movement to overseas markets while processing plants have been working to capacity to take care of windfalls and low grade fruit. In the central provinces harvesting of the late crops is well advanced. Some delay in harvesting apples and grapes was occasioned by frosts in Ontario after October 8. Rains in some sections also held up harvesting but the work is being rushed to completion now. Some losses to apples were caused by wind storms in eastern Ontario and some fruit was damaged by frost in that area. Late vegetable crops show condition generally above average. British Columbia has experienced excellent conditions for harvesting the late crops of fruit and vegetables and the work should be completed by the end of the present month. Shipments have been maintained at satisfactory levels with the export market outlook somewhat better than a year ago.

MARITIME PROVINCES

During the past month weather conditions in Nova Scotia have been favourable for the development of apples. Since the rains which began late in September, there has been ample moisture to stimulate sizing and colour development and for the most part the fruit is of good quality. The wind storms during September caused some limb bruising in addition to shaking off considerable fruit and further storms ten days ago did a moderate amount of additional damage. There has been slight development of late scab in a few orchards but in most cases where spraying was well done, the fruit is clean. Bud moth is apparently on the increase in some sections. A number of correspondents report this pest as being fairly abundant after an almost complete absence for the past few years. Alarmed by the wind damage last month and the possibility of a recurrence of last year's serious frost damage, some growers have picked their late varieties before they were quite ready and both size and colour of the fruit have suffered accordingly. Practically all picking has been completed now. Plums and pears are all harvested and the fruit was mostly of good quality with crops equal to or exceeding those of last season.

Export shipments have been heavy while there has been a brisk movement to other provinces. Processing plants have been working to capacity with this condition likely to continue for some time.

In New Brunswick fine weather during the early part of the month enabled growers to complete their picking by the middle of October. Quality is variable but for the most part good. Shipments are now being made freely.

Harvesting of potatoes in the Maritimes is well advanced with the Nova Scotia crop practically all dug by the middle of the month. On Prince Edward Island the crop is turning out well with little or no evidence of blight. Yields are generally below average and prices at present are quite low. New Brunswick growers have almost completed their digging operations. The crop is of good quality and is meeting a strong demand. Turnips have made good growth since the September rains and the harvesting of the Island crop should be in full swing by the end of the month.

DOES NOT CONCERN ME
HE HAS ENOUGH



- 2 -

QUEBEC

Harvesting of the apple crop is now finished in most sections of the province. Size and colour of the fruit are mostly good. No change has been reported in the estimated size of the crop. Vegetable crops have continued to make good growth and there are plentiful supplies of cabbage, carrots and other late vegetables. The potato crop is somewhat less than last year as a result of the lower yield per acre. Quality is fairly good with some prospect of rot developing as a result of the wet weather at harvest time.

ONTARIO

All fruit crops are now harvested with the exception of Kieffer pears, late varieties of apples, and grapes. Weather and moisture conditions were generally favourable for development and harvesting of fruit crops until October 8th, but after that date harvesting of apples and grapes was retarded by several frosts. In the Huron and Georgian Bay district frequent rains and some snow also caused delay. Considerable damage occurred in Eastern Ontario from wind storms, and to a lesser extent in Huron and Georgian Bay area. In Western Ontario frosts were not severe enough to hurt the apple crop, but did, however, cause considerable damage to the grape crop, the injury being very irregular as to district and individual vineyards. As a result the later movement of grapes was chiefly confined to bulk sales in open containers for wine making purposes. Heavy frost on October 14th and 15th, when temperatures fell from 10 to 16 degrees below freezing point, did considerable damage to Ben Davis and Gano apples in Eastern Ontario, particularly in the Newcastle-Bowmanville district, where it is estimated that from 1500 to 2000 barrels were frozen.

The apple crop in Ontario is now estimated at 735,500 barrels, representing a slight increase over the 703,500 barrels harvested in 1936. In Eastern Ontario production is down 23% from last year, and in Western Ontario up 28%. In Eastern Ontario, Spy and Stark are extremely light, while McIntosh, Snow, Wealthy, and Blenheim have an average yield. In Western Ontario Spy shows a 38% decline from last year, Stark a 7% increase, Greening 22% increase, Baldwin and McIntosh a 35% increase and other late varieties a gain of 12%.

Size and colour of apples are considerably better this season than last, but the percentage of "domestics" is much higher in Eastern Ontario due to the prevalence of scab and sideworm injury in a large number of orchards. In commercial orchards in Western Ontario, insect pests and fungus diseases were fairly well controlled. Movement to storages has been heavy as harvesting has been rushed and prices are not quite as firm as a month ago. To date, export shipments have been less than a year ago. A large part of the crop is being moved in open containers to markets in Toronto, Northern Ontario and Ottawa.

Estimated production of peaches, plums and pears has been raised somewhat since the September report. The peach crop is now estimated at 523,000 bushels, or 30% greater than in 1936, and plums at 56,900 bushels, which is 38% higher. Pears are now estimated at 157,400 bushels as compared with 153,500 bushels a month ago, and 196,800 bushels in 1936. Later varieties of plums, peaches and pears were generally of better size and quality than the earlier varieties. The grape crop is reported at 31,378,000 pounds which is 45% greater than the exceptionally small crop of 21,640,000 pounds harvested last year. Grapes were generally of good size with the bunches compact. While there was some poorly coloured fruit, the average was very good.

Present prices of fruits are below last year, particularly for pears, apples and plums, although pears exported to Great Britain brought fairly satisfactory returns. Prices for basket grapes have been unusually variable and following the frost damage, grapes in bulk tumbled from \$45.00 per ton to as low as \$20.00.

Table I - Fruit Production Estimates, Province of Ontario

		<u>Production 1936</u>	<u>Estimated Production 1937</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Grapes	lbs.	21,640,000	31,378,000	+ 45%
Peaches	bus.	402,300	523,000	+ 30%
Plums	bus.	41,200	56,900	+ 38%
Pears	bus.	196,800	157,400	- 20%
All Apples	bbls.	703,500	735,500	+ 5%

Growers in Hastings, Northumberland and Prince Edward counties will receive large cash returns from the canning factories for their crop of tomatoes, which was the largest on record. The yield in this district was double that of last season, approximating 375 bushels to the acre. The factories in Eastern Ontario were not able to handle all the supplies and large quantities were shipped to plants in Western Ontario where the average yield, on a greatly increased acreage, was only 175 bushels per acre.

Fall weather conditions have been favourable for the development of vegetable crops in Old Ontario, but in parts of Northern Ontario, excessive precipitation has resulted in potatoes going into storage in wet condition and rot is very prevalent. Frost damage was chiefly confined to the unharvested portion of the tomato crop and some damage to late celery. The condition, average yield and prices of vegetable crops are set out in the table below.

Table II - Condition and Yield of Vegetables in Ontario

Condition prospects are based on the following system of reporting:
(1-poor; 2-below average; 3-average; 4-above average; 5-excellent.)

	<u>TORONTO WEST</u>			<u>TORONTO EAST</u>		
	Condition Oct. 15 1937	Yield per acre	Average price to Growers	Condition Oct. 15 1937	Yield per acre	Average price to Growers
Cabbage (late)	3.8	12 tons	\$15.00 ton	3.2	10 tons	\$10.00 ton
Beets (late)	3.5	6 tons	\$11.00 "	3.4	5 tons	- -
Carrots (late)	4.0	12 tons	\$14.00 "	3.2	9 tons	\$12.00 "
Corn (sweet)	3.2	4 tons	10¢ doz.	3.7	3 tons	10¢ doz.
Onions	2.5	125 cwt.	\$1.50 cwt.	3.0	200 cwt.	1.55 cwt.
Tomatoes (canning)	-	175 bus.	34¢ bus.	-	350 bus.	32¢ bus.
Cauliflower (late)	3.2	4½ tons	\$50.00 ton	3.0	4 tons	\$45.00 ton
Celery (late)	2.9	400 crts.	80¢ crt.	3.0	400 crts.	95¢ crt.
Lettuce (late)	3.4	400 crts.	30¢ doz.	2.8	-	30¢ doz.
Table Turnips	3.4	600 bus.	16¢ bus.	3.3	525 bus.	15¢ bus.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

During the past month weather conditions in all sections of the province have been excellent for harvesting both fruits and vegetables. Light frosts have occurred but up to the present they have not been serious enough to interfere with apple picking and growers are now busy with the late varieties. The major portion of the Okanagan crop has already been harvested and by the end of the month, all fruit should be off the trees. The movement of apples has been very good considering general conditions and the export market has on the whole been a little better than a year ago. There have been no revisions in the fruit crop estimates as published a month ago. Vegetables are in plentiful supply although field tomatoes are practically finished and are being replaced by hothouse stock. The onion crop is of good quality and is moving freely to domestic and export market.

UNITED STATES

According to the report of the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, issued October 11, weather conditions during September in most sections of the country were favourable for the ripening and harvesting of fruit crops. Harvesting of peaches, Bartlett pears, plums and prunes is about completed; the grape harvest is well under way; harvesting of fall apples and late pears is becoming general. Cool weather during the latter part of September was favourable for more satisfactory colouring of apples. Condition of the new crop of oranges improved slightly during September; grapefruit prospects declined somewhat as a result of insufficient rainfall and high temperatures in Texas. Total apple production for the 1937 season as indicated by the October 1 condition is 206,716,000 bushels compared with 117,506,000 bushels produced in 1936 and with the 5-year (1928-32) average of 164,355,000 bushels. The October 1 indication of 206,716,000 bushels is slightly above that of September 1 and is the largest crop since 1926. Condition of pears on October 1 indicates a production of 29,822,000 bushels compared with the 1936 production of 26,956,000 bushels and with the 5-year (1928-32) average of 24,334,000 bushels. Although the 1937 production is indicated to be somewhat smaller than on September 1, the prospective crop remains the largest of record. Prospective grape production increased slightly during September, due chiefly to improved prospects for all three classes of grapes in California. October 1 condition indicates a total United States production of 2,626,700 tons as compared with 1,916,460 tons in 1936, and the 5-year (1928-32) average of 2,214,482 tons.



Estimate of fruit production in Canada, 1937,

with revised figures for 1936.

APPLES

	1936	1937
Nova Scotia	1,750,000 brl.	2,400,000 brl.
New Brunswick	29,000 "	45,000 "
Quebec	91,000 "	150,000 "
Ontario	703,500 "	735,500 "
British Columbia	4,625,100 boxes	5,220,300 boxes
CANADA	4,115,200 brl.	5,070,600 brl.

PEARS

Nova Scotia	10,000 bu.	18,000 bu.
Ontario	196,800 "	157,400 "
British Columbia	267,300 boxes	277,100 boxes
CANADA	431,300 bu.	408,200 bu.

PEACHES

Ontario	402,300 bu.	523,000 bu.
British Columbia	82,900 crates	355,500 crates
CANADA	429,900 bu.	641,500 bu.

APRICOTS

British Columbia	3,800 crates	191,700 crates
CANADA	1,200 bu.	63,900 bu.

PLUMS & PRUNES

Nova Scotia	15,000 bu.	12,500 bu.
Ontario	41,200 "	56,900 "
British Columbia	307,400 crates	393,000 crates
CANADA	158,700 bu.	200,400 bu.

CHERRIES

Ontario	124,800 bu.	89,000 bu.
British Columbia	186,000 crates	169,700 crates
CANADA	186,800 bu.	145,600 bu.

STRAWBERRIES

Nova Scotia	1,160,000 qts.	1,300,000 qts.
New Brunswick	1,700,000 "	1,190,000 "
Quebec	7,671,000 "	7,211,000 "
Ontario	6,168,000 "	8,634,000 "
British Columbia	328,300 crates	499,600 crates
CANADA	20,579,000 qts.	24,330,200 qts.

RASPBERRIES

Nova Scotia	72,000 qts.	75,000 qts.
New Brunswick	50,000 "	40,000 "
Quebec	2,304,000 "	2,000,000 "
Ontario	1,800,000 "	2,642,000 "
British Columbia	118,800 crates	157,100 crates
CANADA	5,652,000 qts.	6,642,200 qts.

LOGANBERRIES

British Columbia	1,247,400 lbs.	1,836,000 lbs.
CANADA	1,247,400 lbs.	1,836,000 lbs.

GRAPES

Ontario	21,640,000 lbs.	31,378,000 lbs.
British Columbia	1,275,000 "	1,300,000 "
CANADA	22,915,000 lbs.	32,678,000 "

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.



1010501654