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AGRICULTURAL BRANCH

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Fruit and Vegetable Crop Report

Ottawa, July 20, 1938 - 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 in the main producing areas as at the middle of July.

SUMMARY

The weather throughout the Dominion varies considerably from dry on the west coast to quite moist on the east coast. In the Maritime Provinces there has been an excess of moisture and spraying of the orchards has been very difficult. Insects and disease, however, have been well controlled. A light infection of scab is reported in Nova Scotia and brown rot of both cherries and plums is reducing these crops in Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia. Although there are no reports of the size of the apple crop in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, the crop in Nova Scotia is now estimated to be equal to that of last year. This estimate may be reduced when the extent of the damage by hail on July 6 is known.

The crops of Quebec suffered first from the lack of moisture during the last two weeks in June and since then from an excess of rain. The strawberry crop was reduced considerably by the hot, dry weather and in the Quebec City area by weevils as well. The apple crop is not as large as the bloom indicated and the June drop was heavy and still continues. The vegetable crops are all progressing favourably, although the melons and cucumbers suffered a setback during the wet weather at the first of the month.

Weather conditions in Ontario have been favourable to the development of fruit and vegetables. Although most sections are well supplied with moisture, the section between Belleville and Toronto is now very dry. The apple crop is reported free from scab in all well-cared-for orchards and serious codling moth injury is very localized. The apple crop as a whole is expected to be 9 per cent below last year's estimate. Cherries, on the other hand, are expected to yield a crop 18 per cent greater than the previous crop. Plums are reported slightly over last year's crop while pears and peaches are slightly below. The strawberry crop was considerably cut by the hot, dry weather and is now reported at 7 per cent below last year, while raspberries, on the other hand, will be 8 per cent above the previous crop.

The weather has been unseasonably dry throughout British Columbia, but Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland have suffered more than the rest of the province. The general rain about the first of the month was not as heavy on the coast as it was in the interior. The strawberry crop is harvested and carlot shipments have exceeded the previous high of 1935. Loganberries and raspberries are at the peak of their season while early apples are now being offered in good quantities as "cookers". The cherry crop in the Okanagan and Kootenay areas suffered from severe splitting caused by the rain at the beginning of the month and the crop prospects are somewhat reduced.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

July 14: Since the last report weather conditions have been ideal for growth. Although it has been mostly clear, frequent light rains and occasional heavy showers have kept up the moisture supply. The tree fruits and bush fruits have responded to the favourable weather and prospects are for a very good crop. The picking of strawberries commenced during the last week in June and with sufficient rain the yield was good and the quality excellent. There was some delay in picking, however, due to the rains. The strawberries sold at prices ranging from 7-10 cents a quart, with the bulk going at around 7 cents. Raspberries, so far, are reported small as they were only in bloom on July 7. No reports of the size of the crop are available so far. The apple crop is developing well and is reported to be better than last year. Disease and insects have been well controlled and the fruit is clean. The plums and cherries are progressing favourably although some of the fruit is affected by brown rot.

NOVA SCOTIA

July 14: The weather since the last report has been cool and the rainfall has been excessively heavy. With the abundance of rain, spraying has been very difficult.

The strawberry crop is about finished except in Colchester County where harvesting has been somewhat slowed-up by the cool, wet weather. The crop is, however, expected to be at its peak about the 20th. In the other districts the crop was not as heavy as the first reports indicated due chiefly to the frequent rains. The average price obtained this year was 7.6 cents per quart. The raspberry crop is looking very well and growth continues favourably. The first pickings are expected about July 20.

The cherries and plums are suffering greatly from the heavy rains. Brown rot of both fruits is taking a heavy toll while splitting of cherries is also helping to reduce the size of that crop. The first pickings of cherries made their appearance on the market during the second week of July.

Reports indicate that during the past two weeks the weather has been very unsatisfactory for the apple orchards. Spraying operations have been interfered with, and excessive moisture has made conditions favourable for the development of apple scab as well as aphids. The parasites seem to be keeping the aphids will in hand, but where scab was not thoroughly controlled during the early part of the season the disease has been developing considerably of late. There has been a normal drop in most orchards but some growers report a fairly heavy drop. The fruit is sizing well, while the foliage has been abnormally luxurious. Most growers have completed the last spray, and thinning operations are being started in a number of orchards. There were also reports of damage from hail on July 6. Although the reports vary considerably no definite information as to the extent of the damage is at hand. It is to be expected, however, that the present estimates will be reduced.

The vegetable crops are all reported to be progressing favourably with turnips, cabbage, beets, carrots, peas and potatoes appearing on the markets in sufficient quantities to supply the local demand.

The following is the percentage change in the fruit crops as compared with last year:

Apples

	Increase	Decrease		Increase	Decrease
	Per cent			Per cent	
Gravenstein	-	14	King	9	-
Ribston	-	11	Baldwin	-	41
Ben Davis	9	-	Stark	2	-
McIntosh	11	-	Spy	4	-
Golden Russet	-	8	Cox Orange	-	14
Apples in general	0	0			

Other Crops

	Increase	Decrease		Increase	Decrease
	Per cent			Per cent	
Strawberries	24	-	Raspberries	-	3
Cherries	-	15	Plums	-	3
Pears	1	-			

NEW BRUNSWICK

July 14: The weather for the two weeks following the last report was mostly fair and warm but with sufficient rain to maintain a good supply of moisture. About the end of the first week in July, however, the weather turned decidedly cooler with heavy rains.

The strawberry crop came on the market during the last week in June, but heavy supplies were not available until about July 1. With the rain coming early enough, the crop showed every indication of exceeding an average yield. Heavy rains during the height of the season, however, delayed picking and reduced the prospects somewhat, producing much soft fruit. The raspberry prospects look good at present and the crop should yield average or better. With continued favourable weather the crop is expected on the market during the week of July 18.

NEW BRUNSWICK (Concluded)

The apple trees have, for the most part, remained unaffected by insects or disease although the frequent rains in the past two weeks have made spraying difficult. The apple crop has continued to develop favourably since the last report. The prospects, however, are considerably reduced as the crop will not be as heavy as the bloom indicated. Nealy all varieties have been affected, with McIntosh suffering the most. The Cortland, on the other hand, is expected to have an average yield. Although the crop is known to be much lighter than last year no definite estimates are available at present.

The vegetable crops are all reported to be progressing favourably with beets, cabbage, cauliflower and peas being offered on the markets in sufficient quantities to meet the local demands, while light supplies of carrots, onions, potatoes and turnips are beginning to appear.

QUEBEC

July 16: The weather for the week following the last report was hot and very dry. Although there were a few scattered light showers, there was not enough rain to do much good. As a result of this dry weather the strawberry crop suffered considerably. The crop came on very rapidly and after the first pickings the berries were small and a high per cent were deformed. The crop reached its peak about a week after the first berries were harvested which resulted in a very short season. The crop in the Quebec City area not only suffered from the drought but was also considerably reduced by weevils. Taking the province as a whole strawberry production will be 27 per cent below that of last year according to the first estimates. The average price this season was 9.5 cents per quart.

The raspberry crop on the other hand gives every indication of being considerably better than last year. The rains during the past two to three weeks have been very beneficial and the crop has developed without a setback. Pickings commenced during the first week of July with the earliest varieties being harvested. The crop came on rapidly and by July 14 arrivals on the markets in the Montreal area were heavy. In the Quebec City area, the crop was about one week later than that of the Montreal district, the first berries appearing during the second week of the month. Judging by reports at the end of the second week of July the crop should be about 15 per cent higher than last year. Rain during the second week of July interfered considerably with picking and should this continue, future reports may be somewhat lower.

The weather has been ideal for the development of the apple crop throughout the province. The crop is now reported to be considerably below the first expectations, due chiefly to poor weather during pollination. This poor pollination has resulted in an extremely heavy June drop which, in some cases, still continues. The crop remaining on the trees is very clean, there being little or no damage from either insects or disease reported. Spraying has been very well done and the first apple maggot application will be finished by July 18.

The preliminary estimates for 1938 and the production of 1937 for strawberries and raspberries are as follows:

	1938	1937	Percentage change
Strawberries	5,492,200 qts.	7,523,500 qts.	- 27
Raspberries	2,729,200 qts.	2,373,200 qts.	+ 15

The apple crop, by varieties, in per cent of last year's crop is as follows:

McIntosh	82.6 per cent	Wealthy	87 per cent
Duchess	82 " "	Fameuse	86.4 " "
Yellow Transparent	78 " "	Other varieties	88.3 " "

The vegetable crops have, for the most part, benefited greatly from the increase in the moisture supply during the month of July. Supplies of most vegetables have greatly increased and arrived on the markets earlier than first expected. The melon and cucumber crops suffered somewhat because of the wet weather as the young fruit dropped from the vines in considerable quantities. Although conditions improved during the second week of July, some growers complained of scab on the cucumbers. The early cabbage crop in the Montreal area was finished about the middle of July and the crops of both late cauliflower and cabbage were reported to be developing rapidly. The digging of the early potato crop is now well under way with a large portion of the crop already harvested.

QUEBEC (Concluded)

Crop conditions as of July 16 are as follows where 1 = poor; 2 = below average; 3 = average; 4 = above average; 5 = excellent:

Asparagus	3.9	Sweet Corn	4.0
Beets	4.1	Lettuce	4.4
Beans	4.3	Onions	3.8
Carrots	3.9	Peas	3.8
Cabbage	4.1	Potatoes	4.1
Cauliflower	4.0	Spinach	4.2
Celery	3.7	Tomatoes	4.0

ONTARIO

July 20: The Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Statistics Committee publishes today a report giving the condition of the commercial fruit and vegetable crops in the Province of Ontario:

Preliminary Estimate of Fruit Production in Ontario
Year 1938, with final figures for 1937

		Year 1937	Year 1938	Percentage Change
Apples	bus.	745,300	681,200	- 9
Cherries	bus.	101,900	123,600	+ 18
Plums	bus.	56,000	56,350	+ 1
Peaches	bus.	525,700	515,200	- 2
Pears	bus.	185,500	180,200	- 3
Strawberries	qts.	6,880,300	6,401,900	- 7
Raspberries	qts.	4,043,200	4,371,400	+ 8

Fruit - Eastern Ontario - The weather generally has been favourable for the development of tree fruits during the last month. Some sections benefited more than others from rainfall. Along the lake front from Belleville to Toronto it is now very dry, but from Kingston east there has been more moisture.

Apples are developing satisfactorily with present size average, or better, with a vigourous foliage in all well-cared-for orchards. The fruit is quite free from apple scab infection in at least 90 per cent of the commercial orchards. Leaf roller injury is rather severe in a number of orchards in the vicinity of Newcastle and Bowmanville, and codling moth injury is quite apparent in orchards where it has been a problem in past seasons.

After quite a heavy June crop in McIntosh, there are still prospects for an average or slightly below average drop. Fall and early winter varieties promise an average crop. Winter apples are average with Spys showing slightly above average. The preliminary estimate of total apple production in Eastern Ontario shows a 25 per cent increase over last season.

Cherries - Early Richmonds have been harvested and were hardly an average crop. Montmorency picking will be general this week and is slightly above an average crop and quality is good.

Plums and Pears - Sizing well but crop will be below average.

Strawberries - When picking began this crop looked wonderful but the extremely dry weather after that shortened the crop in many sections about 40 per cent. Larger quantities were processed this year than last.

Raspberries - Harvest is now at its peak and prospects are good for an average crop in most sections if more moisture comes soon. Large quantities will be processed.

Western Ontario - Apples - General weather and moisture conditions during the past month have been favourable for good colouring and sizing of apples. Only section now reporting need of more rain is the northern part of Huron County. Scab infestation on fruit is so far fairly well controlled in well sprayed commercial orchards, and serious side worm injury only apparent in few localities. Slight hail damage in a few Elgin County orchards.

Cherries - Leaf-spot injury on Sours apparent last month has cleared up considerably and fruit has sized well; with later weather and moisture conditions very favourable for better production of good quality Sweets and Sours than at first anticipated.

ONTARIO (Concluded)

Pears - Conditions so far very favourable for good sizing and clean fruit production.

Peaches - Tree and fruit development excellent, with minimum of fungus or insect injury apparent. While some early varieties are showing split-pits, the condition is not expected to be more serious than usual.

Plums - While set is very irregular, the existing crop is now developing well, with only normal June drop having taken place. Pests well under control. Early varieties now on market.

Grapes - Conditions excellent for good development of berries and vine growth, with hopper and other pests well controlled.

Vegetables - Present temperature and moisture conditions are now favourable for the development of vegetables, although growth and production of most crops were considerably reduced during the past month by lack of moisture. Some cut worm injury is reported in a few localized areas, in addition to some flee-beetle injury to potatoes. Otherwise, disease and insect pests are well under control.

Condition of Vegetable Crops in Ontario - July 15, 1938
With Comparative Figures for Last Month

	TORONTO WEST			TORONTO EAST		
	June 15 1938	July 15 1938	Change in acreage from last year %	June 15 1938	July 15 1938	Change in acreage from last year %
Beans (snap)	2.9	2.9	+ 18	3.0	3.1	- 5
Beets	2.8	3.0	+ 8	3.3	3.4	+ 4
Cabbage (early)	3.2	3.3	Same	3.5	3.5	+ 3
Cabbage (late)	-	3.0	+ 2	-	2.8	Same
Cauliflower (early)	3.0	3.2	Same	3.0	2.9	+ 4
Cauliflower (late)	-	3.0	+ 2	-	2.8	+ 5
Carrots	3.1	3.0	+ 2	3.1	3.2	+ 3
Celery (early)	3.0	3.0	+ 10	3.0	3.0	+ 7
Celery (late)	-	3.0	- 6	-	3.0	-
Corn	3.0	3.1	+ 4	3.1	3.1	- 13
Lettuce	3.5	3.8	- 2	3.5	2.8	- 2
Onions	4.0	4.4	+ 10	3.7	3.2	- 3
Potatoes (early)	3.1	3.0	+ 5	3.3	3.0	Same
Peas (garden)	3.2	3.0	+ 5	3.2	2.5	- 10
Spinach	3.5	3.6	+ 7	3.5	3.0	- 1
Tomatoes (staked)	3.3	3.0	+ 4	3.0	3.0	+ 4
Tomatoes (field)	3.1	3.0	- 4	3.0	3.3	- 18

Condition of Fruit Crops in Ontario - July 15, 1938
With Comparative Figures for Last Month

Apples:	TORONTO WEST June 15 1938	TORONTO WEST July 15 1938	TORONTO EAST June 15 1938	TORONTO EAST July 15 1938
Early Varieties	2.5	2.6	3.0	3.0
Wealthy	2.8	2.8	3.5	3.0
Snow	2.7	2.9	3.3	3.2
McIntosh	3.0	2.9	3.2	3.0
Baldwin	2.3	2.3	2.7	2.8
Greening	2.3	2.2	3.0	2.8
Spy	3.2	3.2	4.0	4.0
Stark	2.8	2.7	3.3	3.0
Other Varieties	2.7	2.6	3.2	3.2
All Apples	2.8	2.7	3.3	3.1
Grapes	3.0	3.0	-	-
Cherries, Sweet	2.9	3.5	-	-
Cherries, Sour	2.4	3.0	3.0	3.2
Plums, Japanese	2.6	2.7	-	-
European	2.7	2.8	2.3	2.3
Pears, Bartlett	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.5
Kieffer	3.0	3.0	-	-
Others	2.7	2.7	-	-
Peaches	3.0	3.0	-	-

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

MANITOBA

July 14: The weather has been very favourable to growth of vegetables since the last report. Most crops will be average but early cabbage and cauliflower have been seriously affected by a flea beetle which in some cases has wiped out the crop. Although the early cabbage crop was first reported to be very poor, recent rains have materially improved the prospects. The vegetable crop as reported July 14 where 1 = poor, 2 = below average, 3 = average, 4 = above average, 5 = excellent is as follows:

Beans	3.2	Corn	2.7
Beets	3.2	Cucumbers	3
Early Cabbage	1.6	Lettuce	3.6
Late Cabbage	1.6	Onions	3.8
Early Cauliflower	1.2	Early Potatoes	3
Late Cauliflower	1.4	Peas	3.6
Carrots	3.7	Tomatoes	3.5
Celery	4.0		

BRITISH COLUMBIA

July 9: The early sweet cherry crop is about finished on Vancouver Island and Bings and Lamberts are now taking over the market. The heavy rains at the first of the month caused serious damage to the sweet cherry crop in the Okanagan Valley and in the Kootenay and Arrow Lakes regions. Severe splitting necessitated much culling.

The apple crop is developing very favourably throughout the province. The crop, for the most part, is unaffected by scab except on Vancouver Island where some damage is reported. For the rest of the province, the damage is at a minimum. The chief problem is the control of the codling moth. Despite the heavy spray program, the fruit in some cases is badly affected. The worms are now leaving the fruit to pupate and the next spray will have to be applied earlier than usual in order to control the second brood.

Yellow transparents and other early apples are now available in carload lots as "cookers" and are moving in fair quantities. The supplies, however, exceed the demand.

July 18: Vancouver Island and Lower Mainland have experienced one of the earliest dry periods on record. Practically no rain fell from the middle of May until July 2. The weather has been very hot and dry during the past two weeks. The Okanagan Valley and the Kootenay areas have had the same type of weather but were fortunate in having a much heavier precipitation at the first of the month than occurred at the coast.

The strawberry season started about June 1 and lasted for six weeks. Carlot movements have been the greatest on record with a total of 201 straight cars. Vancouver Island shipped 12 cars, the Lower Mainland 160 and Wynndel 29. The previous record shipments were made in 1935 when a total of 153 cars were moved. The yields on the Island were disappointing due to the drought. The increase in production was due particularly to the increase in acreage on the Lower Mainland. In addition to carlot shipments, a large tonnage was sold on the local markets and to the processing plants.

Raspberries and loganberries began to move at the end of June. To date the Lower Mainland has shipped 54 cars of raspberries while Wynndel has moved 1 car of loganberries. The cars all went to the canneries and wineries. The season has just past its peak.

The second estimate of tree fruits just issued for the Okanagan and Kootenay areas shows production as follows:

Apples	5,172,000 boxes	Cherries	145,000 crates
Crab Apples	132,000 "	Peaches	455,000 "
Pears	300,000 "	Apricots	177,000 "
Plums and Prunes	311,000 crates		

UNITED KINGDOM

According to information published by the Imperial Economic Committee on June 29, the cherry crop in England and Wales was very light to light. Black currants also were reported as very light to fair, mostly very light to light. The raspberry crop was reported as good in Cornwall, Devon and Tamar Valley but as light to fair in other sections.

According to a report issued on July 6, only the Tamar Valley reported a good crop of early cooking apples, while other districts reported the crop very bad to fair, mostly bad to fair. Bramley's seedling was reported in Tamar Valley as good while the other areas showed the crop to be very bad to bad, mostly very bad. The crop of Worcester Permain was reported as good in Evesham, Pershore and Tamar Valley areas, while other districts reported fair to bad. Cox Orange Pippins were reported as fair in Evesham and Pershore and North Gloucestershire, while the other areas reported the crop as bad to very bad, mostly very bad.

Cherries were reported as good to very bad, mostly bad. Pears were shown as fair to very bad, mostly very bad. Plums were indicated to be bad to very bad, mostly very bad, while raspberries were good to bad, mostly fair to bad.

AUSTRALIA

Tasmania - High temperatures during May matured the apples very rapidly. Due to the large size of the fruit, quantities will remain in the hands of the growers.

SOUTH AFRICA

According to a report issued by the Commercial Intelligence Journal dated June 22, the apple crop in South Africa is heavy and may reach record figures. Statistics covering exports are not yet available, but it is known that the exports during 1938 are already nearly double the exports of 1937. The carry-over in cold storage will also be correspondingly large.

UNITED STATES

Special Fruit Crop Report, July 12, 1938.

United States Fruit Production for 1937 with estimates for 1938:

Kind	1937	1938
	(Thousand Bushels)	
Apples	210,673	134,394
Pears	29,548	31,049
Peaches	59,724	53,651
	tons	
Grapes	2,776,770	2,464,880
Cherries	144,720	140,170

Apples: 1938 estimate is 36 per cent below the 1937 production and 11 per cent below the 10-year average.

Pears: 1938 estimate is 5 per cent above the 1937 production and 28 per cent above the 10-year average.

Peaches: 1938 estimate is 10 per cent below the 1937 production and 2 per cent below the 10-year average.

Grapes: 1938 estimate is 12 per cent below the 1937 production and 12.2 per cent above the 10-year average.

Cherries: 1938 estimate is 3.2 per cent below the 1937 production and 20.5 per cent higher than the 10-year average.