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Fruit and Vegetable Crop Report

Ottawa, June 28, 1939 - The Dominion Bureau of Statistics in co-operation with the Fruit Branch of the Department of Agriculture and the Provincial Departments of Agriculture, issues today a report showing the condition of fruit and vegetable crops in the main producing areas as at the middle of June.

SUMMARY

The weather in Eastern Canada during most of June has been dry, while the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia have received more than the usual amount of rain. The cool spring has retarded the development of small fruits and vegetables in the Eastern Provinces, especially in Quebec and the Maritimes. The apple trees in both Nova Scotia and New Brunswick have made excellent growth and are expected to produce better than average crops. Insects and disease have been well controlled in spite of heavy winds. Although early reports anticipated an average strawberry crop in Nova Scotia, the development of root rot in the larger producing sections has greatly reduced the prospects. The New Brunswick plantations, notwithstanding some severe winter injury, should produce an average crop. Raspberries in both provinces show some winter injury and a below average crop is expected. Although the orchards in the Montreal section were damaged by rodents during the winter, present indications are for an average yield. The strawberry crop is expected to be average although some weevil injury is reported in the old plantations. After a heavy bloom the apple trees in Eastern Ontario have only set a fair crop. The set in Western Ontario, on the other hand, is good. Pears in Eastern Ontario blossomed heavily and are bearing an average crop but the set in the western section of the province is irregular and below average. Plums and cherries are below average throughout the province while grape vines in Western Ontario show a two and three-bunch set, and the crop is expected to be greater than in 1938. Lack of rain in Eastern Ontario and in the Niagara, Burlington and Toronto areas has retarded the growth of the vegetable crops but showers on June 22 have somewhat relieved the situation. Favourable weather from now on will improve the prospects. Although there has been an abundance of rain, cool weather has retarded the growth of all vegetable crops in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. With the advent of warmer weather rapid growth is expected. Flea beetles and cutworms are doing some damage in Manitoba, while grasshoppers have been active in some sections of Saskatchewan. Growing conditions have been ideal in British Columbia but the abundance of rain has reduced strawberry shipments and caused some splitting of sweet cherries. The first British Columbia tree-fruit production estimate shows apples, pears and plums to be below last year while prunes, cherries, peaches and apricots will exceed the 1938 crop. All vegetables are coming on the markets in increasing quantities.

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

The weather during the past month has been cool and rather dry. Cold winds have retarded development but no damaging frosts have been reported. As a result of the backward spring, the orchards have developed slowly. The apple trees were still in full bloom on June 19 and although bee flights were greatly reduced by the cold winds, the protracted blooming period is expected to result in a better-than-average set. Spraying has been well carried out and no serious outbreaks of either insects or disease are expected. Some gummosis and black knot have been reported in stone fruits, but not of a serious nature. Bud moth, European Red Mite and leaf hoppers are doing a moderate amount of damage on apples while strawberry weevils are abundant and doing more injury than has been recorded for several years.

NOVA SCOTIA

Spring weather conditions have been favourable for pollination and setting of fruit. There was some slight frost injury during May in a small area in the low parts of the Annapolis Valley, but the damage has resulted only in a limited amount of leaf curl which the trees are expected to outgrow. Rainfall and wind, although interfering somewhat with spraying, have been generally more favourable than last year. Warm weather has now set in and growing conditions are very favourable.

Spraying, on the whole, has been well done. In consequence, there has been very little insect or plant disease injury. In those cases where spraying has not been thorough, green aphis have been troublesome, while in a few instances rosy aphis have done some damage. Apple scab has been well controlled except in a small proportion of orchards that were not well sprayed.

Although early reports indicated the production of an average crop of strawberries, a large amount of root injury has developed in the Annapolis Valley, materially reducing the crop. In Berwick, one of the largest centres, it is reported that there will be about half a crop. In Cumberland County, there was considerable winter injury and crop prospects are about 25 per cent below average. In the Masstown district in Colchester County, winter injury also has reduced crop prospects to below average. In other parts of the province a yield of average to above average is expected. In Pictou County heavy winter injury is reported in fields which were not protected; well covered fields, however, are in good condition. Although favourable weather conditions from now until the height of the fruiting season may materially improve the prospects, the strawberry crop is expected to be below average.

Fruit crop conditions during the third week of June are as follows:

Apples		Pears	Plums	Strawberries	Raspberries
Early Varieties	Late Varieties				
4.0	4.1	2.9	2.8	2.5	2.9

NEW BRUNSWICK

The weather during the past month has been unusually dry and cooler than average but as there have been no frosts the apple trees have not been adversely affected. There have been no severe winds and the weather as a whole has been distinctly satisfactory for spraying operations. The spring weather has so far been favourable for growth and the trees have responded accordingly.

Insect damage to the apple orchards has been very slight this spring with Bud Moth the most active pest. The trees have also been uncommonly free of apple scab. The late, cold, dry season has been unfavourable to apple scab development and spraying has been very thoroughly done. Nearly all growers applied two and, in some cases, three sprays before the blossom. The calyx spray was applied between June 12 and June 20.

As the June drop has not yet taken place it is difficult to estimate the crop prospects at this time but from present conditions the crop should be above average to excellent.

The strawberry plantations have been weakened by excessive winter-killing in the chief producing areas, namely Grand Lake and Memramcook. The plants which survived, however, are showing good growth and a profusion of bloom. With timely rains and warmer weather a normal crop should be harvested. Raspberries also suffered considerable winter injury, especially in exposed locations. As a result, the crop is expected to be below average.

QUEBEC

Since the last report only light local frosts causing no serious damage have been reported. Rainfall has been abundant and only a few warm days are needed to encourage growth which has so far been retarded by very cool nights. The cool spring weather has not affected the fruit trees, however; the bloom was abundant and remained on the trees a long time. The only serious damage to the orchards occurred in the Montreal district where rodents have caused some injury which may reduce the crop.

QUEBEC (Concluded).

The small fruit plantations are growing satisfactorily. Many localities, however, report strawberry weevil damage in old plantations but the injury is not considered serious.

From the present condition of the apple trees, production should be average, while the strawberry crop is expected to be better than average. It is still too early to estimate the condition of the raspberry crop.

ONTARIO

Western Ontario

Although present moisture and temperature conditions are favourable for good plant growth and fruit development, lack of rain earlier in the season, adversely affected non-irrigated strawberry plantations, particularly old patches. Insects have been kept at a minimum except leaf rollers in Brant County and aphis in Niagara where high winds and rains interfered with spraying.

The set on all varieties of apples, with the exception of Spies, is good. The fruit is sizing well although growth was retarded earlier in the month. Pears, on the other hand, have set irregularly and a below-average crop is expected. With improved weather, later estimates may show some increase. All varieties of peaches with the exception of Mayflower and June Elberta are carrying an average crop. The fruit is developing rapidly and thinning is now in progress. The outlook for the plum crop is below average at present. The set was irregular but development to date has been good. Cherries are also expected to be below average, especially the sweets, which are sizing slowly due to lack of moisture. The grape crop, on the other hand, should be average or slightly above average. The vineyards are in excellent condition and show a two to three-bunch set. Although production of strawberries was adversely affected by drought early in the month, particularly in Niagara and Burlington and to a lesser extent in the Toronto and Norfolk areas, total production is expected to be higher than in 1938. Raspberry plantations are growing well and are carrying an average crop at present. Future weather conditions, however, will greatly affect production.

Although conditions were favourable in other areas, the vegetable producing districts of Niagara, Burlington and Toronto were adversely affected by inadequate rainfall, cold nights and frequent heavy winds. There has been some improvement following showers on June 22, but plant growth has not been satisfactory in these specified districts, except where irrigation has been carried out.

Early seeding and planting were delayed in practically all areas, but subsequent growing conditions have been more favourable and considerable recovery has been made, resulting in earlier harvesting than at first anticipated.

Eastern Ontario

The weather has been generally favourable for growth of orchards and small fruits, but lack of rain at the beginning of the month has materially affected the crop prospects. Scab on apple trees has been well under control but bud moth, leaf roller and rosy aphis are abundant in a number of localities. After a heavy bloom on practically all varieties, with the exception of Spies and Starks, the set has been only fair. The Macintosh are the most promising and an increase in production of this variety over last year is expected. Apples as a whole, indicate a decrease of 15 to 20 per cent from the previous crop. Pears also had a heavy show of bloom and the crop should be average. Plums, on the other hand, will have a light crop. Cherries are showing the results of winter injury to the buds and production will be 25 per cent of the 1938 crop. Strawberry prospects were exceptionally good early in the month but a lack of rain has reduced the crop to 50 per cent of last year's production. Although some raspberry plantations are showing winter injury, the crop is expected to be average.

Dry weather has retarded the development of all vegetables in Eastern Ontario. Harvesting of all crops will be ten days to two weeks later than last season, but if sufficient moisture is received soon, the crops may have an almost average yield. The acreage of early potatoes is slightly less than last year but late plantings show an increase. The acreage of canning tomatoes is much lower but there is some increase in the acreage intended for the fresh market trade. Celery and lettuce show a slightly increased acreage and practically all other vegetables have about the same acreage planted as in 1938.

ONTARIO (Concluded)

Prospects for Fruit Production at End of June, 1939

	Western Ontario	Eastern Ontario
APPLES		
Early Varieties...	3.1	3.0
Wealthy.....	3.1	3.0
Snow.....	3.0	2.7
Macintosh.....	3.2	3.5
Baldwin.....	3.3	3.0
Greening.....	3.1	3.0
Spy.....	2.5	2.3
Stark.....	3.0	2.6
Other Varieties...	3.2	3.0
CHERRIES		
Sweet.....	2.4	-
Sour.....	3.1	1.0
PEARS		
Bartlett.....	2.2	3.0
Keiffer	2.1	-
Other.....	2.3	3.0
PEACHES	2.9	-
PLUMS		
Japanese.....	2.1	1.0
European.....	2.3	1.0
GRAPES	3.2	-

Condition of Vegetable Crops at June 25, 1939, and Dates of Harvesting

	Western Ontario			Eastern Ontario		
	Condition	Date of First Marketing	Date of Commercial Marketing	Condition	Date of First Marketing	Date of Commercial Marketing
Asparagus	3.1	May 2	May 5	3.0	May 3	May 10
Beans (snap)	3.1	June 20	June 23	3.1	July 1	July 15
Beets (bunching)	3.0	June 1	June 5	3.4	June 25	July 1
Cabbage (early)	3.0	June 1	June 5	3.0	July 1	July 15
Cauliflower (early)	2.8	May 22	June 1	3.2	July 10	July 20
Carrots (bunching)	2.8	June 17	June 24	3.0	July 1	July 10
Celery (early)	3.0	June 16	June 24	-	-	-
Celery (main crop)	-	-	-	2.9	Aug. 1	Aug. 10
Corn (sweet)	2.9	July 25	July 28	2.5	Aug. 1	Aug. 10
Lettuce (head)	3.0	May 27	June 5	-	-	-
Lettuce (all varieties)	-	-	-	3.0	May 10	May 15
Onions	3.0	June 30	July 7	3.1	May 1	May 10
Peas (garden)	3.0	June 5	June 10	2.4	July 1	July 10
Potatoes (early)	2.7	June 15	June 24	2.7	July 1	July 10
Spinach	3.0	May 20	May 23	3.5	May 20	June 1
Tomatoes (fresh)	3.0	June 29	July 6	2.7	July 20	July 25
Tomatoes (processing)	3.0	Too early to estimate		2.7	Aug. 1	Aug. 10

MANITOBA

Although there were numerous rains during the first three weeks of June, the weather was cool. All vegetable crops, as a result, made slow growth but with the advent of warmer weather and an abundance of moisture in the soil, rapid development is expected during the next few weeks. All crops are backward at present, however, especially tomatoes and peppers. Flea beetles have been active in some sections, causing considerable damage to cabbage, cauliflower and radishes, while cutworms are reported to be attacking onions and carrots.

The condition of the vegetable crops during the third week of June was as follows:

Beans	2.8
Cabbage	2.3
Carrots	3.0
Cauliflower	2.3
Celery	3.0
Corn	3.1
Cucumbers	2.8
Onions	3.2
Peas	3.4
Tomatoes	2.9

SASKATCHEWAN

The weather has been cool and cloudy with showers and heavy rains in most parts of the province. Rainfall was somewhat lighter in parts of north-western Saskatchewan, and although moisture conditions have considerably improved in south-eastern areas the precipitation there was of a more scattered nature, coming in the form of light to heavy showers, and some points still require additional moisture to overcome the deficiency.

Frosts have occurred at points chiefly in south-eastern and northern portions of the province and some injury to tender garden stuff is reported. Some wireworm and cutworm damage has also been sustained. The very active grasshopper control campaign and the cool, wet weather have held grasshoppers in check and except for a few isolated spots in the southern portion of the province damage has been slight. Some reseeding has been done where early gardens suffered injury from this source. Cold weather has retarded growth and while radish and lettuce are ready for use in some cases, generally gardens are backward. However, with the favourable moisture conditions now prevailing in most parts of the province rapid growth is to be expected with the advent of warmer weather.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

A report issued by the Provincial Department of Agriculture on June 17 states that the weather during the first ten days to two weeks of the month was cool and showery in all fruit-producing sections. The weather began to clear about June 9 on Vancouver Island and in the Creston sections, but the other districts still report cool, backward conditions. The weather has been generally beneficial to the fruit crops with the exception of strawberries which are suffering from the excessive moisture and consequent delay in shipment. The growers are also somewhat uneasy about the cherry crop as the continued rain is favourable to the production of much splitting. Sweet cherries are growing rapidly, and the earliest varieties are beginning to ripen in the Vancouver Island and Upper Okanagan Valley sections, while shipments to processors and to the fresh market have been made from the Lower Okanagan Valley district. All tree fruits are sizing very well and an increase over last year is expected in the prune, cherry, peach and apricot crops. On the other hand, a decrease in the crops of apples, pears and plums is anticipated.

Spring vegetables are growing well in nearly all sections and are appearing on the markets in increasing quantity and variety. In the Armstrong-Vernon area the reports are not so favourable. The onion fields are heavily infested with cutworms and onion fly maggots and the excessive moisture has delayed development of the tomato and bean plants. Some bean stands were so poor that they were plowed in.

BRITISH COLUMBIA (Concluded)

June 28 Weather conditions during June have been abnormally wet in all sections. There has been some loss in strawberry shipments due to excessive moisture and cherries are showing slight splitting. The first carload of cherries moved from the southern Okanagan Valley last week, but dry weather is needed from now on if cherry shipments are to be satisfactory. Early raspberries are now appearing on the market and carload shipments are expected about July 8.

The first estimate of the tree-fruit crops issued June 15 is as follows:

Variety	Package	1938	Percentage of 1938	1939
Apples	Box	6,049,000	97.6	5,902,000
Pears	Box	393,600	93.1	366,600
Plums	Crate	164,400	89.3	146,800
Prunes	Crate	326,100	102.7	334,800
Cherries	Crate	215,600	103.6	223,300
Peaches	Crate	341,300	134.3	458,500
Apricots	Crate	188,000	111.6	209,900

British Columbia Vegetable Acreages, 1938 and 1939

Variety	1938	1939	Variety	1938	1939
	(acres)			(acres)	
Asparagus	208	261	Onions	1,424½	1,554¼
Beets	323¼	372½	Parsnips	102¾	94½
Beans	738	664	Peas	3,225	3,062
Cabbage	504¼	531	Potatoes, early	2,421½	2,265½
Cauliflower	202	202½	Potatoes, late	6,772½	6,434¼
Celery	328½	331	Spinach	325	315
Carrots	672½	664	Peppers	33½	38
Cucumbers	192	161	Squash & Pumpkins	118½	79½
Corn	839½	627½	Tomatoes	3,330¾	2,363¼
Cantaloupes	232	254½	Turnips	275	298½
Lettuce	561	597½	Other Vegetables	359	385

UNITED STATES

Issued by the United States Department of Agriculture, June 15.

APPLES:

The June 1 condition of the 1939 apple crop was reported at 69 percent of normal, compared with 55 percent on June 1, 1938, and the 10-year (1928-37) average of 64 percent. Condition is above average in the North Atlantic and North Central groups of States, but is below average in the South Central and Western groups. In the South Atlantic group the condition of the crop is average. Though it is too early to forecast production of apples, the June 1 condition is 5 points above the 10-year (1928-37) average, and seems to indicate a total crop in 1939 equal to or slightly larger than the 10-year average production.

PEACHES:

The total peach crop in the United States, as indicated by the June 1 condition, is placed at 61,863,000 bushels, compared with 51,945,000 bushels produced in 1938 and the 10-year (1928-37) average production of 54,151,000 bushels. Prospective production for 1939 is above average in all sections except the South Atlantic group of States.

PEARS:

The total United States pear crop, as indicated by the June 1 condition is 30,024,000 bushels, compared with the record 1938 crop of 32,473,000 bushels, and the 10-year (1928-37) average of 25,444,000 bushels.

UNITED STATES (Concluded)

CHERRIES:

The Nation's cherry crop is expected to set a new production record in 1939. The total crop of sweet and sour cherries in the 12 commercial States is indicated by the June 1 condition to be 180,350 tons, compared with the 1938 production of 140,870 tons, the previous record crop of 144,720 tons in 1937, and the 10-year (1928-37) average of 124,646 tons.

UNITED KINGDOM AND EUROPE

A supplementary report issued by the Foreign Agricultural Service of the United States Department of Agriculture on June 8 states:

Present prospects are for above average fruit crops this year both in the United Kingdom and in Continental Europe. Frost damage in European countries has been much less than in either of the two preceding seasons. In general fruit trees blossomed late but heavily. However, weather conditions were not entirely favourable for pollenization on the Continent so that the set was somewhat reduced. Despite that fact it is expected that domestic supplies on the Continent this year will be considerably above average. In the United Kingdom tree fruits are expected to yield two or three times as heavy as last year.

United Kingdom

In general crop prospects for all kinds of fruit in the United Kingdom are much better this year than in either of the two preceding seasons. Light frosts during the last week of April caused no material damage to orchard fruits although strawberries and gooseberries were injured slightly. On the whole tree fruit crops are expected to yield two or three times as heavily as last year and almost that much more than the average yield.

On the Continent

The 1939 fruit crop in most of the producing countries of North Central Europe (i.e., Greater Germany, Switzerland, the Netherlands and Poland) promise to be considerably above average. In some districts a record or near record crop will be harvested if weather conditions remain favourable. There has been very little frost damage to date.