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Fruit and Vegetable Crop Report

Ottawa, July 26, 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 July.

SUMMARY

beneficial to all fruit and vegetable crops. An unusually heavy drop of apples in New Brunswick was due to dry weather early in June. Timely rains have greatly improved the strawberry crops in both Nova Scotia and New Brunswick and earlier estimates of production have since been increased. Insects and disease have been kept under control by vigorous spray programs, no serious outbreaks being reported. The apple grop in both provinces shows an increase over the preceding year, while both strawberries and raspberries are much lighter. Plums and pears in Nova Scotia also show a substantial reduction. Apple crop prospects are generally good in Quebec, although reports from the Quebec City area show an exceedingly heavy drop. The crop as a whole is developing rapidly. Spraying for apple maggot is practically completed. Most fruit crops are growing satisfactorily in Ontario although rain is needed in the Niagara district and in the eastern section of the province. Insect and disease have been kept under control in all commercial orchards. Vegetables in Western Ontario are reported to be growing normally, but crops in Eastern Ontario are slightly below average as a result of the drought. Grapes and strawberries show an increase over the previous crop while apples. pears, plums, peaches and raspberries will be lighter than a year ago.

Moisture conditions have been generally favourable for vegetables in both Manitoba and Saskatchewan and all crops are reported to be developing normally. Warmer weather, however, would assist some crops in Manitoba. The weather has been variable in British Columbia but all crops have responded to the abundance of moisture. Strawberries are finished and loganberries and raspberries are at the peak. All tree fruits are growing rapidly with "cooker" apples appearing on the market in increasing quantities. Peaches, apricots and grapes show an increase over the previous crop while apples, pears, plums and prunes, and cherries all show a reduction.

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

Temperatures during July have been for the most part below average, the maximum for the month being 86°F. and the minimum 52°F. Rainfall has been about average, precipitation occurring on nine days prior to July 20 with a total of 2.60 inches. Winds were mainly south or south-east and east. Most days have been partly cloudy with no sustained periods of hot weather or drought.

The general condition of the orchards has improved greatly within the past month. Backward conditions early in the month have been followed by more favourable periods and growth has been vigorous especially where the trees have been well sprayed and fertilized. Brown rot of stone fruits has caused considerable damage to plums where proper sanitation is not practiced. Apple scab has been sever on isolated unsprayed trees but is well controlled by spraying in commercial orchards. Moderate infestations of leaf hoppers and bud moths have been noted and within the past week a slight outbreak of aphids has been seen on young trees. A few adult apple maggot flies have also been found.

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NOVA SCOTIA

Weather conditions have been satisfactory for all crops since the last report. Higher temperatures have prevailed with sufficient rainfall to maintain continued development of all fruit crops. Strawberries have been particularly benefited and losses will be less than at first anticipated. Slight hail damage has been reported in one or two small areas but the injury was not extensive.

Taken generally the orchards in the Annapolis Valley are in an excellent state of vigour. The early leaves that were injured by cold weather and from frosts have been superseded by new leaves and all orchards are carrying an exceptionally heavy foliage. Apple scab, although in evidence, is generally well controlled and vigorous spraying for the control of bud moth, gray-banded leaf roller, and codling moth is being done where these have been troublesome in the past. All other pests are well controlled.

The first estimate of Nova Scotia fruit crops is as follows:

Kind	Unit	1938	1939
Apples	bbl.	2,300,000	2,530,000
Pears	bu.	27,000	20,200
Plums	bu.	9,500	6,300
Strawberries	qt.	1,120,000	943,000
Raspberries	qt.	78,000	74,100

NEW BRUNSWICK

The weather continued to be cool and dry until June 29. There was a fairly heavy rain on June 30 which was followed by a week of excessively hot weather with temperatures of 90° and higher. The third week in July was very unsettled and cool. The heavy rains have been much needed by the orchards.

The general condition of the apple orchards is good with all well sprayed orchards showing very little scab development or insect pest injury. Although there was an exceptionally heavy bloom, the hot weather early in July apparently had a actrimental effect resulting in a heavy "drop". The apples will remaining on the trees are sizing well and at present the indications point to very good quality fruit at harvest time.

At the present time the apple crop is estimated at 30 to 40 per cent greater than that of 1938. It may run more or less depending largely on conditions during the next few weeks. At the end of June the indications were for a Macintosh crop of nearly 100 per cent but a late drop, due probably to the hot weather following a dry June, has reduced that to 75 per cent to 80 per cent at the present time. Crimson Beauty and Duchess should be very good and Dudley fair to good. Fameuse, Wealthy, Cortland and Wolf River indicate medium to good crops.

Timely rains aided in the development of the late set strawberries but because of winter injury the crop is expected to be 40 per cent below that of last year. Raspberries on the other hand have overcome the winter injury reported earlier in the season and are expected to show only a slight reduction amounting to 8.3 per cent of the previous year's crop.

The first estimate of New Brunswick fruit crops is as follows:

Kind	Unit	1938	1939
Apples Strawberries Raspberries	bbl.	48,600	63,200
	qt.	1,500,000	900,000
	qt.	60,000	50,000

QUEREC

The weather in Quebec has been varied with temperatures running very high during the past few days following a rather cool spell. The apple crop is developing rapidly and is expected to be heavier than a year ago. Due to hot weather early in the month, a heavy drop of apples occurred in the Quebec City area, reducing the prospects in that locality. The exceedingly heavy crop of strawberries was finished in the Montreal section on July 20 but peak production in the Riviere du Loup district

QUEBEC (Concluded)

did not occur until July 22. Raspberries are beginning to arrive on all markets in increasing quantities but the size of the fruit is not good. Insect pests have been well controlled in the orchards and the apple maggot spray has been completed in all districts. Some scab has begun to appear on the apples, however, as a result of the wet cool weather of a week ago. Vegetables crops are all growing well and large quantities of beans are now being harvested. Late cabbage and cauliflower are looking very promising but cucumbers have been reduced by cool, damp weather during the month.

ONTARIO

Toronto West

Fruit

Growing conditions have been very favourable for the tree fruits and grapes. There was a normal "drop" of apples and the fruit remaining on the trees is sizing rapidly. Sun-scald is negligible and practically no scab has been reported on the fruit. There is an exceptional freedom from insects or disease infestations so far although localized areas report codling moth, bud moth and rosy aphis damage. The cherry crop has developed well and this, together with ideal weather at harvesting, has resulted in a heavier yield than at first anticipated. A few areas report some bruising from heavy winds. Pears are developing well and are reported free from insect and disease damage. Peaches are also growing satisfactorily and are expected to show an increase over last year's crop. Considering the poor set of plums, present development of the much reduced crop is excellent. The grape crop is expected to exceed last year's yield and with good spray practice leaf hoppers and mildew are being kept well under control.

Production of apples this year as compared with last year in terms of percentage is as follows:

	Percentage Increase	Percentage Decrease
Early apples	20	
Wealthy	12	
Baldwin	18	
Spy		17
Greening	18	
Stark	5	
Snow	8	
Macintosh	15	
Other Varieties	20	
Apples in general	18	

Vegetables

Recent weather and moisture conditions have been generally favourable for good development although an early rain would be welcome particularly in the Niagara, Burlington and Elgin districts. In Lampton county heavy winds blew out some of the late celery plantings and frequent windy days have slightly retarded growth and induced some disease in a few crops, notably cucumbers. Otherwise no serious insect or disease damage is reported.

Vegetable acreages in northern Ontario are estimated the same as last year with the exception of potatoes which tend to show a 15 per cent increase. Owing to the late spring, crops are somewhat below average development for this time of year. They have a healthy appearance, however, and the prospects for a crop are good if favourable weather conditions prevail.

In the "Head of the Lakes" section the acreage of vegetables is unchanged from a year ago. With favourable temperatures and moisture conditions and less evidence of insects or disease than usual, prospects appear better than for some years.

ONTARIO (Concluded)

Eastern Ontario

Fruit

During the past month fruit has continued normal growth in spite of the dry weather, but moisture must come soon or the sizing of apples will be affected in many orchards. Many growers have found it necessary to apply an oil spray for codling moth catrol and are getting good results. A heavy drop took place on Macintosh and Early varities after the set but there are plenty of apples left on trees of these varieties for an average yield. Bud moth and rosy aphis have caused considerable damage in many orchards, but scab is well under control where regular sprays have been applied. Many growers are applying late cover sprays for side worms and apple maggot.

The strawberry crop was disappointing both in respect to yield and prices. Approximately the same quantity was purchased for processing as in 1938. The acreage was increased about 21 per cent. The acreage of raspberries is reported up approximately 19 per cent over last season. At present the dry weather is doing much damage to the crop, but if moisture comes soon the output will be raised considerably. Large quantities will be processed. Late varieties of sour cherries are now being harvested with the total crop only about one-quarter that of last year. Pears will show a slight increase over the production of 1938. The principal varieties are Bartletts and Clapps. The production of plums will be the lightest in years in eastern Ontario.

Vegetables

In eastern Ontario the continued dry weather is going to reduce the yield of all vegetable crops unless a change comes soon.

The first estimate of Ontario fruit crops is as follows:

	1938	1939
Apples	845,400 bbl.	769,300 bbl.
Pears	295,800 bu.	247,400 bu.
Plums	77,200 bu.	51,300 bu.
Peaches	569,600 bu.	655,000 bu.
Grapes	33,638,000 lbs.	43,000,000 lbs.
Strawberries	7,366,600 qts.	7,620,600 qts.
Raspberries	5,509,700 qts.	4,283,200 qts.

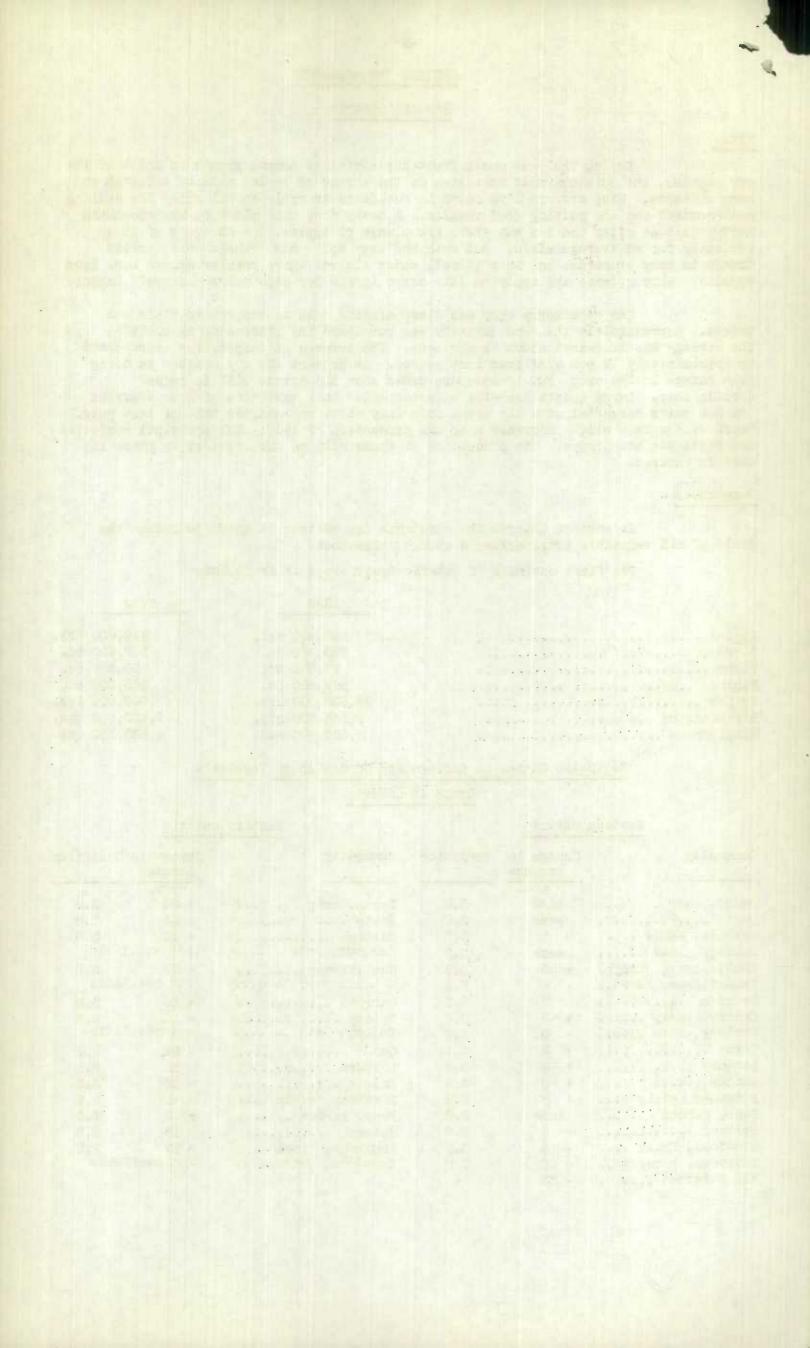
Estimated Change in Acreage and Condition of Vegetable

Crops in Ontario

Factorn Ontorio

Western Ontario

Western Untario			Eastern Ontario		
Commodity	Change in acreage	Condition	Commodity	Change in acreage	Condition
	p.c.			p.c.	
Beans, snap	same	3.0	Beans, snap	+ 20	3.0
Beets	same	3.0	Beets	+ 21	2.8
Cabbage, early	+ 5	3.0	Cabbage	+ 14	3.0
Cabbage, late	same	2.9	Cabbage, late	not avai	lable
Cauliflower, early .	+ 10	2.9	Cauliflower	+ 37	2.8
Cauliflower, late	+ 2	2.8	Cauliflower, late	not avai	lable
Carrots	+ 3	3.0	Carrots	+ 10	3.0
Celery, early	+ 3	3.0	Celery	+ 10	2.7
Cerlery, late	+ 8	3.0	Celery, late	not avai	lable
Corn	+ 2	3.1	Corn	+ 24	2.9
Lettuce	+ 8	3.2	Lettuce	+ 12	3.1
Onions	+ 2	3.0	Onions	+ 15	3,2
Potatoes, early	+ 8	2.8	Potatoes, early	+ 6	2.8
Peas, garden	same	2.8	Peas, garden	+ 3	2.5
Spinach	- 5	3.2	Spinach	+ 15	2.9
Tomatoes, fresh	- 4	3.1	Tomatoes, field	+ 17	2.8
Tomatoes, process	- 26	3.0	Tomatoes, process	not avai	lable
All Tomatoes	- 23				



MANITOBA

During July, temperature conditions have been quite favourable for most vegetable crops. In general, the weather has been warm, while on a few days the thermometer registered 95° to 100°F. In some districts where moisture was lacking, principally in the south and eastern part, these few hot days caused some damage. Where moisture conditions were more favourable the warmer weather was especially welcomed for the hot-season crops. It has helped to force along beans, tomatoes, corn and the vine crops such as vegetable marrow, cucumbers and melons. Heavy thunder showers, in areas from Winnipeg north, have accompanied the warm weather, and this certainly has brightened the garden picture.

Insect and disease damage has been relatively light on most crops. Grasshoppers have caused a little trouble in some farm gardens. The potato beetle has probably been the most serious pest and is occurring in large numbers all over the province. Control measures have been used extensively to combat it. Bean blight has caused slight damage in many bean plantings.

In the market gardens around Winnipeg early cabbage were being cut by July 10th, but are considerably later in the average farm garden. Locally grown cauliflower have been on the market for nearly two weeks. The early peas are over and the later varieties will be ready in a few days. Some of the first picking of early beans are now available, although in most farm gardens they will be a week or more yet. Carrots and beets are large enough for use and have been on the city: market for 10 days to 2 weeks. In sheltered locations the early tomatoes are now ripening, but this is not common in the farm garden. The new potato crop has been coming on the market since the 10th of July, and is a very fair sample. It seems safe to say that the gardens are generally a little behind those of other years.

SASKATCHEWAN

Following an unusually cool June, temperatures in July rose and the weather has continued mostly very warm with scattered showers. Precipitation has been unevenly distributed, the amount varying widely in different parts of the province.

Gardens, on the whole, have made good progress since last report with the exception of some points in the south-eastern portion of the province which have suffered from lack of moisture. Good rains, however, would be most welcome particularly at points in Regina-Weyburn, south-central, east-central and central Saskatchewan.

The potato beetle has been quite troublesome at some points in the eastern and northern portions of the province while grasshoppers have caused considerable damage in isolated cases. Rains would be of material benefit to potato crops.

Gardens are in generally good condition. A few early potatoes are being sold at some points. Radishes, onions and lettuce are now being used and peas, beets and carrots will be ready by the latter part of July or the beginning of August.

Vegetables in Saskatchewan are largely grown for table use.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

July 15

Picking of the strawberry crop is practically completed except in the Kootenay, Arrow Lakes and Grand Forks sections where the crop is at its peak or just past it. Raspberries and loganberries are being harvested in large quantities on Vancouver Island and in the Coast sections, while carload shipments of raspberries are expected this week from Kelowna. Some splitting of cherries is reported, particularly in the Coast and Island sections but if present weather prevails losses from this source will be slight. Other tree fruits are sizing well with Yellow Transparent and Duchess apples coming on the market towards the end of the week.

All vegetable crops are in excellent condition and appearing in increasing quantity and variety on all markets. Greenhouse tomatoes are about over, while the field grown crop is just beginning to be picked. Cabbage in the northern Okanagan Valley section show some loss as a result of over-maturity. Onions in the southern section of the Valley are growing well but the yield will be below average.

. TITLE

BRITISH COLUMBIA (Concluded)

July 22

The weather has been very variable with little heat and frequent showers in all districts. The main strawberry crop is finished for the year in all sections. On the Coast raspberries and loganberries are at the peak and the crop is of satisfactory quality although the raspberries are a little soft. Cherries in the Okanagan Valley are practically finished but picking still continues in some Coast and Kootenay sections. The crop will all be harvested by August 1. Apricots are moving in volume and peaches should be starting early in August. Apples are moving as "cookers" with heavy Transparent and Duchess shipments expected at an early date.

The second estimate of the British Columbia fruit crop is as follows:

Variety	Unit	1938	1939
			-
Apples	box	6,048,500	5,876,500
Pears	box	393,600	386,600
Plums and Prunes	crate	490,500	485,100
Peaches	crate	391,300	430,000
Apricots	crate	188,000	205,500
Cherries	crate	211,600	211,000
Grapes	lb.	2,233,900	2,497,500

UNITED STATES

A report issued on July 21 by the United States Department of Agriculture states:

Because of changes in the method of estimating the apple crop, established by legislative action, no forecast of production is available at this time. Only minor changes occurred in the crop outlook for peaches during June. The indicated production as of July 1 in some States was increased slightly but offsetting decreases occurred in other States, so that the prospect for the major groups remain about the same as reported on June 1. Pear prospects improved slightly in the Central, South Atlantic and Northwestern States but declined elsewhere during June. The indicated production for the country as a whole, based on July 1 condition, totals 30.8 million bushels or about 1.7 million less than the 1938 crop but 5.3 million bushels more than the recent 10-year average crop.



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