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

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS - CANADA
AGRICULTURAL BRANCH

Price: $1.00 per year

Dominion Statistician: R. H. Coats, LL.D., F.R.S.C.
In Charge, Horticultural Statistics: R. E. Johnson, M.Sc.

Fruit and Vegetable Crop Report

Ottawa, September 27, 1939 - The Dominion Bureau of Statistics in co-operation with the Marketing Service of the Department of Agriculture and the Provincial Departments of Agriculture issues today 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 revised estimates of the 1938 fruit crops.

SUMMARY

Although the September estimate of the commercial crop of Canadian apples is only slightly below that of 1938, there has been a sharp reduction in the prospects since last month. The greatest change took place in Nova Scotia where the crop is reported to be 10 per cent below the previous estimate, as a result of the prolonged dry weather. A slight decrease is also reported in British Columbia, while the Ontario crop is now estimated to be higher than a year ago. The crop in New Brunswick and Quebec remains the same as in August. The Canadian apple crop is at present estimated at 5,135,000 barrels (5,222,400 barrels). There was a slight improvement in the prospects for the pear and plum crops during the month, the increase occurring in Ontario. The present pear crop is now placed at 584,300 bushels (653,400 bushels), while plum production is expected to be 222,000 bushels (238,000 bushels). Although there is no change in the estimates for peaches and grapes in British Columbia since the last report, ideal growing weather has so improved the Ontario crops of both fruits that substantial increases are reported. Production of Canadian peaches this year is estimated at 866,700 bushels (700,000 bushels), while the grape crop is placed at 50,444,300 pounds (35,973,600 pounds).

Root crops in Quebec are expected to produce heavily, while onions now show a considerable reduction. The general condition of most vegetables in western Ontario is better than in the eastern section of the province. Although there is an increase in acreage in the district east of Toronto, yields are below average. The root crops in Manitoba are better than average. The yield of Manitoba potatoes, on the other hand, is reported to be below average.

Note: Where estimates of fruit production are given, the final figure for 1938 is shown in brackets.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Although there was a good set of Apples, the continued dry weather since the beginning of August has greatly reduced the crop prospects. The fruit is small and maturing earlier than usual. High winds did some damage to the trees in exposed orchards. The dry weather has aided in the control of orchard diseases but all insect pests have been active.

NOVA SCOTIA

Good rains in the east end of the Annapolis Valley on September 17 have brought the sustained dry spell to an end. Light scattered showers in the west end of the Valley, although not as effective as those received elsewhere, have been generally beneficial. Winds accompanied the rains in Kings and Hants counties, but the fruit was not damaged. No hail has been reported to date.

The Apples have developed slowly as a result of the long dry spell experienced during the latter half of August and early September. On the whole, the fruit is smaller in size than last year. Orchards located on light soils have suffered considerably in this respect. On the heavier soils the size is remarkably good considering the adverse conditions. With the cooler weather and rains, the late varieties are expected to make good growth before harvesting. The break in the weather has greatly improved the colour on the fruit still to be picked, especially on the late varieties.

Picking of Cox Orange, Blenheim and Gravenstein is general and some export shipments have already been made. The overseas movement is considerably behind last year at this time due to the international situation. The crop is reported to be exceptionally clean. Very little scab is in evidence and insect damage is confined chiefly to aphid stings. As a result of the dry weather the estimate of production has been reduced 10 per cent from that of last month. The commercial crop is now estimated at 2,168,800 barrels compared with 2,409,800 barrels in August and 2,190,700 barrels in 1938.

The Pear and Plum crops show no change in production since August. Although the Pears are of good size, the poor set of fruit in the spring has resulted in a reduction from the previous crop. The Pear estimate is still placed at 22,100 bushels compared with 27,000 bushels in 1938. The Plums have developed slowly throughout the season, the size being reported as small to average depending on the locality. Plum production is estimated at 7,400 bushels compared with 9,500 bushels in 1938.

Note: The commercial Apple crop includes both fresh sales and fruit intended for processing. The estimates for both years have been reduced by the quantity designated as "home consumption." This has been done in order to make the estimates for all provinces comparable and on the same basis.

NEW BRUNSWICK

The weather since the last report has been, for the most part, warm and dry with a few scattered showers. The rains have aided materially in the sizing of the fruit, but soil moisture is still not as abundant as usual for this time of year. Since the second week of September the rains have been more frequent and the weather has turned cooler. The Apple crop is developing normally now in most areas, but in the light soil sections the fruit, as a result of the lack of moisture, is small and ripening prematurely. The Apples as a whole are somewhat undersize, but with a heavy set of fruit production is expected to exceed that of last year. With the advent of cooler weather, the Apples are beginning to colour rapidly and picking of Dudley and Wealthy is general. The crop is reported to be exceptionally clean with very little insect damage or disease in evidence. Some unsprayed orchards, however, are heavily infested with railroad worm. The estimate of commercial apple production is the same as that of a month ago, being placed at 56,900 barrels as compared with 48,600 barrels in 1938.

QUEBEC

The weather has turned cool following the warm bright days early in the month. Showers have been frequent and some areas in the Quebec City district had frost on September 17. The weather has been ideal for the development of the Apple crop in the Montreal section where McIntosh with excellent colour were being harvested during the third week of the month. The estimate of Apple production is the same as that of a month ago and is placed at 118,500 barrels compared with 121,500 barrels in 1938. Tomato supplies in all districts are beginning to fall off, especially the red varieties. Liberal quantities of Cabbage are available in the Montreal section, but the demand exceeds the supply in Quebec City markets. Heavy yields of both Carrots and Beets are anticipated throughout the province. The Onion crop, however, is expected to be below average.

ONTARIO

Western Ontario

Fruit

The weather conditions have been generally favourable for the colouring, sizing and harvesting of the Apple crop, no hail or wind being reported. With the exception of a late brood codling moth infestation in most areas, there is an apparent freedom from any serious insect pests or fungus diseases. The crop should consequently be an exceptionally clean one. The conditions have been very favourable for good development and harvesting of Peaches, although dry weather has slightly affected the sizing in Essex County. Brown rot has been negligible and growers are exercising greater care in harvesting properly matured fruit. There is considerably less insect damage to the Pear crop than last year and in spite of earlier dry weather, the fruit has sized exceptionally well. The varieties harvested to date have been clean and of good quality. The growing and harvesting conditions have been very favourable for

the grape crop. A considerable increase is indicated and the quality is good. All early varieties including Wordens have now been harvested and the main late varieties are now moving in volume.

Vegetables

In most areas moisture and weather conditions have been favourable for good development and harvesting of vegetables. Practically all the main Potato producing areas report some late blight with the exception of Middlesex County. Although not classed as a serious pest yet, flea beetles have also been destructive in some areas. The Late Cabbage and Cauliflower yields in Essex and Kent Counties will be somewhat reduced owing to worm injury. Spray control measures for turnip aphids have shown excellent results. Many growers are reported to be using bluestone and removing affected tops on blight infected potato fields. Celery blight is negligible and other vegetables not mentioned show general freedom from disease and insect damage.

Eastern Ontario

Fruit

Moisture conditions were favourable during the past month in most sections, resulting in Apples being average to above average in size. Development of colour is below average on fall and early winter varieties and picking several days later than last season. A hail storm on September 8 did considerable damage to a few orchards in the eastern part of Prince Edward County. On September 10 a severe wind storm blew off from 5 to 10 per cent of the crop in many sections. Considerable bitter pit and corky core are showing on susceptible varieties. Apple maggot infestation is somewhat lighter than in previous seasons. Considerable codling moth injury is reported in an occasional orchard. The crop is exceptionally clean of scab. Many growers will commence picking McIntosh this week. The Plum crop is the lightest in many seasons, particularly Damsons. The development of Pears has been excellent. Insects and diseases have done very little damage.

Vegetables

The late Potato crop has not had sufficient moisture in some sections this last month and indications now are that the yield will be slightly below average. The quality is generally better than last year. Blight rot is developing in some fields, but not nearly as general as a year ago. The yield of Tomatoes will be a little lower than in 1938, the extreme heat doing some damage. Yellow ends have not developed nearly as much as last year. The quality generally has been above average. The Sweet Corn crop has been slightly below average, corn borer being quite general in the early pickings. An increased acreage of all vegetables has been harvested, but the yield is below average. Late Celery is making good development. Blight is less evident than last year.

The estimate of Apple production in Ontario in terms of percentage of last year's crop is as follows:

Fruit	Western Ontario		Eastern Ontario	
	Per cent Increase	Per cent Decrease	Per cent Increase	Per cent Decrease
Early Varieties	19			10
Wealthy	12		7	
Baldwin	20			5
Spy		15		55
Greening	20		18	
Stark	5			25
Snow	9			10
McIntosh	22		15	
Other Varieties	20		18	
All Apples	20			20

The latest estimate of commercial fruit production in Ontario as well as the final figures for 1938 are as follows:

Fruit	Unit	1938	1939
Apples	bbl.	845,400	848,900
Pears	bu.	295,800	254,200
Plums and Prunes	bu.	77,200	53,100
Peaches	bu.	569,600	723,400
Grapes	lb..	33,638,000	48,102,300

Percentage change in acreage and condition of vegetable crops in Ontario:

Crop	Percentage change in acreage from last year		Condition of Crops	
	Ontario West	Ontario East	Ontario West	Ontario East
Beets	0	+ 21	2.9	2.8
Cabbage	0	+ 10	3.0	3.1
Cauliflower	+ 2	+ 25	3.0	2.8
Carrot	+ 3	+ 10	3.0	3.0
Celery	+ 8	+ 15	3.0	2.9
Corn	+ 2	+ 24	3.1	2.6
Lettuce	+ 8	+ 12	3.1	2.9
Onion	+ 2	+ 15	3.2	3.1
Spinach	- 2	+ 15	3.0	2.8
Tomato	-26	+ 17	2.8	2.6
Potato	0	+ 10	2.6	2.6
Parsnips	0	+ 12	3.0	2.9

MANITOBA

The weather has been favourable for abundant fall growth. Most areas report frequent rains although more moisture would be welcome in some sections. Cauliflower are heading slowly as a result of the cool cloudy weather. Cabbage, although small, have developed good firm heads. Root Crops are responding satisfactorily to the moist conditions. Potatoes on the other hand are expected to be well below average. Some sections report that the potato vines are still green and growing. Winter storage stock has not yet been dug in these areas.

The condition of the vegetable crops when 1 = poor; 2 =,below average; 3 = average; 4 = above average; 5 = excellent, is as follows:

Kind	Condition	Kind	Condition
Beans	2.2	Cucumbers	3.0
Beets	4.1	Lettuce	1.5
Cabbage	2.9	Onions	2.3
Cauliflower	2.0	Parsnips	3.2
Carrots	3.8	Tomatoes	2.8
Celery	2.5	Potatoes	1.4
Corn	1.6		

SASKATCHEWAN

Although the vegetable crops in some sections of the Regina-Weyburn district are poor, there are generally sufficient vegetables for local needs. In some scattered points where rainfall was more abundant, small surpluses are reported.

Crop District 1, South-eastern.- In southern districts the production of garden stuff and Potatoes is reported to be insufficient to meet local requirements, but in the northern portion of the district, generally, sufficient vegetables were produced for local needs.

Crop District 2, Regina-Weyburn.- Production of garden vegetables and Potatoes is reported insufficient for local requirements at many points of the district.

Crop District 3, South-central.- The production of vegetables and Potatoes is sufficient for local needs in practically all parts of the district with the exception of the area adjacent to and north of Lake Johnston. Some surplus of both vegetables and Potatoes is reported in the area west of Swift Current and in the extreme north-western portion of the district north of Lucky Lake.

Crop District 4, South-western.- The production of vegetables and Potatoes is sufficient to meet local requirements and there may be a surplus at some points in the district.

Crop District 5, East-central.- With the exception of some points immediately north of the Qu'Appelle Valley, vegetables and Potato production is reported sufficient for local needs. A small surplus of Potatoes is reported at points in the north.

Crop District 6, Central.- While vegetable and Potato production at most points in the district is reported sufficient for local requirements, a few places report shortages. A surplus of Potatoes is reported at some scattered points in the district.

Crop District 7, West-central.- Corn and Potato tops have been badly damaged by frost at some points in the northern portion of the district. Garden production is reported sufficient to meet local requirements and some surplus of Potatoes is expected at points in the southern portion of the district.

Crop District 8, North-eastern.- Potato and vegetable production is sufficient for local requirements. There will be no surplus of vegetables, however, and probably very little surplus of Potatoes.

Crop District 9, North-western.- Vegetables and Potato production is reported generally sufficient for local needs. A small surplus of Potatoes is probable in the Prince Albert and North Battleford districts.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

The weather has been exceptionally fine and warm during the past two weeks throughout the province. Conditions have been excellent for harvesting. On Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland some Blackberries and Everbearing Strawberries are still being harvested. Bartlett pears and Italian prunes are cleaned up. Later varieties of Pears and Apples have reached the picking stage. Apples on the whole are smaller in size and lack colour. In the Okanagan Valley early varieties of peaches are all sold, but Elbertas are still being shipped in quantity. Italian prunes on the other hand are reported to be moving somewhat slowly. The marketing of the Pear crop has been satisfactory. The first large release of McIntosh Red Apples is to take place on September 27 when, it is reported, four hundred carloads will move. The sizes are said to be running smaller than last year. It is hoped that the Wealthies will be pretty well off the market before the McIntosh begin to move. The only change in the fruit estimates issued last month was made in the apple crop which is slightly lower at 5,825,800 boxes compared with 5,878,600 boxes in August and 6,048,500 boxes in 1938.

FOREIGN

The following report is taken from the Export Markets Information Supplement VP 155 issued on September 23, by the Commercial Intelligence Service of the Department of Trade and Commerce.

The market, while it has dealt in small quantities of Canadian apples from British Columbia and Ontario, has yet to meet the first substantial arrivals, and these are expected to be offered for sale during the coming week. It is mere speculation to attempt to indicate the reaction of the market to this initial sale, but there is some possibility that prices will not be at a low level. This is particularly true for the best quality packs of good colour most suitable for dessert purposes. A feature that tends to create favourable marketing conditions is the rather moderate volume of the initial shipments from Nova Scotia, and it may be that little difficulty in rapid disposal will be encountered.

The market for English apples, however, remains very unsettled and rather dull, and reports received from the principal distributing centres do not indicate that general conditions are eminently satisfactory. Dessert varieties, particularly Worcester Pearmain, are finding the best demand, but this is of a rather variable character, while all markets report that very little interest is being shown in culinary types. Whether or not this unsatisfactory condition will reveal itself in the marketing of the first substantial shipments from Canada remains to be seen.

The following report is taken from the United States Department of Agriculture Crop Report issued on September 11.

Apples: (Commercial Crop) September 1 conditions indicated a commercial apple production (that part of the total crop sold or to be sold for fresh consumption) of 103,260,000 bushels. This is a slight increase over the August 1 estimate. Decreases in prospective production in the western States were more than offset by increases in eastern and central States. The 1938 commercial crop was 82,395,000 bushels and the 10-year (1928-37) average commercial production was 96,469,000 bushels.

Peaches: Total peach production in the United States is indicated to be 61,426,000 bushels, compared with 51,945,000 bushels produced in 1938, and the 10-year (1928-37) average of 54,151,000 bushels.

Pears: Total pear production in the United States, as indicated by the September 1 condition, is 30,282,000 bushels compared with the 1938 production of 32,473,000 bushels and the 10-year (1928-37) average of 25,489,000 bushels.

Grapes; Total grape production, as indicated by the September 1 condition, is about the same as the estimate of August 1. The prospective production of 2,644,880 tons is 19 per cent larger than the 10-year (1928-37) average of 2,214,995 tons but is 2 per cent less than the crop of 2,703,560 tons produced in 1938.

The preliminary estimate of commercial fruit production compared with the final figures for 1938:

Canada	Unit		Year 1938	Year 1939
Apples	bbl.	N.S.	2,190,700	2,168,800
		N.B.	48,600	56,900
		Quebec	121,500	118,500
		Ontario	845,400	848,900
		B.C.	2,016,200	1,941,900
Total	bbl.		5,222,400	5,135,000
Pears	bu.	N.S.	27,000	22,100
		Ontario	295,800	254,200
		B.C.	330,600	308,000
Total	bu.		653,400	584,300
Plums and Prunes	bu.	N.S.	9,500	7,400
		Ontario	77,200	53,100
		B.C.	151,300	161,500
Total	bu.		238,000	222,000
Peaches	bu.	Ontario	569,600	723,400
		B.C.	130,400	143,300
			700,000	866,700
Grapes	lb.	Ont.	33,638,000	48,102,300
		B.C.	2,335,600	2,342,000
Total	lb.		35,973,600	50,444,300

Note: The commercial apple crop includes both fresh sales and fruit intended for processing. The estimates for both years have been reduced by the quantity designated as "home consumption". This has been done in order to make the estimates for all provinces comparable and on the same basis.

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