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Fruit and Vegetable Crop Report

Ottawa, October 25, 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 the final 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

Satisfactory harvesting weather has prevailed throughout Canada since the last report. Improved moisture conditions have resulted in an increase of 2 per cent in the estimate of apple production in Nova Scotia. Plums and pears, however, remain unchanged. The apple crop in New Brunswick is now expected to be 10 per cent larger than in 1938, but this is a reduction of 7 per cent since September. The estimate of Ontario apples has been increased 2 per cent since the last report. A slight improvement was also reported in pear production, but the other fruits showed no change since September. The vegetables were all harvested under favourable weather conditions. Except in some minor instances no losses from frost were reported. British Columbia apples are expected to be all harvested by the end of the month. The late strawberry crop is still being marketed, but the main picking is over. No changes in the British Columbia fruit estimates have been made during the month.

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, for the most part, has been mild with abundant rains and moderate winds. The first frost occurred on the night of October 15, but it was not severe enough to damage the fruit. The Apples, on the whole, are of good size although some varieties are smaller than usual. Colour and quality are reported to be generally above average, but the fruit of some localities is showing the effects of the dry weather early in the season. Insects and disease have been kept well under control in all commercial orchards and losses from this source are at a minimum.

NOVA SCOTIA

The weather since the last report has aided greatly in the development and harvesting of the Apple crop. Frosts have been light to date and the only severe wind so far experienced, which occurred on September 15, did little or no damage to the fruit. Although some localities still report a lack of moisture, the Valley, as a whole, has had sufficient rain during the past month to materially improve both the size and colour of the fruit.

In spite of the increase in size during October, the Apples are smaller than normal. All varieties are running heavy to small sizes and with the increase in the minimum size for graded fruit and the elimination of No. 3 Grade, the packed portion of the crop will be decidedly reduced. Many of the Apples that would normally find their way to the fresh market will have to be processed. Apple scab has been kept well under control, but insects have been active in some localities. Leaf roller, bud moth and aphids have been the most troublesome pests.

There has been an increase of 2 per cent in the Apple estimate since the last report, due to the increase in the size of the fruit resulting from the improved moisture conditions. The commercial Apple crop is now estimated at 2,212,600 barrels compared with 2,168,800 barrels in September and 2,190,700 barrels in 1938.

NOVA SCOTIA - Concluded

The Pear crop did not suffer from the dry season as much as the Apples. The fruit is generally reported to be of large size and of good quality. The reduction in the crop this year is due to the poor "set" in the spring. The Plum crop also developed normally after a poor start. Both the Pear and Plum estimates remain the same as a month ago with Pears being placed at 22,100 bushels and Plums at 7,400 bushels.

NEW BRUNSWICK

Abundant rains, moderately cool weather and no high winds have made conditions favourable for the ripening and harvesting of the Apple crop. Although there have been some frosts no damage has been reported. The increased moisture supply has, in most sections, improved both the size and colour of the fruit, but on the light soils the Apples are small and ripened earlier than usual. As a result of the dry weather during August and September, insects and disease have been kept well under control although some localities report severe railroad worm injury where sprays for this insect were neglected. The estimate of commercial Apple production has been reduced since last month and is now placed at 53,500 barrels compared with 56,900 barrels in September and 48,600 barrels in 1938.

ONTARIO

WEST

Fruit.- Weather conditions have been favourable for the harvesting and storing of the Apple crop. The size and colour of the fruit are generally good with the exception of the Essex-Kent district where size is somewhat below average and in Elgin-Oxford where some varieties are colouring slowly. Localized wind and hail damage are reported but the losses are not serious. A slight increase in side worm injury has occurred in a few areas particularly in Niagara, Burlington and Huron districts, but otherwise insect and fungus infestations have been fairly well controlled in properly-sprayed commercial orchards.

The harvesting of the Plum crop was completed under conditions favourable to good quality and size, with exceptional freedom from brown rot. The Peach crop was of good size and quality and was generally free from insect or disease damage. Pears, especially Keiffers are better than average in size, with insects and disease damage comparatively light. Approximately 85 to 90 per cent of the total Grape crop has been harvested under very favourable conditions. The size, compactness of the bunches and the flavour of the fruit are above average this season.

Vegetables.- Moisture and temperature conditions have been generally favourable for good development and harvesting of vegetables except in Essex-Kent and Middlesex where dry weather somewhat affected the sizing of certain crops. Tomatoes and other vine crops were frozen in most areas on the nights of October 12 and 14 and slight damage was reported to Celery in the Holland Marsh area late in September. Some Onions still in the fields in Essex and Kent were somewhat affected but otherwise no frost damage has been reported.

EAST

Fruit.- With continued favourable harvesting weather, the picking of such varieties of Apples as Spies, Ben Davis and Stark should be completed by October 26. Although there were several degrees of frost on the night of October 19, the fruit was not damaged. The usual seasonal heavy winds have been lacking and as a result there have been fewer windfalls. The fruit moving into storage is in excellent condition and most varieties are above average in colour. Late scab developed in the St. Lawrence Valley district, resulting in reduced grades in some orchards. Processing plants are handling a large quantity of the fall and winter varieties for canning, cider and pectin. Cold storages are filled to capacity and many growers are having to use dry storage for winter apples.

Vegetables.- In most sections moisture and weather conditions are favourable for the development and harvesting of the late vegetables. The yield has been average except in the area from Kingston west to Brighton where dry weather retarded growth somewhat. Late blight of potatoes developed after digging in some sections but this disease has not been nearly as serious as it was last year. The Onion crop was harvested under ideal weather conditions but yields are not expected to be more than average. Late Cabbage and Cauliflower, as well as other vegetables, improved considerably after the rains this fall.

ONTARIO (Concluded)

The estimate of Fruit 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
All Apples	22			18
Early Varieties	19			10
Wealthy	12		7	
Baldwin	21			5
Spy		14		50
Greening	20		18	
Stark	5			80
Snow	10			12
McIntosh	22		17	
Other Varieties	20		18	
Pears		15	27	
Plums and Prunes		30		70
Peaches	27		-	-
Grapes	43		-	-

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	865,800
Pears	bu.	295,800	254,300
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	3.0	2.9
Cabbage	0	+ 10	3.0	3.2
Cauliflower	+ 2	+ 25	3.0	2.9
Carrot	+ 3	+ 10	3.0	3.0
Celery	+ 8	+ 15	3.2	3.0
Onion	+ 2	+ 15	3.2	3.1
Tomato	-26	+ 17	2.8	2.8
Turnip	+10	+ 8	3.2	3.1
Potato.....	0	+ 10	2.7	2.8
Parsnips	0	+ 12	3.0	3.0

PRAIRIE PROVINCES

The harvesting of the vegetable crops in the Prairie Provinces has been completed. Most vegetables were under cover before any serious frosts occurred. Seventeen degrees of frost on the night of October 17, however, destroyed any crops still in the ground in the Winnipeg area.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

To date the weather has been extremely mild for this time of year in all districts and most satisfactory for harvesting. All fruits have been picked now with the exception of Apples and this crop will be under cover by the end of the month. The movement of Apples has been slow but surprisingly good in view of the war situation. The estimate of Apple production remains unchanged since September at 1,941,900 barrels. Other fruit estimates remain the same as a month ago. The fall crop of Strawberries is still moving out but the main picking is about finished. The fall crop of indoor Tomatoes is being shipped in volume but prices are comparatively low.

UNITED STATES

A report issued by the United States Department of Agriculture on October 10 states:

Apples: Dry, hot weather in many States, some worm damage, poor sizes in some sections, and heavier-than-usual cullage have caused a 2 per cent decrease in the commercial apple crop from the September 1 report. The October 1 conditions indicate a commercial apple production of 100,998,000 bushels, which is still 5 per cent above the 10-year (1928-37) average production of 96,469,000 but is 13 per cent below the relatively large crop of 1937.

Peaches: The estimated peach crop for the 1939 season totals 61,730,000 bushels, or 19 per cent larger than the 1938 crop of 51,945,000, and 14 per cent above the 10-year (1928-37) average of 54,151,000 bushels.

Pears: With the 1939 harvest drawing fast to a close, the nation's total pear production on October 1 is indicated to be 50,311,000 bushels. This production is nearly 7 per cent less than was harvested in 1938, but is still 19 per cent above average and is the second largest crop of record.

Grapes: Indicated production of grapes declined slightly during September, due chiefly to reduced prospects for all three classes of California grapes. The total United States crop is now placed at 2,578,220 tons, compared with 2,703,560 tons in 1938 and the 10-year (1928-37) average of 2,214,995 tons.

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

Canada	Unit		1938	1939
Apples	bbl.	- N.S.	2,190,700	2,212,600
		N.B.	48,600	53,500
		Quebec	121,500	134,000
		Ontario	845,400	865,800
		B.C.	2,016,200	1,941,900
Total	bbl.		5,222,400	5,207,800
Pears	bu.	N.S.	27,000	22,100
		Ontario	295,800	254,300
		B.C.	330,600	308,000
Total	bu.		653,400	584,400
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
Total	bu.		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.; peaches, plums and prunes three crates to the bushel.