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Fruit and Vegetable Crop Report

Ottawa, June 28, 1940.- The Dominion Bureau of Statistics in cooperation 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 for the month of June.

SUMMARY

Prospects for fruit crops generally have deteriorated somewhat since the report of May 31. Ideal climatic conditions prevailed in all the major producing provinces during the blooming period, but the set and subsequent development of the fruit have not been as satisfactory as at first anticipated. Cool weather with frequent rains since the blossoms fell has interfered with the usual spray practices, and disease and insects have consequently made some headway. The plant and tree growth, however, has been excellent. The condition of the apple and plum crops in Nova Scotia is below that of a year ago while strawberries, raspberries and pears show a slight improvement. The condition of the apple crop in both New Brunswick and Quebec is below that of the previous year. Early varieties in the latter province are expected to bear about 50 per cent less than in 1939 while the late varieties are reported to have set heavy crops. Although the prospects for strawberries in New Brunswick are still above average the Quebec crop is expected to be considerably smaller than a year ago. The present condition for all fruit crops in Ontario, with the exception of grapes, is below average. The prospects during the blooming period were, in most cases, excellent but subsequent unfavourable weather has reduced the outlook. With the exception of the Snow and Spy varieties, less than average crops of apples are in prospect. Of the other fruits, only plums in eastern Ontario and grapes in western Ontario are of average condition. The first preliminary estimates of the tree fruits in British Columbia show reductions in the crops of apples, pears, plums, prunes and cherries from those of a year ago. The greatest reduction is reported in the cherry crop which is only 69.7 per cent of that of 1939.

With the exception of such warm weather crops as cucumbers, tomatoes, squash, corn, etc., vegetables in the Maritimes are making excellent growth. There has been a general expansion in the acreage devoted to vegetables in these provinces with a substantial increase in the area planted to peas for canning in Nova Scotia. The onion crop in Quebec is considerably smaller than that of 1939 due chiefly to adverse climatic conditions and heavy weed growth. The tomato crop, however, is expected to be heavy. With the exception of the Ottawa City district, most vegetable crops in Ontario have not made satisfactory growth during the past month. Frost in the vicinity of Winnipeg severely damaged the tender vegetables and reseedling of some crops was necessary. The general condition of the vegetables, aside from those injured by frost, is good. Due to the cool weather in June the growth of vegetables in Saskatchewan has been slow. A 10 per cent increase in the potato acreage in the Lethbridge area of Alberta is reported. A considerable reduction in the area devoted to the late potato crop and slight decreases in the acreages of cantaloupes and onions are reported in British Columbia. The acreages of most other vegetables, however, show increases over those of 1939.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

(June 25)

Fruit: There have been no frosts in the vicinity of Charlottetown during the past month, but some freezing temperatures have been reported from scattered areas in the province. In general, temperatures have been below average. Rain has been more abundant than usual for June and the hours of sunshine reduced. The orchards and small fruits, however, have not suffered as a result of the backward weather. Adverse climatic conditions prevailed during the blooming period which extended from June 10 to June 20. Pollination and set were only fair on most varieties of apples. The set on Wealthy, however, is very good. Among the insects attacking the orchards this spring bud moths have been the most active. Good crops of both strawberries and raspberries are in prospect, but some damage has been done to the plantations by weevils.

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IN 1624 TO THE PRESENT TIME.

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Vegetables: There has been a slight increase in plantings of vegetables this spring. Such warm weather crops as beans, corn and cucumbers have not been progressing satisfactorily because of the cool weather, while crops such as peas, radishes, beets, carrots, spinach, etc., are growing rapidly.

NOVA SCOTIA

(June 22)

Fruit: Weather conditions were generally satisfactory during the past month. Although rains were frequent, they were not heavy enough to interfere with the usual orchard operations. No injurious frosts were reported during the period. The apple orchards have been well sprayed for the most part and insects and disease were at a minimum although apple scab, leaf roller and bud moth damage is reported in unsprayed or poorly sprayed orchards. The blooming period extended from May 27 to June 12 and the weather during most of this period was conducive to good pollination. Rains toward the end of the bloom may have reduced the set on the late varieties. Strawberry and raspberry plants have developed satisfactorily since the last report. Although weevils have been troublesome in the strawberry plantations control measures have been effective. Good crops of both fruits are anticipated as a consequence of the favourable weather conditions during the blooming period.

The condition of the fruit crops during the third week in June with comparative figures for the same period in 1939, in brackets, are as follows: Apples, early 3.3 (4.1); apples, late 3.2 (4.1); pears 3.5 (2.9); plums 2.7 (2.8); strawberries 3.5 (2.5); raspberries 3.1 (2.9).

Vegetables: Growth of all vegetables is normal on the light lands but very late on the heavier soil types. Substantial increases in acreage are reported for some vegetables with a 50 per cent increase in the area planted to potatoes in the Sydney district and a general increase of 10 to 20 per cent for the province as a whole. An increase in acreage of 10 per cent for all truck crops is reported, while the area planted to **canning peas is at least double that of last year.** The area planted to cabbage, however, is about the same as that of a year ago.

NEW BRUNSWICK

(June 22)

Fruit: Although the weather was satisfactory for proper pollination of the apple trees, conditions during the past month have been generally cool with frequent showers. The strawberry plants have made excellent growth, although the berry season will be somewhat later than normal with the first berries expected on the market at the end of the month. The plants did not make the usual amount of growth last season but as a result of the favourable growing weather this spring, the yield should be normal. Raspberries show some evidence of winter killing but production is expected to be about the same as last year.

The condition of the fruit crops during the third week of June, with comparative figures for the same period in 1939, in brackets, are as follows, Apples, early 3.1 (3.5); apples, late 2.7 (4.0); strawberries 3.2 (2.9); raspberries 2.9 (2.8).

Vegetables: Leafy crops are making excellent growth due to the abundant moisture supply. On the other hand, heat-loving plants such as cucumbers, tomatoes, squash and corn are growing slowly as a result of the cool weather. Late plantings are progressing normally with a definite increase in acreage of most root crops indicated. Early potatoes are considerably above normal. The first harvestings of cabbage and cauliflower will be made about July 1, while peas will be ready sometime between July 1 and July 5. Early potatoes are expected on the market between July 5 and July 10, while beans will be ready to pull about July 8 to July 10.

QUEBEC

(June 21)

Fruit: In the Montreal district soil moisture conditions remain satisfactory. The temperature has been lower than normal with the result that development has been somewhat retarded. The orchards were in bloom from May 26 to June 1. During this period climatic conditions were very favourable for pollination except for one day and as a result, the set is generally good. The Fameuse crop will probably be very large while the McIntosh crop will be slightly less than last year except in the Franklin, Covey Hill and Frelighsburg districts where the crop is expected to be large. Generally speaking, the crop of early varieties of apples is expected to be about 50 per cent less than in 1939, while the set on the late varieties is very heavy. Prospects for the strawberry crop are about 50 per cent less than last year because of the lack of timely rains; raspberry plantations, on the other hand, are in excellent condition.





Frequent rains and strong winds in the Quebec City district caused some difficulty during spraying. The apple trees were in bloom during the week of June 3, but adverse weather conditions interfered with proper pollination. It is still too early to be certain of the set of fruit but it is generally considered to be light and the crop, as a result, will be definitely smaller than that of a year ago. The strawberry crop is also expected to be reduced and is at present estimated at 10 per cent less than that of 1939. The raspberry plantations in this area, however, are in good condition.

(June 19)

Vegetables: Although planting of vegetables was later than normal this year, the favourable growing weather has brought the crop on so well that harvesting is being carried on about the usual time. The asparagus crop was of good quality but production was not as heavy as last year due to the lack of sufficient soil moisture. Beans are expected to be ready for market at the end of the month, while broccoli and carrots are not being offered for sale in good quantities. Marketing of early cabbage should be heavy by the end of the month and an increase in production of 15 per cent over last year is expected. Celery and cauliflower are being harvested from the frames and cucumber supplies will be plentiful about the end of the month. Lettuce of all types is plentiful but damage by heavy rains and winds has affected the quality. The onion crop is expected to be 35 per cent less than that of 1939, due chiefly to adverse weather conditions and heavy weed growth. Early peas are now being pulled and production is heavy. Spinach is plentiful but has been damaged by winds and rain. Tomatoes are now in full bloom and judging by the profusion of blossoms a heavy crop is in prospect.

ONTARIO  
(June 25)

Western Ontario-

Fruit: Cool, wet weather, prevailing during and following the initial fruit set, caused irregular sizing and rot, particularly to sweet cherries and plums in the main tender-fruit areas. Bush, vine and strawberry plantations are, however, in good condition and the foliage and wood growth of the tree fruits has been excellent. The cool, wet weather during the past weeks has been conducive to the development of apple scab especially in unsprayed or poorly sprayed orchards. Bud moth damage is also reported in several apple-growing areas, despite the control measures being taken this season, while some leaf curl is appearing in low-lying peach orchards in the Niagara district. The prospects for the apple crop, as a whole, are below average with the exception of Spies and Snows which are average. The outlook for the pear crop is also below average. Although development to date is good, the set is very spotty. While the initial set of peaches is good, sizing of fruit is uneven and will probably result in a heavy drop. Plums also set irregularly and a below-average crop is indicated for all varieties. Strawberry plantations, on the other hand, are in excellent condition and are bearing a heavy set of fruit. The yield is expected to be the heaviest in several years. Raspberries also look promising as the plantations are showing good cane and foliage growth. The general condition of the vineyards is also good. There appears to be a two-bunch set on the average, particularly on the blue varieties. Cherries set irregularly and with uneven development, a poor to below-average crop is anticipated.

Vegetables: The planting of many vegetables was delayed as a result of the wet condition of the ground. This was particularly so in the case of potatoes, late celery and late tomatoes in some areas. Intermittent cold, wet weather has retarded the development of some crops especially cabbage, cauliflower and head lettuce. Potatoes planted in low land were lost in some sections as a result of the frequent rains, while onion plantations are suffering from the excessive weed growth.

Eastern Ontario-

Fruit: Satisfactory growing conditions for tree fruits have prevailed during the past three weeks. As a result of the cool, wet weather during the blooming period, the set of fruit on the apple trees is medium to light, depending on the variety. Since the pre-pink application, adverse conditions have interfered with proper spraying. As a consequence, considerable scab has developed on the foliage and bud moths and leaf rollers have caused some damage. Although the bloom was heavy on sour cherries, pears and plums, unfavourable weather during the blossom period affected pollination and the set of fruit is therefore only average. From present indications, the crop of strawberries will be much lighter than was at first expected, and the quality of the fruit in most patches is below average. The raspberry plantations are now in bloom, but warmer weather is needed for proper pollination.





Vegetables: The weather generally has been too cold and wet for satisfactory growth of vegetables. In the Ottawa district, however, there has been less rain than farther west and the crops are developing normally. The planting of vegetables in most areas is ten days to two weeks later than usual.

The condition of the fruit and vegetable crops in Ontario during the third week in June with comparative figures for approximately the same period in 1939, is as follows:

	<u>Western Ontario</u>		<u>Eastern Ontario</u>	
	1940	1939	1940	1939
<u>Fruit-</u>				
Apples:				
Early varieties	2.3	3.1	2.8	3.0
Wealthy	2.4	3.1	2.8	3.0
Snow	3.0	3.0	3.2	2.7
McIntosh	2.7	3.2	2.8	3.5
Baldwin	2.8	3.3	3.0	3.0
Greening	2.6	3.1	3.3	3.0
Spy	3.0	2.5	3.5	2.3
Stark	2.7	3.0	2.3	2.6
Other Varieties	2.7	3.2	2.7	3.0
All Apples	2.6	-	2.8	-
Cherries:				
Sweet	2.2	2.4	-	-
Sour	2.3	3.1	2.8	1.0
Pears:				
Bartlett	2.3	2.2	2.6	3.0
Keiffer	2.5	2.1	-	-
Others	2.2	2.3	2.8	3.0
Peaches	2.8	2.9	-	-
Plums:				
Japanese	2.3	2.1	3.0	1.0
European	2.5	2.3	3.0	1.0
Grapes	3.0	3.2	-	-
<u>Vegetables-</u>				
Asparagus	3.0	3.1	3.0	3.0
Beans (snap)	2.8	3.1	3.2	3.1
Beets (bunching)	3.0	3.0	3.2	3.4
Cabbage (early)	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.0
Cauliflower (early)	2.9	2.8	2.9	3.2
Carrots (bunching)	3.0	2.8	3.0	3.0
Celery (early)	3.0	3.0	2.8	-
Corn (sweet)	2.8	2.9	2.7	2.5
Lettuce (head)	3.0	3.0	-	-
Lettuce (all varieties)	-	-	3.3	3.0
Onions	2.8	3.0	3.2	3.1
Peas (garden)	3.0	3.0	3.3	2.4
Potatoes (early)	3.0	2.7	3.1	2.7
Spinach	3.0	3.0	3.3	3.5
Tomatoes (fresh)	2.9	3.0	3.0	2.7
Tomatoes (processing)	2.9	3.0	2.8	2.7





MANITOBA  
(June 24)

Weather conditions during June have been favourable in most respects. Early in the month, June 9, good general rains occurred over the province, particularly in the northern half where it was most needed. An inch or better of rainfall was reported from such points as Swan River, Dauphin, Russel and Neepawa in the north. Since that date showers have been very general over Manitoba. Winnipeg and district have had an abundance of moisture and growing conditions have been reasonably good. On the whole, the temperature has been about normal for June but cool at nights. Rather severe frost damage occurred on June 19 and 20 and while the damage was patchy it was quite extensive. Winnipeg and area were seriously hit.

While it is rather early to learn the extent of frost damage to the strawberry crop, it is safe to say some loss will occur. Fruit from the early blossoms was set but the later bloom will doubtless be injured. There has been a good set of fruit on all other types including small fruits and tree fruits. Considerable winter injury has shown up in fruit trees, particularly since the last report. Many varieties, usually considered too tender for Manitoba conditions, have come through the winter, blossomed and leafed out to the tip of the branches while hardier varieties, including sandcherry, have killed back badly. Raspberries generally, have shown considerable winter injury.

As a result of the severe frosts on June 19 and 20 in the Winnipeg area, potatoes, tomatoes, corn, peppers, eggplants, beans and most vine crops were frozen. In some sections just the tips of leaves were touched while in other areas close by plants were frozen to the ground. Reseeding will be necessary in some cases and consequently these crops will be late.

The general condition of the vegetable crop aside from those injured by frost is good and growth has been normal. The rhubarb season was quite short due to this crop going to seed weeks earlier than usual. Locally produced head lettuce, spinach, radishes and onions have been on the market for some time. Early peas will be ready in a week to ten days. The quality of produce is good. The progress of those crops not damaged by frost, including onions, carrots, parsnips, beets, cabbage, cauliflower and peas, is excellent. The flea beetle which earlier threatened to cause much damage has not materialized, probably due to the moist and rather cool condition. Cutworm damage has been quite extensive.

SASKATCHEWAN  
(June 24)

Vegetables: The growth of vegetables in most districts was slow during the early part of June due to cool weather. In central, and many points in the northern districts lack of sufficient moisture also retarded growth. With the exception of some local areas in the northern and central portions of the province, growth during the latter part of June was considerably improved, but on the whole gardens are from one to two weeks later than normal. A light increase in acreage is reported in the southern and northern districts, the chief increase being in the area planted to potatoes. While some cauliflower, celery, cucumbers, etc., are planted, the most extensively grown vegetables are the common varieties of small garden stuff. In the extreme south-western portion of the province grasshoppers have caused severe injury and in many instances gardens will possibly be a total loss and the prospects are that a deficiency of garden stuff will exist in that district. Slight damage from grasshoppers and outworms is noted at other scattered points. Some frost damage also occurred on the night of June 18 in east-central and several northern districts.

ALBERTA  
(June 24)

Weather since the last report has been fair for vegetable crops. Rainfall, however, has been very spotted, some sections receiving an abundance while others, though not actually suffering, would welcome heavy rains. South-eastern Alberta, which includes Medicine Hat, has had very little moisture since May. Fortunately, the area planted to onions and celery is irrigated and growth is reported to be good; carrots also promise well. Plantings of other vegetables are very light. The Lethbridge district has had fair rains so far this month and potatoes, the principal vegetable crop, are growing satisfactorily. As stated in a previous report, an increase of 10 per cent in acreage is reported for this commodity. All other vegetable plantings are about normal and progress of growth is satisfactory.





BRITISH COLUMBIA

(June 26)

Weather conditions have been dry in all sections of the province. Picking of the strawberry crop is practically finished and the heaviest shipments ever made to the Prairies were recorded this year. Raspberries are moving in volume and loganberries are at the peak of production. The Okanagan cherry crop is almost over, while the Kootenay and Coast districts are starting to ship. Okanagan cooking apples are now appearing on the market and apricot shipments are expected to start this week. Semi-ripe tomatoes are moving from southern Okanagan and cucumbers from the same area are being shipped in volume.

The first estimates of the tree-fruit crops issued on June 15 are as follows:

Kind	Unit	1940	1939	1940 per cent of 1939
Apples	Box	6,015,200	6,206,300	96.9
Pears	Box	344,600	354,600	97.2
Plums	Crate	135,500	163,300	83.0
Frunes	Crate	323,500	456,300	70.9
Cherries	Crate	183,400	263,100	69.7

Estimated Vegetable Acreage in British Columbia in 1940 compared with 1939:

Kind	1940	1939
	acres	acres
Asparagus	258	258
Beans	338	307
Beets	395	344
Cabbage	442 $\frac{3}{4}$	439
Cauliflower	227	202 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cantaloupes	6	10
Carrots	601	551
Celery	254	224
Corn	567 $\frac{1}{4}$	465
Cucumbers	60 $\frac{3}{4}$	59
Lettuce	452	442
Onions	190 $\frac{1}{2}$	209
Parsnips	86	86 $\frac{1}{2}$
Pears	2,388	1,834
Peppers	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5
Potatoes, early	1,893	1,882
Potatoes, late	4,720	5,357
Spinach	341	316
Squash and Pumpkins	60	60
Tomatoes	416	415
Turnips	285	275
Other vegetables	440	385

UNITED STATES

A report issued by the United States Department of Agriculture on June 15 included the following statements:

APPLES.- The June 1 condition of the 1940 apple crop, in the 38 States having commercial production, was 67 per cent, compared with the condition of 69 per cent on June 1, 1939 and the 10-year (1929-38) average of 63 per cent. Condition of the 1940 crop is average or above in all geographic sections of the country except the South Central group of States, where Tennessee, Arkansas, and Oklahoma are below average.

PEACHES.- The total United States peach crop is placed at 52,012,000 bushels, compared with 60,822,000 bushels in 1939, and the 10-year (1929-38) average of 52,723,000 bushels. Prospective production for 1940 is above average in the North Atlantic and Western groups of States, but is below average in other sections of the country, as a result of low winter temperatures and early spring freezes.

PEARS.- The total United States pear crop for the 1940 season is placed at 30,853,000 bushels, compared with the 1939 crop of 31,047,000, and the 10-year (1929-38) average of 26,333,000 bushels. Indicated production is average or above in all important pear-producing States.

CHERRIES.- Total production of all varieties of cherries in the 12 commercial States is indicated to be 174,870 tons--only 6 per cent below the 1939 record crop of 187,010 tons, and 35 per cent above the 10-year (1929-38) averages of 129,367 tons. Indicated production is well above average in all States except Montana, Idaho, and California.

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