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Fruit and Vegetable Crop Report

Ottawa, July 25, 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 July.

SUMMARY

The preliminary estimates of fruit production in Canada this season are generally smaller than the 1939 estimates. Substantially reduced apple crops are in prospect in all producing provinces except British Columbia where only a slightly lighter yield than the record production of last year is expected. The present crop is estimated at 4,559,200 barrels compared with 5,791,900 barrels of last season. The production of 550,000 bushels of pears indicated for the current season is only slightly below the 1939 crop of 577,100 bushels. Plums and prunes also show a decrease for the country as a whole. The reduction is due to the smaller yields expected in British Columbia as in Nova Scotia and Ontario better yields than in 1939 are anticipated. Canadian production this year is estimated at 220,900 bushels compared with the previous year's crop of 268,100 bushels. Prospects for the peach crop show a slight improvement in British Columbia in contrast to the substantial reduction anticipated in Ontario. Canadian production for 1940 is estimated at 754,100 bushels which is well below last year's crop of 935,000 bushels. Apricots in British Columbia, the only province producing this fruit on a commercial scale, are estimated at 64,100 bushels compared with the 1939 crop of 59,000 bushels. This year's cherry crop of 151,000 bushels is considerably reduced from the 223,000 bushels produced last season. The greatest reduction is reported in Ontario although a slight decrease is also expected in British Columbia. The prospective production of grapes this year is also below the 1939 yield. Although a substantial increase is anticipated in British Columbia, the decrease in Ontario reduces the Canadian total. The 1940 crop estimate amounts to 42,909,500 pounds compared with the 1939 production of 55,595,900 pounds.

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

(July 20)

There was more rain, 1.92 inches, up to July 15 than in any July for the last five years. During the latter half of this month there has been very little rain, but there have been unusually heavy dews at night. Apple scab injury has been very severe in unsprayed orchards. Brown rot of stone fruits and plum pockets have been injurious in a few orchards. The latest apple spray was applied during the past week. Apples will be below average except Wealthies and a few other varieties which promise good yields. Plums are also below average and cherries are a light crop.

Raspberries are well above average except where weevils have inflicted severe damage. Cryolite dust has been very effective against this pest. A widespread outbreak of powdery mildew threatened many strawberry plantations during the first week of July but no serious damage has resulted from this disease. Strawberries have yielded exceptionally well, with prices to producers not being seriously reduced by the heavy and steady supply of berries.

Vegetables have made good growth after the early season setback. Onion maggot, carrot rust fly, cabbage maggot and potato flea beetle have caused some concern and damage. Potato spraying has been in progress for ten days although Colorado beetles have not been numerous.

NOVA SCOTIA
(July 19)

Weather conditions since the last report have been generally satisfactory for the development of all fruit crops. Insects and disease have been kept in control in all well sprayed orchards, but codling moth and leaf rollers have been active in some sections. Apple scab development has been restricted chiefly to poorly sprayed and unsprayed orchards. Although there was a profusion of bloom in the apple orchards this spring, a comparatively heavy drop has reduced the crop prospects. The first estimate of the apple crop indicates the production of 1,500,000 barrels, a reduction of 35 per cent from the 1939 crop of 2,300,000 barrels. The plum crop, on the other hand, shows an increase over last year and is expected to amount to 8,900 bushels or an increase of 20 per cent, while pear production is expected to be about the same as a year ago or 22,000 bushels. Of the small fruits, strawberries are estimated at 1,254,200 quarts, an increase of 33 per cent over last year's crop, while raspberry production is expected to be 50 per cent larger than a year ago or 111,100 quarts.

NEW BRUNSWICK
(July 19)

Cold weather in June was followed by warm, dry days with scattered showers during July. Climatic conditions have been satisfactory for the development of tree and small fruits and proper spraying in the majority of orchards has controlled both insects and disease. Although there was an abundance of bloom on the apple trees, an extremely heavy drop has reduced the crop prospects and present indications point to a crop of 56,200 barrels, a reduction of 25 per cent from the large crop of 75,000 barrels in 1939. Strawberry production is past the peak and the crop has been of good quality. The yield is 21 per cent larger than that of a year ago and is estimated at 1,275,000 quarts. The raspberry plantations are developing satisfactorily and the prospects are for a bumper crop but no estimates are as yet available as the berries are just beginning to ripen. The vegetable crops are growing well and yields are expected to be heavy. A 5 per cent increase in the acreage of vegetables is reported.

QUEBEC
(July 15)

Moisture conditions during the past month have been satisfactory for the development of the apple crop. Adequate spray applications have controlled both insects and disease except in some few instances where scab has developed on the leaves. Some damage was caused by hail in the Chateauguay and Hemmingford areas. A heavy drop is reported in both the Montreal and Quebec City districts, but the fruit remaining on the trees has developed satisfactorily. From the present appearance of the crop a considerable reduction in the early varieties is expected, while a slightly smaller crop of fall and winter varieties than that of a year ago is reported. The crop is estimated at 269,600 barrels which represents a reduction of 20 per cent from the exceedingly large crop of 337,000 barrels in 1939. The harvesting of the strawberry crop finished about the second week of July. Due to unfavourable climatic conditions during the blooming period production was 50 per cent lower than a year ago and the crop is estimated at 3,636,000 quarts. Picking of raspberries commenced during the third week of July and the crop is expected to be large. It is estimated at 2,660,400 quarts as compared with 2,217,000 quarts in 1939.

ONTARIO
(July 20)

Eastern Ontario - Cool, wet weather prevailed during the latter part of June and early July, but for the past two weeks it has been moderately warm with occasional showers. There was some light hail injury on apples in several sections with a few orchards showing serious damage resulting from the storms of the first week of July. Fruit trees, in general, have made excellent terminal and spur growth. Some scab is appearing on the foliage in many orchards while those not thoroughly protected with good spray coverage since the pre-pink application are showing considerable scab infection on the fruit. Apple production this year is expected to be 30 per cent below that of a year ago with McIntosh, Spy, Snow and Wealthy trees carrying the largest loads. The crop of sour cherries is 200 per cent larger than that of last season. The fruit is sizing well and no damage from insects and disease is reported. The Early Richmond variety is now being harvested. Pear production will be about 50 per cent below last year as a result of a very heavy drop. The Kieffer crop will be very light. There will be about a 35 per cent increase in plum production this season compared with 1939, due chiefly to the large crop of Damsons. Strawberries are practically finished but the yield was disappointing. The crop is 30 per cent less than that of last

year. Only a few raspberries have been picked to date but the outlook is promising. If the moisture supply is maintained there will be an increase of 8 per cent over the previous year. Prices are expected to be higher than last season as a larger acreage has been contracted for by the processors.

All vegetable crops were ten days to two weeks late on July 1, but have made excellent growth since. There is sufficient moisture in the ground in most sections to ensure good development for the remainder of the month. Bunched beets, carrots, early cabbage, snap beans, cauliflower, green peas and spinach are being harvested in quantity and the quality and yield are above average.

Western Ontario - All main varieties of apples with the exception of Spys show slight to to fairly heavy decreases, the total crop being estimated at 30 per cent below last year's production. While general development has been good, light to heavy infestation of scab are reported from many areas, although in some districts damage is confined chiefly to the foliage. Bud moth injury is in evidence in Elgin, Oxford, Norfolk and Middlesex-Huron with most other areas reporting fair control of insect pests. Some localized hail damage occurred in the Georgian Bay area, Essex, Middlesex and Huron, Norfolk and North Wentworth counties, although the damage is not as serious as at first anticipated. Weather conditions were generally unfavourable for development of early sweet cherries which resulted in uneven maturity and decay. However, present conditions are more favourable and the quality of later varieties shows much improvement with the exception of splitting in some orchards. Except for some yellow leaf, foliage and wood appear in good condition. The crop is very irregular and the total production will be only 60 per cent of last year. Pears are clean and sizing well and the trees are in excellent condition with the exception of light fire blight injury in Elgin county. The extimated crop is 5 per cent below that of last year. Peach trees are generally in good condition, and while the set was somewhat irregular, fruit is now sizing well and the crop is estimated at approximately 25 per cent below last year's heavy production. The main decrease is in the Niagara and Burlington areas, with Essex reporting an average crop and Elgin an increase over a year ago. Plums are also clean and sizing well. The crop, however, is irregular and below average, although it is 6 per cent above last year's light crop. Damsons and prunes are reported to be average, Grand Duke light, and other European varieties very good, with Japanese plums showing only a slight increase over last year. Vineyards generally are in good condition with the exception of some localized yellow leaf injury. There has been a two to three-bunch set with growth about ten days later than normal. Bunch development, however, is somewhat irregular which will probably reduce the volume of the crop. Production this year is estimated at 25 per cent below the 1939 crop.

Fruit Estimates in 1940 as Compared with 1939

Kind		1939		1940
			barrels	
Apples -	Eastern Ontario	360,500		252,300
	Western Ontario	650,000		455,000
	Total	1,010,500		707,300
			bushels	
Pears -	Eastern Ontario	7,500		3,700
	Western Ontario	248,900		236,500
	Total	256,400		240,200
Plums and Prunes -	Eastern Ontario	700		900
	Western Ontario	53,600		56,800
	Total	54,300		57,700
Peaches -	Eastern Ontario	-		-
	Western Ontario	758,000		568,500
	Total	758,000		568,500
Cherries -	Eastern Ontario	3,500		10,500
	Western Ontario	131,800		79,100
	Total	135,300		89,600
			quarts	
Strawberries -	Eastern Ontario	2,479,200		1,735,400
	Western Ontario	6,772,400		8,262,300
	Total	9,251,600		9,997,700
Raspberries -	Eastern Ontario	3,173,300		3,427,200
	Western Ontario	2,500,000		2,750,000
	Total	5,673,300		6,177,200
			pounds	
Grapes -	Eastern Ontario	-		-
	Western Ontario	54,000,000		40,500,000
	Total	54,000,000		40,500,000

Acreage Changes and Condition of Vegetable Crops in Ontario

Commodity	Eastern Ontario		Western Ontario	
	Acreage change from last year	Condition	Acreage change from last year	Condition
	p.c.		p.c.	
Beans, snap	+ 10.0	3.2	+ 20.0	2.8
Beets	+ 5.7	3.3	+ 9.0	3.1
Cabbage, early and late	+ 4.6	3.5	-	-
" early	-	-	+ 15.0	3.1
" late	-	-	+ 8.0	3.0
Cauliflower, early and late	+ 8.7	3.6	-	-
" early	-	-	+ 8.0	3.0
late	-	-	+ 2.0	3.0
Carrots	+ 4.2	3.2	+ 3.0	3.1
Celery, early and late	- 1.2	3.0	-	-
" early	-	-	-	3.0
" late	-	-	- 2.0	2.9
Corn	+ 6.0	2.4	+ 25.0	2.5
Cucumbers	-	-	+ 2.0	2.9
Lettuce	+ 4.8	3.3	+ 10.0	3.0
Onions	+ 7.9	3.2	- 11.0	3.0
Potatoes, early	+ 3.0	3.4	+ 14.0	3.0
Peas, garden	+ 1.8	3.5	+ 5.0	3.1
Spinach	+ 3.3	3.0	+ 12.0	3.1
Tomatoes, fresh	+ 0.9	2.8	+ 8.0	2.9
" processing	+ 100.0	2.8	+ 6.5	2.9

MANITOBA
(July 21)

Growth of all vegetable crops has been quite favourable since the last report. Potatoes have made good recovery from the frost on June 19 and 20. In general, vegetables are good in the south but are rather backward in the north, due chiefly to insufficient moisture. While there have been occasional local showers, many districts would be greatly benefited by a general rain.

The progress of most vegetable crops in the market garden area around Winnipeg has been good. Cabbage and cauliflower are now on the market in liberal quantities. The season has been favourable and the quality is excellent. Bunched carrots and beets are coming in in sufficient quantities to meet the demand. Peas of good quality have been available for two to three weeks and are now somewhat of a drug on the market. Head lettuce has been exceptionally fine this year and while small quantities are still on the market, the bulk of the crop has been harvested. Bunched green onions from seed are also available. Small quantities of beans, broad beans, and cucumbers are obtainable. New potatoes are scarce because of the June frost, although small quantities are now appearing. The quality of all produce is above average. The corn crop is not very promising.

Insect damage has not been a very serious problem up to the present although some injury has occurred during the past week. In the south and western part of the province one of the grey blister beetles has been attacking potatoes, beans and caragana. This pest is causing some concern. Grasshoppers are abundant but to date have not molested gardens, probably due to a plentiful supply of other green food. A serious epidemic of beet webworm has broken out in the northern part of the Red River valley. Considerable damage is being done to sugar beets, garden beets, onions and carrots. Another severe outbreak of this insect appears imminent in the Swan River valley, if weather conditions remain favourable.

SASKATCHEWAN
(July 22)

Temperatures have been variable but generally in southern districts the weather has been hot and dry with a few showers. Good rains were received over most of the central and northern districts. Gardens suffered severely from grasshopper damage in south-western Saskatchewan but in other districts, while some have been injured considerably, the damage on the whole has been slight. Potato beetles are reported in a number of districts especially in northern Saskatchewan. In south-eastern and south-

central districts generally the conditions are somewhat discouraging but except for the grasshopper infested area, gardens in south-western Saskatchewan are doing well. Improvement is noted over much of the central area and in northern districts most gardens are good although somewhat late.

ALBERTA

(July 22)

Copious and timely rains have been general throughout the immediate Calgary area during July and vegetable crops are in excellent condition. Local growers are supplying the Calgary market with all vegetables excepting potatoes and onions. Conditions in the Lethbridge and Taber districts are far from favourable as practically no rain has fallen since the first of the month. Growers in the irrigated districts have been given a fair supply of water but crops on dry land are suffering. In the immediate Taber area a severe hailstorm damaged approximately 150 acres of vegetables, mostly corn. In addition to this it is estimated that about one-third of the canning pea crop has been destroyed by aphids. Rainfall in the Medicine Hat district has been very spotted but irrigation water for vegetable growers has been plentiful. All vegetable crops are in fair condition with the possible exception of sweet corn which is very backward. Onion maggot continues to cause considerable trouble and production of onions will be greatly reduced from earlier estimates.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

(July 24)

Dry weather still continues in all districts. Loganberries and raspberries are practically finished in the coast sections with blackberries and everbearing strawberries starting to move. The apricot crop is past the peak and peach and cantaloupe shipments have commenced. Cherries are finished in practically all sections and prices have been most satisfactory. The heavy movement of semi-ripe tomatoes is continuing and the factory crop will be starting at an early date.

Preliminary Estimates of Fruits for 1940 as Compared with 1939

Kind	Unit	1939	1940
Apples	box	6,208,300	6,078,200
Pears	"	355,500	342,600
Plums and Prunes	crate	619,300	463,000
Peaches	"	531,000	556,900
Apricots	"	177,100	192,200
Cherries	"	263,100	184,100
Strawberries	"	814,500	Not available
Raspberries	"	257,100	Not available
Loganberries	"	114,500	Not available
Grapes	pound	1,595,900	2,409,500

British Columbia (Concluded)

In the table showing "Vegetable Acreages in British Columbia in 1940 as compared with 1939," which appeared on page 6 of the crop report issued on June 28, estimates for the Okanagan Valley were not included. Revised estimates shown in the following table represent acreages for the whole province.

Estimated Vegetable Acreages in British Columbia

Kind	1940	1939
	acres	
Asparagus	481¾	481¾
Beans	712½	589
Beets	424¼	372¾
Cabbage	530¾	532
Cauliflower	227	202½
Cantaloupes	290	253½
Carrots	719½	661
Celery	332	331
Corn	605¾	526½
Cucumbers	175¼	161
Lettuce	574½	597½
Onions	1,060¼	1,553½
Parsnips	92¼	94½
Peas	4,273¼	3,062
Peppers	37¼	38
Potatoes, early	2,162¾	2,266½
" late	7,074	7,131¼
Spinach	353	316
Squash and Pumpkins, etc.	86½	79½
Tomatoes	2,772	2,361½
Turnips	308½	301½
Watermelons	3½	1
Other Vegetables	440	385

UNITED KINGDOM

A report on the condition of the fruit crops in the United Kingdom issued by the United States Department of Agriculture on July 9 states:

"According to trade reports fruit crop prospects in the United Kingdom are somewhat less favorable than earlier reports seemed to indicate. Early apples are now estimated at about 50 percent of a normal crop and Bramley's Seedling, the most important winter variety, is placed at one-third of normal. Pears are expected to produce about 60 percent of a normal crop, while plums promise a crop of record proportions with prospects of over 100,000 tons. Good rains are needed in England as well as in northern, western and central Europe."

Preliminary Estimates of Canadian Fruit Production in 1940 with Revised Estimates for 1939

	1939	1940
	barrels	
Apples -		
Nova Scotia	2,300,000 1/	1,500,000
New Brunswick	75,000	56,200
Quebec	337,000	269,600
Ontario	1,010,500	707,300
British Columbia	2,069,400	2,026,100
Canada	5,791,900	4,559,200
	bushels	
Pears -		
Nova Scotia	22,100	22,000
Ontario	256,400	240,200
British Columbia	298,600	287,800
Canada	577,100	550,000
Plums and Prunes -		
Nova Scotia	7,400	8,900
Ontario	54,300	57,700
British Columbia	206,400	154,300
Canada	268,100	220,900
Peaches -		
Ontario	758,000	568,500
British Columbia	177,000	185,600
Canada	935,000	754,100
Apricots -		
British Columbia	59,000	64,100
Canada	59,000	64,100
Cherries -		
Ontario	135,300	89,600
British Columbia	87,700	61,400
Canada	223,000	151,000
	quarts	
Strawberries -		
Nova Scotia	943,000	1,254,200
New Brunswick	1,050,000	1,275,000
Quebec	7,272,000	3,636,000
Ontario	9,251,600	9,997,700
British Columbia	9,773,800	Not available
Canada	28,290,400	-
Raspberries -		
Nova Scotia	74,100	111,100
New Brunswick	45,000	Not available
Quebec	2,217,000	2,660,400
Ontario	5,673,300	6,177,200
British Columbia	3,084,800	Not available
Canada	11,094,200	-
	pounds	
Loganberries -		
British Columbia	2,061,100	Not available
Canada	2,061,100	-
Grapes -		
Ontario	54,000,000	40,500,000
British Columbia	1,595,900	2,409,500
Canada	55,595,900	42,909,500

1/ Including 315,600 barrels dumped or fed to live stock.

Note: British Columbia estimates are converted on the following basis: Apples, three boxes to the barrel; Pears, boxes 42 lbs., bushels 50 lbs; Plums and prunes, peaches apricots and cherries, 3 crates to the bushel; Strawberries and raspberries 12 quarts to the crate; Loganberries 18 lbs. of the crate.