Published by Authority of the Hon. James A. MacKinnon, M.P.,
Minister 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, August 30, 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 August.

SUMMARY

There has been very little change in the prospective production of fruit in Canada since the July report. The anticipated commercial crop of apples shows a slight decline due to reductions in the estimates in the Maritimes and Ontario. While the Quebec estimate remains unchanged from a month ago, a slight increase is recorded for the British Columbia crop. The Canadian apple crop is now set at 4,421,000 barrels compared with the final estimate of 5,791,900 barrels in 1939. The production of pears is expected to reach 550,400 bushels which is only slightly below the crop of 577,100 bushels in the previous year. There was a moderate advance in the estimate for the plum and prune crop in Ontario during the month but the estimate for the country as a whole remains practically unchanged at 221,500 bushels. The outlook for the peach crop has improved since the last report, the increase being due to a 5 per cent advance in the Ontario estimate. The Canadian crop is now set at 784,400 bushels which is a 16 per cent reduction from the crop of 935,000 bushels in 1939. The cherry crop in Ontario is lighter than at first anticipated and with the prospects in British Columbia remaining unchanged, Dominion production is estimated at 145,700 bushels compared with the previous crop of 223,000 bushels. The August estimate of 42,800,000 pounds of grapes is only slightly below the July figure of 42,909,500 pounds. The reduction is due to a decline in prospects in British Columbia. The present crop is considerably smaller than the 1939 figure 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

(August 24)

Rainfall during August has been light, 2½ inches, and there has been an average amount of sunshine with little dew at night. Apple scab is prevalent to some extent even in sprayed orchards but in unsprayed orchards it is quite severe. Apple maggot has also been troublesome this year. The set of apples has been poor with the possible exception of Wealthies. Plums are sizing well but the crop is below average. Brown rot has not made any progress since blossoming time when a moderate infection was encountered. The raspberry crop has been above average and harvesting is about completed. Blueberry production is also above average this year.

Vegetables have made good growth with early corn, tomatoes and cucumbers now being harvested. Vegetable crops, in general, are average to above average with no serious disease or pest injury being reported. Early potatoes are of good quality and have been on the market for several weeks. There have been no epidemics of blight.

NOVA SCOTIA

(August 27)

The dry weather during the past month has caused a heavy drop of apples and the development of the remaining fruit has been slow. The fruit, for the most part, is clean with scab injury at a minimum even in poorly sprayed orchards. There has been a serious outbreak of codling moth, however, in some districts. As a result of the prolonged dry spell, the estimate this month is below that of July. The indications at present are for a crop of 1,380,000 barrels, a reduction of 40 per cent from the 1939 production. The plum crop is 20 per cent heavier than that of last year and is estimated at 8,900 bushels,

NOVA SCOTIA - Continued

but the quality is below average due to much rusting of the fruit. There is no change in the July estimate of 22,000 bushels of pears. Early varieties and Clapp's Favourite and Bartlett are bearing crops which are equal to, if not better than those of last season. While the late varieties are light, the quality is generally good. The raspberry crop was smaller than at first anticipated and is now estimated at 74,000 quarts. This year's production of strawberries is placed at 1,254,200 quarts, an increase of 33 per cent over the 1939 crop.

NEW BRUNSWICK

(August 26)

The dry weather which began about the first week of July has reduced the soil moisture supplies and is affecting the sizing of the apples. All well sprayed orchards remain remarkably free of scab but russetting is rather general. In a few cases where growers used bordeaux mixture for the early spray, russetting is heavy. The crop is now estimated at 45,000 barrels, a reduction of 40 per cent from that of 1939. The early indications were for a normal crop of raspberries but the extreme drought resulted in a considerable reduction in the crop prospects and it is now believed that production did not exceed 40,000 quarts. The harvesting of the blueberry crop is in full swing with reports from practically all producing areas forecasting one of the smallest crops in years.

Vegetable crops have also suffered as a result of the dry weather during the first three weeks in August. Vine crops are below average, supplies of cucumbers, tomatoes and squash being limited to date.

QUEBEC

(August 22)

A serious windstorm early in August blew down some apple trees in the Montreal area, but damage was confined to trees which already showed bark injury. Although some fruit fell, the loss was not serious. Damage from either insects or disease has been slight in most orchards, but the continued dry weather may affect the size of the fruit. Duchess and Melba are now being harvested while later varieties are colouring satisfactorily. There has been no change in the crop prospects since the July report, early varieties being estimated at 30 per cent and late varieties at 95 per cent of the 1939 production. The Quebec crop, as a whole, is at present estimated at 269,600 barrels or 80 per cent of last year's crop. Raspberries were practically all harvested by the middle of the month and production is estimated at 2,771,200 quarts.

The tomato crop is expected to be a third less than that of 1939. Canning started during the week and as a result supplies on the farmers' markets are somewhat reduced. The cauliflower crop is of fair quality and the late cabbage crop is expected to be good provided sufficient rain is received. Onions are now being harvested but the size is small.

ONTARIO

(August 26)

Eastern Ontario

The weather during the latter part of July and up to August 20 was hot and dry but turned very cool the past week. Apples are sizing well due to plenty of moisture in the subsoil and appear to be well up to average for this time of year. Early and fall varieties are taking on good colour. Scab has continued to develop on the fruit in a good many orchards where the infection has carried through on the foliage from the early part of the season. Where very thorough cover sprays were applied many growers have kept their fruit exceptionally clean. Codling moth has caused considerable injury in some orchards where extra cover sprays were not applied. There has been no recent hail damage reported. It is now estimated that the total pack-out of apples of standard grades will be reduced by at least 15 per cent due to fungus, insects and hail injury. The quality of the cherry crop was above average and the estimated yield was 10,500 bushels. Pears are sizing well in most orchards. Some codling moth injury is in evidence but in general the fruit is quite clean with the possible exception of the Flemish Beauty variety which is very susceptible to scab. A 45 per cent decrease from the 1939 crop is reported. Damson plums are showing a large increase and the prospects for the plum crop generally are better than expected. There is very little insect injury on the fruit. Raspberry yields have been very disappointing as compared with what was expected a month ago and amounted to about 10 per cent less than last season.

Eastern Ontario - Continued

All vegetables are still about ten days to two weeks later than last season. The crops made excellent growth until the weather became a little too hot and dry about August 10. At present sweet corn, fresh and processed tomatoes and, in some sections, late potatoes are below average. The remainder of the vegetables is above average.

Western Ontario

The estimated commercial production of apples is expected to be 33 per cent less than that of last year and it is anticipated that the pack of higher grades will be reduced, at least in some areas, as a result of damage caused by disease, insects and hail. Weather conditions generally have been favourable for sizing and colouring but were also conducive to fungus infestation in most areas. Hail damage in order of seriousness is in evidence in Oxford, Norfolk, Middlesex, Huron, Elgin, Peel and Essex counties, while scab appears most serious in the Burlington and Niagara areas and Elgin, Oxford, Peel and York counties. Codling moth is now reported in several areas, particularly in poorly sprayed orchards. The relatively small cherry crop was harvested under adverse conditions, particularly in those areas where heavy winds caused blowing off and bruising of the fruit. In the Niagara area sweet cherries suffered to some extent from rot and splitting, while weather conditions also caused considerable loss of foliage through yellowing. Except for some slight hail damage in Peel and Norfolk counties and some fire blight in Elgin, conditions are favourable in the main commercial areas for a clean crop of good sized pears. Peaches are developing well in all areas but a somewhat greater peach moth infestation is now reported from Niagara East and Norfolk county. Spraying is being continued to control brown rot. With the exception of some brown rot in localized orchards, for which sprays are being applied, plums are now developing favourably. Conditions have been more favourable for grapes. Although the harvesting will be ten days to two weeks later than normal, continued warm weather is required for satisfactory maturing of late varieties. Second cover sprays are being applied for grape leaf-hopper which has been so much in evidence in most areas this season.

Warm weather prevailed generally until the third week in August and with an abundance of moisture, excellent growing conditions for most vegetable crops have resulted. Light frosts on August 21 and 24 caused some wilting of tomato vines and corn stalks while localized hail damage to tomatoes is reported in Middlesex and the south-west counties. Cabbage and cauliflower in Burlington, Norfolk and the south-western counties have been damaged considerably by cabbage worms. The cantaloupe crop in the Burlington-Aldershot area has suffered serious damage from melon aphids, reducing the crop to about 35 per cent of normal. While extensive injury to the corn crop by borers and ear worms is reported, other vegetables are fairly free from insects and disease pests.

Fruit Estimates in 1940 as Compared with 1939

Kind		1939		1940
			barrels	
Apples -	Eastern Ontario	360,500		241,500
	Western Ontario	650,000		435,500
	Total	1,010,500		677,000
			bushels	
Pears -	Eastern Ontario	7,500		4,100
	Western Ontario	248,900		236,500
	Total	256,400		240,600
Plums and Prunes -	Eastern Ontario	700		900
	Western Ontario	53,600		57,400
	Total	54,300		58,300
Peaches -	Eastern Ontario	-		-
	Western Ontario	758,000		598,800
	Total	758,000		598,800
Cherries -	Eastern Ontario	3,500		10,500
	Western Ontario	131,800		73,800
	Total	135,300		84,300
			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		2,856,000
	Western Ontario	2,500,000		2,750,000
	Total	5,673,300		5,606,000
			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.	
Beets, late	+ 6	3.3	+ 5	3.2
Cabbage, late	+ 5	3.4	+ 8	2.9
Cauliflower, late	+ 9	3.5	+ 2	2.9
Carrots, late	+ 5	3.2	+ 2	3.2
Celery, late	- 2	3.0	- 3	3.1
Corn, sweet	+ 6	2.5	+ 25	2.7
Lettuce	+ 6	3.3	+ 10	3.0
Onions	+ 8	3.1	- 12	2.9
Parsnips	+ 5	3.3	0	3.0
Tomatoes, fresh	+ 1	2.8	+ 8	2.9
" processing	+ 100	2.5	+ 6	2.9

MANITOBA

(August 26)

Growth of most vegetable crops has been only fair since the July report. Extremes of high and low temperatures over the province along with insufficient moisture in the north have somewhat retarded maturity. The epidemic of beet webworm mentioned in an earlier report reached disastrous proportions. It was the worst in Manitoba in a good many years. The tops of beets, carrots, onions, lettuce, parsnips, cabbage, cauliflower and a number of minor crops were severely attacked and, in many instances, stripped completely. In some cases early onion crops were eaten down to the ground and, after the ravages had subsided, many of the onions developed rot. In addition, several of the cruciferous crops, including cabbage, cauliflower and turnips, were damaged by the larvae of the diamond-back moth and some fields are a complete failure. Notwithstanding this insect injury, most vegetables attacked have made a wonderful recovery. Carrots, beets, late onions and parsnips are now making good growth but, of course, will be late. A couple of good local showers have been a tremendous help in bringing back these crops. Late cauliflower and cabbage are going to be rather scarce owing to the losses mentioned above. Local celery of good quality seems sufficient for present demands. Late onion crops are making very satisfactory progress now. Most of the sweet Spanish-type onions have been pulled to dry and cure. The crop of onion sets will be pretty well harvested in another few days. The crop of sets this year is very good indeed with the quality running very high. It is expected that the yield will be about the same as last year. Vine crops are slow in reaching maturity, growth being unsatisfactory owing to poor weather. Cucumbers of fair quality are appearing on the market in limited quantities. Muskmelons and watermelons will not be ripe in any quantity for ten days to two weeks except in the southern part where some of the early varieties are ready now. The yields of egg plants, peppers, and tomatoes are somewhat lighter than usual, although the quality is good. Some importations of tomatoes have been made to supplement the local market. While corn was rather late in going on the market because of late June frosts, it has, nevertheless, been a good crop. The yield of many of the more tender crops will be reduced somewhat owing to several degrees of frost on August 21 and 22. This is particularly true in northern and eastern Manitoba. It is reported from the north that about three-quarters of the gardens have been seriously damaged by frost.

SASKATCHEWAN

(August 27)

August has been warm and dry with some cool spells. Frosts have been recorded in east-central and northern districts, the most severe being in the north-east where some garden stuff has been badly damaged. Grasshoppers have also done some damage to gardens in the southern districts, particularly at points south of Regina and west of Moose Jaw. Gardens at points in central and northern Saskatchewan have also suffered from the beet webworm, the amount of damage varying from light to very severe. The potato beetle has caused some injury to potatoes but, while reports on the potato crop vary considerably, the crop will likely exceed that of last year. In the extreme south-west grasshoppers did extensive damage to all crops and gardens were practically a complete failure, but in the balance of the south-western district garden stuff, aided by good rains, has come through well. With the exception of the areas where serious frost, grasshoppers and beet webworm damage has occurred gardens range from fair to good.

ALBERTA

(August 24)

Very dry and very warm weather has been general throughout southern Alberta for practically the entire month of August. Irrigation in the Lethbridge and Taber districts has been used to a greater extent this season than for some years. In the Calgary district vegetable growth has been retarded by lack of moisture but vegetable crops are looking surprisingly well. Present indications point to a heavy yield of potatoes. There have been some complaints of blackleg but these are isolated cases. The crops of winter cabbage, carrots, turnips, beets and parsnips will be heavier than usual. In the Lethbridge and Taber districts all vegetable crops are looking well. Early cabbages are cleaned up and a good crop of winter stock is in prospect. Root vegetables will produce a normal crop. There has been a fair demand for early potatoes and with digging of the main crop, Netted Gems, a month away growers are in hopes of cleaning up their early stock. From present indications production per acre of the main crop will be one-third heavier than last season. Medicine Hat district will harvest a fair crop of good quality onions despite the inroads of onion maggot. All other vegetable crops in this district, including potatoes, promise better than normal crops.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

(August 17)

The weather generally has been warm and dry with a few scattered showers in some localities. Moisture conditions are fair although irrigation water supplies are low in the interior. Apples are sizing well except in a few cases where thinning was not properly carried out and warm weather has aided materially in the colouring of the fruit. Some apple scab is reported in the Salmon Arm and Kootenay-Arrow Lakes districts, while codling moth injury is in evidence in the latter district. Wealthy and Gravenstein are being harvested on the coast while picking of McIntosh is expected to begin in the southern Okanagan Valley during the third week of the month. The harvesting of the Bartlett pear crop is about over in the central and southern Okanagan districts, while in other areas picking has just commenced. In the earlier districts Flemish Beauties are beginning to move. Picking of the peach crop in the Okanagan Valley is in full swing while harvesting of grapes will begin in about ten days.

All vegetable crops are moving into consumption in good quantities and tomatoes and beans are being extensively canned.

UNITED STATES

The following statements are taken from a crop report issued by the United States Department of Agriculture on August 1:

Apples (Commercial Crop):

The prospective apple crop in the 424 commercial counties of the United States is indicated by the August 1 condition to be 116,721,000 bushels compared with 143,085,000 bushels in the same areas in 1939 and with the 5-year (1934-38) average of 121,755,000 bushels. This is the first estimate of the crop on the basis of production in the commercial areas of the country and the figures are not comparable with the former "Commercial" estimates which represented that part of the crop sold or to be sold for fresh consumption from all areas.

Peaches

Total peach production for 1940, as indicated by the August 1 condition, is placed at 53,290,000 bushels, compared with 60,822,000 bushels in 1939 and the 10-year (1929-38) average of 52,723,000 bushels.

Pears

August 1 conditions indicate a total United States pear crop of 31,372,000 bushels, which is about 1 per cent larger than the 1939 crop of 31,047,000 bushels and about 19 per cent larger than the 10-year (1929-38) average of 26,333,000 bushels. Prospective production of pears shows little change from that indicated on July 1.

Grapes

Total grape production for the 1940 season is indicated to be 2,488,620 tons, compared with 2,525,830 in 1939 and the 10-year (1929-38) average of 2,220,001 tons.

Cherries

The 1940 cherry crop is now estimated at 169,610 tons compared with 187,010 tons in 1939 and the 10-year (1929-38) average of 129,367 tons.

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

	1939	1940
	barrels	
Apples -		
Nova Scotia	2,300,000 1/	1,380,000
New Brunswick	75,000	45,000
Quebec	337,000	269,600
Ontario	1,010,500	677,000
British Columbia	2,069,400	2,049,400
Canada	5,791,900	4,421,000
	bushels	
Pears -		
Nova Scotia	22,100	22,000
Ontario	256,400	240,600
British Columbia	298,600	287,800
Canada	577,100	550,400
Plums and Prunes -		
Nova Scotia	7,400	8,900
Ontario	54,300	58,300
British Columbia	206,400	154,300
Canada	268,100	221,500
Peaches -		
Ontario	758,000	598,800
British Columbia	177,000	185,600
Canada	935,000	784,400
Apricots -		
British Columbia	59,000	64,100
Canada	59,000	64,100
Cherries -		
Ontario	135,300	84,300
British Columbia	87,700	61,400
Canada	223,000	145,700
	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	74,000
New Brunswick	45,000	40,000
Quebec	2,217,000	2,771,200
Ontario	5,673,300	5,606,000
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	2,300,000
Canada	55,595,900	42,800,000

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. to the crate.