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Fruit and Vegetable Crop Report

Ottawa, May 30, 1942 - 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.

SUMMARY

It is still too early to estimate the size of the fruit crops but in general, production throughout Canada will be average or better-than-average as judged by the condition of the crops during the last week in May. In the Maritime Provinces, the amount of bloom in the orchards indicates an average crop of apples in Nova Scotia, with smaller crops in Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick than were produced in 1941. The strawberry beds in both Nova Scotia and New Brunswick are in excellent condition and the outlook for the crop is good. The prospect for the apple crop in Quebec is average or better-than-average but unfavourable weather during the blossom period may affect the set of fruit. The strawberry and raspberry crops in this province are expected to be better than in 1941. In Ontario prospective production of both tree and small fruits is average or slightly above average with the exception of strawberries. Poor growth last year reduced the number of bearing plants in western Ontario and the crop in that area is expected to be only 85 per cent of the 1941 harvest. The bloom in the orchards in British Columbia was very heavy and remained on the trees for a considerable time. Unfavourable weather during the blooming period for sweet cherries and prunes reduced the outlook for these crops but larger crops of pears, plums and peaches than were produced in 1941 are expected. The bloom in the apple orchards was exceptionally heavy but no estimate of the crop is as yet possible. While the bloom in the small fruit plantations indicates satisfactory crops of strawberries, raspberries and loganberries, the labour situation may limit the size of the harvest.

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
(May 29)

The orchards generally have wintered well but pith injury has developed in first-year apple wood in some sections. Small fruit, with the exception of Viking raspberries, also are reported to be in excellent condition. While the pear and plum trees are now in full bloom, apple orchards are in the pink stage. Currants and gooseberries on the other hand are practically finished blooming. Production of all fruits will be appreciably reduced from last year according to present indications.

Planting of vegetables is earlier than usual and the condition of the crops is very good. As a result of early seeding made possible by unusually favourable weather, tender crops such as beans, corn and cucumbers are all well advanced. Because of the great demand for carrots, peas, parsnips, beets, etc., plantings of those crops have been increased by local growers. While the acreage of registered parsnip stockings for seed in 1942 amounts to only one acre, approximately five acres will be planted this year for seed in 1943. This increase is an indication of the demand for this seed crop.

NOVA SCOTIA
(May 26)

The orchards in the Annapolis Valley came through the winter in excellent condition. Early spring weather was exceptionally warm with the result that the apple orchards were in bloom much earlier than usual. Judging by the bloom an average crop should be produced. Although 70,000 apple trees were removed this spring in addition to the 25,000 destroyed last fall, production will not be affected proportionately as these are old trees or trees from neglected orchards. Dry weather has favoured good spraying

NOVA SCOTIA (Concluded)

although some scab is in evidence in poorly sprayed orchards. Oyster shell scale has been on the increase during the past five years but with favourable weather this spring more oil sprays for the control of this insect were applied than in any previous season in the history of the industry. Other tree fruits such as pears, plums and cherries are all making satisfactory growth with anticipated production equal to an average crop. The strawberry beds came through the winter in good condition and the plants have made exceptional growth this spring. In the earlier sections many beds are now in bloom. While prospects generally are for a good crop there still remains the threat of frost.

Vegetables.- In the Sydney vegetable area operations got under way three weeks earlier than last year with planting of beets and carrots reported as early as April 28. While there is a decrease in the acreage planted by the market gardeners a definite increase in the number of back-yard gardens in the urban areas is expected to make up the deficiency.

NEW BRUNSWICK
(May 27)

Early spring development in the orchards in the St. John River Valley is much in advance of normal. In some sections the bloom is already over and the calyx spray is about to be applied. Full bloom for McIntosh, Fameuse and Courtland occurred about May 22 and 23. Judging by the bloom, the prospects for the McIntosh crop are about the same as last year while Courtland trees are expected to bear a heavier crop. However, there is considerable variation and on the whole the crop is expected to be lighter than in 1941. Blossoms appeared in the strawberry plantations about the third week of May and if the present weather prevails the earliest harvesting in years is expected. The beds came through the winter in good condition and a heavy bloom is in prospect. The vegetable acreage this year will be maintained if not increased.

QUEBEC
(May 26)

Apple orchards in both Montreal and Quebec city areas came through the winter without having suffered any serious damage. Judging by the amount of bloom carried by the trees, the crop will be average to better than average. In the Montreal area cool, windy weather during the blooming period restricted the activity of bees and other insects which may have some effect on the set of fruit. Strawberry and raspberry plantations are generally in better condition than at the same time last year, although some strawberry beds suffered during the winter from an excessive ice formation. The present prospects are satisfactory, and with favourable weather during harvesting the crop of both strawberries and raspberries is expected to exceed last year's output.

Vegetables.- Production of vegetables is rapidly increasing as the season advances and such crops as asparagus, lettuce and rhubarb are appearing in abundance on the local markets. Some loss of tomato plants is reported as a result of "damping off" but it is expected that there will be sufficient plants to meet all the necessary requirements.

WESTERN ONTARIO
(May 26)

With the exception of some slight rodent damage the orchards in western Ontario came through the winter with no apparent injury. A severe frost early in May caused serious damage to the peach buds in Norfolk County and caused some damage to the peach orchards in Elgin County. Although strawberry plantations wintered well spring frosts injured the early bloom in exposed areas. Raspberry plantations suffered considerable cane injury during the winter months but favourable spring growing conditions promoted excellent recovery. Other bush fruits came through the winter in good condition.

Growth was so rapid in the apple orchards this spring that in some localities it was almost impossible to maintain the calendar of regular sprays. The calyx spray is now almost complete, although some difficulty has been encountered as a result of frequent rains. While the infestation of scab has been slight to date, conditions at present are conducive to its development. Reports of insect damage are confined to injury by leaf roller and bud moth larvae in Middlesex and Oxford Counties. The apple orchards are generally in good condition. The bloom was fair to good and the blooming period extended from April 26 to May 14. Frost injury to the blossoms of early and fall varieties is reported in some sections of Elgin, Oxford and Middlesex Counties.

THE PROBLEM

The first problem is to determine the nature of the data. The data is a set of numbers, and the question is whether they are random or not. The second problem is to determine the distribution of the data. The data is a set of numbers, and the question is whether they are random or not. The third problem is to determine the distribution of the data. The data is a set of numbers, and the question is whether they are random or not.

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THE RESULTS

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WESTERN ONTARIO (Concluded)

Although it is too early to estimate production, the crop prospects as indicated by the bloom are as follows: early varieties, average; fall varieties, above average; winter varieties, slightly below average. Conditions vary between districts, however, and early varieties are reported to be below average in the Niagara peninsula, Burlington and Elgin Counties. Fall varieties are below average in Elgin and Oxford, while winter varieties are below average in the Niagara, Brant and Georgian Bay areas.

Pear trees came through the winter in excellent condition and the bloom which lasted from April 28 to May 9 was good to heavy, although there was some irregularity in the set depending on the variety and district. While it is still too early to estimate production, the amount of bloom indicates an average crop. Plum and prune trees also are expected to bear average crops as judged by the bloom which remained on the trees from April 28 to May 9. Some irregularity is shown in the set of cherries this year especially among the sweet varieties. Although the bloom was fairly heavy, prospects are for only an average crop. The outlook for peach production is also average although serious damage was sustained by the fruit buds in Norfolk County during the winter. While poor growing weather and insect damage reduced the number of strawberry plants in the beds this spring to about 70 per cent of the 1941 population, favourable conditions have materially improved the prospects and a crop estimated at 85 per cent of the 1941 production is now anticipated. While early frosts in May did some damage, it was confined to early varieties in restricted localities. With the exception of a slight decrease in acreage in a few districts, the area devoted to raspberries is approximately the same as in 1941. Canes generally are in good condition although some winter killing was reported in localized areas. With continued favourable growing weather raspberry production should equal that of last year. The general condition of the vineyards in the Niagara district, the main producing area, is excellent. Damage by frost on the nights of May 10 and 11 is reported in Elgin, Oxford, Middlesex, Lambton, Brant and Norfolk Counties, the injury being most apparent on the lower part of the vines.

Vegetables.- Spring weather conditions and temperatures were very satisfactory for the preparation of the land for seeding and planting. With the exception of the warm weather in April, development was ten days earlier than at the same period last year. Cool wet weather during May has since retarded growth while frost on the nights of May 10 and 11 caused some damage to beans, cauliflower and early potatoes in localized areas. Continued heavy rains during the month have caused flooding in some areas.

EASTERN ONTARIO
(May 26)

Growth was rapid during the period from April 21 to May 4 and early varieties of apples were at the pink stage of development by May 2, two weeks earlier than average. Most varieties were in full bloom by May 12. The apple, pear, cherry and plum trees all carried a heavy load of bloom. Weather conditions, however, were not favourable for pollination during the heavy blossom period and the initial set of these fruit appears to be sufficient to produce only average crops. Insects are well under control in orchards where special dormant sprays were followed by early leaf sprays for leaf roller and bud moth control. Some scab has developed on the foliage during the past three weeks as a result of the extremely wet weather. The strawberry and raspberry beds came through the winter in excellent condition. The bloom was heavy and the crop prospects at present are better than average.

Vegetables.- The weather was finer than usual in April and planting of vegetables was well in advance of normal. May, however, has been very cold and wet with the result that further plantings have been delayed as the land is much too soft to work. The setting-out of tomato plants in the field will be later than last year. There is a general reduction in vegetable acreage as a result of the shortage of labour.

	Percentage Change in acreage from 1941		Condition		Date of first and commercial marketings	
	Western Ontario	Eastern Ontario	Western Ontario	Eastern Ontario	Western Ontario	Eastern Ontario
Asparagus	+ 4	- 2	3.0	2.9	April 21-28	April 25-30
Beans (snap)	0	+ 3	3.0	2.9	June 26-30	June 26-30
Beets (bunching)	0	- 4	3.0	3.0	May 20-28	June 8-15
Cabbage (early)	+ 2	-20	3.0	3.1	May 28-June 5	June 20-24
Cauliflower (early)	+10	- 2	2.9	2.9	May 20-June 1	July 1-10
Carrots (bunching)	+ 5	-24	3.0	3.1	June 12-19	July 1-10
Celery (early)	+15	-30	3.0	3.0	June 10-26	July 20-24
Corn (sweet)	+ 1	0	3.0	3.1	July 15-22	July 15-20
Lettuce	+13	- 5	3.1	3.2	May 14-25	June 1-5
Onions	+28	-21	3.0	3.3	June 20-29	July 1-5
Peas (garden)	0	0	3.0	3.2	June 5-12	June 20-24
Potatoes (early)	0	-18	3.0	3.2	June 11-20	July 1-5
Spinach	+ 5	- 1	3.1	3.0	May 11-15	May 15-20
Tomatoes (fresh)	0	+ 2	3.0	2.9	June 26	July 12-15
Tomatoes processing	+ 8	- 3	3.0	2.7		July 20-24

SASKATCHEWAN
(May 27)

Planting of vegetables has been somewhat later than usual, on account of cool weather, and was not general until May 15. Most districts received satisfactory rains in April but for the most part only scattered showers have fallen since, and growth has been retarded on account of lack of moisture and cool weather. Frosts of varying severity occurred as late as May 21, being particularly sharp around the middle of the month at which time some damage to early vegetables occurred. Fortunately very little was above ground at that date. Only onions, radishes and lettuce are up as yet in most districts while in some localities rhubarb and asparagus are being harvested. However, very few local grown vegetables are on the market so far. Some districts report a slight increase in acreage but others indicate a decline on account of shortage of labour. It is somewhat early to estimate whether the total acreage devoted to vegetables will be greater or smaller than last year.

BRITISH COLUMBIA
(May 27)

Mild weather prevailed throughout the province during the past winter although temperatures occasionally fell to zero in some localities. While the rain and snowfall were light during the winter months an abundance of moisture last fall, together with frequent showers during the spring months, have provided an ample supply for current needs. Cool cloudy weather during the spring has retarded development of the crops with the result that the season is ten days to two weeks later than that of last year. The bloom in the orchards was very heavy and remained on the trees for a considerable time. However, unfavourable conditions during the blooming period of sweet cherries and prunes reduced the prospects for these crops. The peach, pear and plum crops are expected to be larger than in 1941. The bloom on the apple trees is very heavy but it is still too early to estimate production. Prospects for the strawberry crop are somewhat obscure. While plantations are reported to have developed satisfactorily the reduction in acreage, resulting from the removal of the Japanese from the coastal areas, will cause a decline in production. Although some damage was sustained by the raspberry and loganberry canes during the winter, recovery has been satisfactory and the prospects for the crop are encouraging. A shortage of labour may be a limiting factor in the size of all small fruit crops this year.

Early vegetables are now appearing on the local markets in quantity although cool weather has delayed cutting of the asparagus crop. The pea acreage in the Salmon Arm area shows a considerable increase over that of last year and the tomato and onion acreage in all sections is substantially increased. A considerable increase in the area devoted to the production of vegetable seeds is indicated and production will probably be the heaviest on record.



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