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Fruit and Vegetable Crop Report

Ottawa, July 4, 1942.- The Dominion Bureau of Statistics in co-operation 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

The prospects for fruit production in Canada declined during the past month. After a generally heavy bloom, adverse weather during the blossoming period resulted in a lighter set of fruit than was at first anticipated. In the Maritime Provinces the apple crop is now expected to be smaller than that of 1941 although it is still too early to estimate the probable output. Other tree fruits, however, appear to be normal. While strawberry yields have been cut by frosts in Nova Scotia and by dry weather in New Brunswick, no definite estimate of the yield is as yet available. The apple crop in Quebec is now expected to be somewhat larger than that of 1941 although the "drop" was exceptionally heavy. Although early indications were very promising the strawberry crop was materially reduced by adverse weather and the yield is not expected to exceed that of last year. The outlook for the raspberry crop, however, is better than that of a year ago. Following an excellent show of bloom the prospects for most fruit crops in Ontario are somewhat disappointing. The outlook for most varieties of apples is at present below average. Pears also are now expected to be a lighter-than-average crop while plum prospects are poor to below average. The condition of the peach, cherry, raspberry and grape crops is somewhat better, however, and the outlook is for average or slightly better than average crops. The first estimate of fruit production in British Columbia indicates that the apple crop will be approximately 1 1/2 million boxes larger than that of a year previously and larger crops of pears, peaches, apricots and raspberries are also expected. On the other hand, the production of plums and prunes, cherries, raspberries and loganberries will be lower.

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

(June 25)

Fruit. The weather has been very dry during the past month. Strawberries ripened earlier than usual but the size of the fruit was not reduced. The set of pears and apples is very good but the prospects for the crop are slightly below that of 1941. While the outlook for the plum crop is slightly below that of last year the cherry crop will be somewhat heavier. Strawberries have been on the market for about a week and the crop is of average size. Raspberries are in the late bloom stage and an average crop is indicated.

Vegetables. The hot weather has affected both the germination and growth. Germination of the seeds is irregular and the early prospects for a good crop are considerably reduced with the outlook somewhat below average.

NOVA SCOTIA

(June 30)

Fruit. The weather during the past month was generally warm and dry but a few cool damp days during the blooming period of the apple trees materially

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NOVA SCOTIA (Concluded)

reduced the set of fruit. Frosts also caused damage in some sections, particularly in the centre of the Valley. Prospects for the apple crop are very variable. While some growers report better crops than in 1941 the general opinion is that production will be below that of last year. Prospects for the pear, plum and raspberry crops are normal, but frosts reduced the outlook for strawberry production. The damage from frost in the Berwick section is estimated at about 20 per cent. Picking in this area commenced about June 15 but cool wet weather delayed harvesting until June 19. Picking in this area is now beyond the peak.

Vegetables. Weather conditions during the past month have been quite favourable to the growth of vegetables. The general condition of the crops is average, however, cabbage is somewhat above average. There are no local vegetables being sold on the market as yet.

NEW BRUNSWICK

(July 2)

The strawberry crop is now estimated at 25 to 30 per cent below last year's yield due to continued dry weather. Harvesting took place 7 to 14 days earlier than in 1941. Picking in the Grand Lake area is about completed while in the Memramcook district harvesting is at the peak. The bloom in the raspberry plantations is very heavy and the first fruit is expected about July 6. The crop will probably be about average in size. The condition of vegetables is normal. There is a decided shortage of labour for planting, weeding and hoeing operations. Rain is needed in most areas.

QUEBEC

(June 26)

Fruit. The outlook for the apple crop has changed materially since the last report. The "drop" was very heavy, probably 30 to 40 per cent greater than that of last year. However, the remaining apples are sizing well and the crop is expected to be somewhat greater than that of 1941. Apple scab and insect damage has been well controlled and the fruit, therefore, should be of good quality. Early prospects for the strawberry crop were excellent but unfavourable weather conditions lowered the production with the result that the harvest will not exceed the 1941 crop especially in the Montreal area. At present the outlook for the raspberry crop is better than that of last year.

Vegetables. Vegetable crops generally are maturing exceptionally early. There is an estimated increase of 10 per cent in the acreage of early beets and growers are planning a 15 per cent increase in the acreage planted to the late crop. The bean acreage is between 5 to 8 per cent greater than last year. The first wax beans arrived on the market on June 19 with green beans appearing about June 25. Heavier supplies are expected next week. Early cabbage also shows an increase in acreage amounting to 25 per cent over last year. The heads are larger and heavier than a year ago due to the abundant supplies of moisture. The late cabbage acreage is estimated at 30 per cent greater than a year ago but it is still too early to forecast the size of the crop, as weather conditions affect the development of the heads. About 5 per cent of the early carrot crop acreage was ploughed under. In some fields, planting was thin and irregular due chiefly to shortage of labour which delayed weeding and thinning. The acreage of early cauliflower appears to be about the same as a year ago, but growers are planning an increase in the late acreage of about 12 per cent above that of 1941. The celery acreage remains approximately the same as that of a year ago. The shortage of cold storage space is a limiting factor in the size of the fall crop. There is no increase in the acreage of peas in the Montreal area this year. The acreage of onions was reduced 10 to 15 per cent due to the shortage of labour. About 5 per cent of the area has been ploughed under as growers were unable to obtain labour to do the thinning and weeding. Tomato plants remain in excellent growth and the earliest fruit is about the size of an egg. The acreage this year is reported to be 20 per cent greater than that of 1941.

WESTERN ONTARIO

(June 30)

Fruit. Although the weather and temperature conditions are now favourable, excessive moisture and variable temperatures earlier in the month resulted in a poor set of many fruits and caused injury to the plants in low undrained areas. Conditions, however, have been generally conducive to heavy foliage and wood growth and good sizing of the fruit. Hail damage in a restricted area in Essex is reported. Apple

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WESTERN ONTARIO (Concluded)

scab is more troublesome this season but insect damage is confined chiefly to bud moth, leaf roller and aphid injury. A below average crop of apples is now anticipated. Crop prospects are best in Elgin-Oxford, Middlesex-Huron and Norfolk with all other areas below average to poor. The fruit, however, is sizing well and vegetative growth is excellent. The general "drop" is still continuing. Although the pear crop is below average in size the fruit is clean and making satisfactory development. The plum set was irregular with Japanese varieties much below average. European varieties are patchy and below average while prunes are very light. Sizing of the fruit, however, is good with very little insect injury in evidence. A very good crop of peaches is now anticipated particularly in the Niagara district and Essex county. The crop in Norfolk county, however, is reported to be poor. The fruit is sizing exceptionally well and the orchards are generally in healthy condition. Heavy thinning is necessary in most orchards and the labour shortage is causing some concern. The cherry crop will probably be about average in size with sour varieties slightly above average and sweet varieties somewhat below average. The Montmorency variety is showing some irregularity in maturity and slight damage and deformity probably due to earlier weather conditions. Generally, however, the fruit is sizing well and harvesting of the main varieties is now in full swing. The harvesting of the strawberry crop is now completed in many areas and the estimate of production is below average. The quality and size of the berries is generally good and in spite of the poor stand of plants and adverse weather, a fair crop was picked, particularly in Niagara. The yield in the Essex-Kent, Brant and Georgian Bay areas was much below average. The raspberry crop will be above average in all districts with the exception of Norfolk county. Harvesting already has started in the earlier producing sections. The vineyards are in healthy condition and a heavy crop of grapes is in prospect in all sections, with the exception of possibly Essex-Kent where the crop is not so promising.

Vegetables. Although moisture and temperature conditions are now very satisfactory, previous wet cold cloudy weather was quite detrimental to most crops retarding growth and maturity. Some flooding is reported with the result that planting was delayed. Asparagus, however, benefited from the liberal moisture supplies and quality and production were maintained throughout the season. The acreage planted to tomatoes for canning is now reported to be 7 per cent below that of last year, which is a reduction of 15 per cent from the May estimate.

EASTERN ONTARIO
(June 26)

Fruit. Cool wet weather prevailed during most of June. However, during the last week of the month it turned fair and quite warm. With the abundance of moisture, tree and bush fruits have made very heavy growth. Some difficulty has been experienced in controlling apple scab and insects in the apple orchards during the past month. In some places severe injury was caused by leaf roller, bud moth and cigar case bearers and curculio. A very patchy initial set of apples was followed by a heavy general "drop". The remaining apples are making rapid growth with early varieties, including McIntosh and Snow, the most promising. Late varieties, however, are very irregular in most orchards. The pear crop, with the exception of Clapps Favourite, is reported to be light in most sections. The fruit, however, is clean with very little insect injury. The plum crop is also light as a result of poor pollination. The set of Damsons is reported to be very patchy while the Burbank variety is carrying the largest crop. There is considerable curculio injury. While the initial set of cherries was fairly good, a heavy "drop" reduced the crop to about two thirds of average. The picking of the strawberry crop will be finished in most sections within the next week. The quality this year is fairly good with the yield approximately 65 per cent of an average crop. The harvest, however, was considerably better than last year's light crop. Raspberry plantations are in excellent condition. With the heavy set of fruit, the yield should be above average if favourable weather prevails. Grape vines are in excellent condition and prospects are for a crop above average in size.

Vegetables. The general condition of the vegetable crops is average or slightly below average as a result of the continued cool wet weather during most of June. With the shortage of labour there has been a reduction in acreage this year. A large percentage of the crops will not receive the attention it normally gets.

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CONDITION OF FRUIT CROPS IN ONTARIO

<u>Description</u>		<u>Western</u> <u>Ontario</u>	<u>Eastern</u> <u>Ontario</u>
		<u>Condition</u>	<u>Condition</u>
Apples	Early Varieties	2.3	3.0
	Wealthy	2.7	3.1
	McIntosh	2.0	2.5
	Snow	2.8	2.8
	Greening	2.4	2.4
	Baldwin	2.6	3.1
	Stark	2.0	2.4
	Spy	2.5	2.0
	Others	2.2	2.6
	ALL VARIETIES	2.4	2.5
Pears	Bartlett	2.6	2.6
	Kieffer	2.7	2.7
	Others	2.8	2.6
	ALL VARIETIES	2.7	2.6
Plums	Japanese Varieties	1.7	2.3
	European Varieties	2.2	1.8
	Prunes	1.3	1.8
	ALL VARIETIES	2.0	1.9
Peaches		3.1	-
Cherries	Sweet Varieties	2.9	-
	Sour Varieties	3.2	3.0
	ALL VARIETIES	3.1	3.0
Strawberries		2.6	2.7
Raspberries		3.3	3.4
Grapes	White Varieties	3.0	-
	Red Varieties	3.0	-
	Blue Varieties	3.0	-
	ALL VARIETIES	3.0	-

Change in Acreage and Condition of Vegetable Crops in Ontario

<u>Description</u>	<u>Percentage change</u> <u>in acreage from 1941</u>		<u>Condition</u>	
	<u>Western</u> <u>Ontario</u>	<u>Eastern</u> <u>Ontario</u>	<u>Western</u> <u>Ontario</u>	<u>Eastern</u> <u>Ontario</u>
Asparagus	+ 4	- 4	3.3	3.2
Beans (snap)	0	-10	2.8	2.9
Beets (bunching)	0	+12	3.0	2.8
Cabbage (early)	+ 2	-20	3.0	3.0
Cauliflower (early)	+10	-30	2.5	3.0
Carrots (bunching)	+ 5	-20	3.0	2.9
Celery (early)	+15	-15	3.0	3.1
Corn (sweet)	0	+ 7	2.5	2.9
Cucumbers	0	-25	2.9	2.9
Lettuce	- 5	- 5	2.9	3.1
Onions	+28	-10	2.8	2.9
Peas (garden)	0	+ 7	3.0	3.3
Potatoes (early)	0	-15	2.9	3.4
Spinach	+ 1	- 1	2.8	3.0
Tomatoes (fresh consumption)	+ 2	+ 2	2.9	3.0
Tomatoes (canning)	- 7	- 4	2.7	2.6

MANITOBA
(June 27)

The growth of all vegetable crops has been only fair due to cool temperatures, unfavourable soil conditions and lack of occasional good showers. While the colour of all crops is good they are not making rapid growth. A few warm days would be very beneficial. Spinach, r lishes, green onions, bunched beets and lettuce are now appearing on the market. These crops are available in sufficient quantities to meet the local demands. The asparagus season is now about finished and all growers report a good cut this year. The demand for fresh rhubarb has been very light. It is particularly noticeable this year that all rhubarb patches have gone very heavily to seed. The demand for spinach has also been rather light. Cool weather has favoured the development of both leaf and head lettuce and some very good stands of these crops have been harvested. A little frost damage was sustained by lettuce beds in one or two isolated areas. Many growers are complaining that considerable tip burn is appearing in the head lettuce. Melons and corn are not making very rapid growth. Warm weather is required to bring these crops along. All tree fruit crops are in very good condition. However, the cool moist spring favoured the development of plum pocket and brown rot which is becoming quite serious. For the first time in several seasons, brown rot has caused considerable blighting of the foliage. While some fruit is being attacked by this disease it is still too early to estimate the extent to which the yield will be reduced. Strawberries are beginning to ripen and are appearing on the market in small quantities. More winter killing than was at first anticipated is now appearing in the strawberry beds. Raspberry canes are also showing some amount of winter damage, however, a fair crop of fruit is in prospect.

SASKATCHEWAN
(July 1)

The growth of most vegetable crops has been slow due to cool weather. While most districts are now plentifully supplied with moisture, warmer weather is needed to stimulate growth. June frosts caused heavy damage to gardens at many points in the province with tomatoes, beans and vine crops suffering most. Some reseeded has been done as a result of the frost damage. Potato fields that were frozen down have recovered with the recent rains. Insect damage has been very slight taking the province as a whole although cut worms have caused some injury in individual cases. The garden acreage has probably increased about 7 per cent with the greatest expansion occurring in the central and north-eastern districts.

BRITISH COLUMBIA
(June 30)

Wet cool weather during the early part of the month was followed by a hot dry spell. Strawberries are now past the peak of the harvest but picking will continue for another ten days. Raspberries are coming on the market in volume and the crop is reported to be in good condition. Cherries are also moving in quantity in southern Okanagan but the crop is generally shorter than last year. Apricots and peaches are sizing well with indications for a heavy yield. Wet weather has shortened the lettuce crop on the coast but other vegetables are in fair condition. Light yields of new potatoes have held prices at a high level.

First Estimate of British Columbia Fruit Crops in 1942, with
Final Estimates of Production in 1941.

	<u>Unit</u>	<u>1941</u>	<u>1942</u>
Apples	box	4,478,700	5,957,200
Pears	box	395,700	410,600
Plums and prunes	crates	894,400	683,700
Peaches	crates	698,700	703,400
Apricots	crates	189,900	278,900
Cherries	crates	249,700	244,700
Strawberries	crates	773,600	575,300
Raspberries	crates	196,200	249,300
Loganberries	crates	111,900	96,300
Grapes	lbs.	2,151,300	Not Available

The above figures included fruit sold fresh as well as to processors which are converted on the following basis: Apples and pears 42 pounds per box; plums, peaches, apricots and cherries 20 pounds per crate. Prunes 17 pounds per crate; Strawberries, raspberries and loganberries 18 pounds per crate.



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