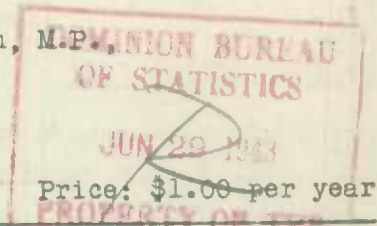


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Published by Authority of the Hon. James A. MacKinnon,
Minister of Trade and Commerce
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS - CANADA
AGRICULTURAL BRANCH



Dominion Statistician:
Chief, Agricultural Branch;
Statistician, Agricultural Branch:

S. A. Cudmore, M.A. (Oxon.), F.S.S., F.R.S.C.
C. F. Wilson, Ph.D.
R. E. Johnson, M.Sc.

FRUIT CROP REPORT

Ottawa, June 28, 1943.- 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 crops in the main producing areas.

SUMMARY

The prospects for the fruit crops in Canada with the exception of raspberries and strawberries have deteriorated since the May fruit report. Although it is still too early to estimate the probable size of the apple crop in eastern Canada, the outlook is very promising in the Maritime Provinces, Quebec and eastern Ontario. In western Ontario, however, the crop is expected to be below average, while in British Columbia a decline of 24 per cent from the 1942 harvest is now looked for. Pears in the provinces of Ontario and British Columbia will be definitely a smaller crop than in 1942. Prospects in Ontario are indicated to be poor to below average and a reduction of 40 per cent is expected in British Columbia. Conditions in Nova Scotia where a relatively small portion of the crop is grown are more promising and a 25 per cent increase over the previous crop is indicated. The Canadian peach crop will be extremely short this year. The set of fruit in Ontario is very irregular and the outlook is generally poor, while in British Columbia the first estimate shows a reduction of 50 per cent from the 1942 harvest. Apricots in British Columbia, the only commercial producing province, are practically a failure being estimated at 15 per cent of last year's crop. Plums and prunes also are much below the 1942 harvest. The crop in Ontario is reported to be poor to below average in the heavy producing districts in western Ontario. In British Columbia the outlook varies somewhat. While a reduction of 50 per cent from the previous crop is expected for plums, a slight increase of 10 per cent is looked for in prune production. Below average crops of cherries are also expected in Ontario. The crop in British Columbia according to the first estimate will show a reduction of 30 per cent from that of a year ago. Prospects for the strawberry crop in eastern Canada are extremely bright. In British Columbia the progressive reduction in acreage that has taken place during the past two years continues and the harvest this year is not expected to exceed 53 per cent of the 1942 output. It is still too early to indicate the probable yield of raspberries in eastern Canada but the plantations in the Maritimes are developing satisfactorily. Early summer conditions have reduced the prospects in Quebec while in eastern Ontario the outlook is only fair. Plantations in western Ontario show great improvement since last month and average crops are now looked for. In British Columbia a small increase of 4 per cent over the 1942 crop is expected but the season is late and the fruit will not be on the market in volume for another two weeks. The vineyards in Ontario are in very good condition but it is still too early to estimate the size of the grape crop. Prospects are for an average crop indicating a reduction from the exceptionally heavy output last season.

Apples

The outlook in Nova Scotia is at present very promising. In spite of damp, cool weather during the unusually long blooming period, the set of fruit appears to be excellent although it is still too early to predict the outturn. Frequent rains so far this season have prevented growers from applying the usual sprays and some orchards are developing undue amounts of scab. In New Brunswick the bloom considerably exceeded that of any previous season. The blossoms remained on the trees longer than average and an excellent set of fruit is indicated. In Quebec, with the probable exception of Fameuse and Melba, all varieties look very promising. Scab is reported on the leaves in many

Apples (concluded)

orchards but growers are putting on extra applications of lime sulphur. The fire blight outbreak in the Hemmingford district is the worst ever experienced. While the disease has attacked most varieties it is especially severe on Wealthy. In eastern Ontario the prospects for the crop are generally good although many orchards will be patchy and a considerable "drop" is still going on. Winter injury reported last month is becoming more apparent all the time. In western Ontario the present prospects for the crop are slightly below average but there is considerable variation between districts and varieties. The development of the fruit which is at the "little apple" stage is about two weeks later than last year. The winter injury reported in Manitoba last month has proved to be more extensive than at first indicated. Both apples and crab apples have been affected and the injured trees after leafing-out are now beginning to die. Cool weather in British Columbia still continues and the crops are indicated to be short in all districts except in the Kootenays where production will be heavier than in 1942. A reduction of 24 per cent from last year for the province as a whole is now expected which would indicate a crop of approximately 4,142,000 boxes.

Pears

Prospects for Nova Scotia are somewhat better than in 1942. While conditions vary within the district a general increase of 25 per cent is now looked for. The outlook in Ontario is not very promising. In the eastern section of the province a crop 50 per cent smaller than that of 1942 is expected, while in the western district the crop is indicated to be poor to below average. Bartletts, particularly, will be a light crop but Keefers and other varieties are somewhat better. The fruit is sizing well and tree development has been good. The British Columbia outlook has deteriorated since May when a crop equal to that of 1942 was anticipated. The harvest is now expected to be 201,000 bushels, a reduction of 40 per cent from that of a year ago.

Peaches

The present reports indicate that the peach crop in Ontario will be definitely below average. Practically no fruit will be harvested in the Norfolk, Elgin, Middlesex, Lambton or Burlington districts or above the escarpment in the Niagara district. Elsewhere in Niagara the set is very irregular according to locality and variety while in the Essex-Kent section the outlook is only fair. The crop in British Columbia is also greatly reduced and is now estimated at 50 per cent of the 1942 harvest or 131,000 bushels.

Apricots

This crop is grown commercially only in British Columbia where the yield will be greatly reduced from last season because of adverse weather conditions during the past winter. Indications now are for a yield of 13,000 bushels, a reduction of 85 per cent from the previous crop.

Plums and Prunes

In Nova Scotia where a relatively small portion of the total crop is harvested the plum crop is expected to be about equal in size to that of 1942. Conditions in Ontario, however, are not so favourable. In the eastern section of the province winter damage reduced the prospects to about 40 per cent of last year. In western Ontario the crop indications are very irregular with prospects ranging from poor to below average. Except where wet soil conditions affected the trees the orchards are making good growth and the fruit is sizing well. The plum harvest in British Columbia is also considerably reduced from last year and is at present indicated to be 50 per cent smaller. The prune crop, however, shows a slight increase of approximately 10 per cent.

Cherries

The set of the fruit in eastern Ontario is very disappointing. The present indications are that the sour cherry crop will be 30 to 35 per cent smaller than that of last season. In western Ontario the prospects for both sweet and sour cherries are

variable. Both crops will be below average but sour cherries are somewhat more promising than the sweet varieties. The fruit is sizing well and first shipments of the early sweet kinds have been made. The prospects in British Columbia are much below those of a month ago. The crop is now estimated at 57,000 bushels, a reduction of 30 per cent from the previous harvest.

Strawberries

The strawberry crop in Nova Scotia looks very promising. The plantations are in healthy condition and the blossoms were abundant. An increase of 25 per cent over the comparatively light crop of 1942 is now anticipated. The outlook in New Brunswick is equally good. The growth has been excellent and an increase of 25 per cent over the previous crop is in prospect notwithstanding the slight decrease in acreage. The season, however, is two weeks later than last year. While there was considerable flooding of the plantations in the Montreal area of Quebec, no estimate of the extent of the damage is as yet available. Plants are generally very strong and the crop promises to be larger than that of last year. In the Quebec City area, which includes the Island of Orleans and Bellechasse county, the outlook is better than earlier reports indicated. In eastern Ontario prospects are very promising although the acreage appears to be somewhat smaller than in 1942. In the western section of the province there has been a great improvement in the condition of plantations since the last report and an average crop of good sized fruit is now indicated. In British Columbia cool, backward weather has delayed picking and the crop has not yet reached the peak. Production this year is 47 per cent below that of a year ago.

Raspberries

In both Nova Scotia and New Brunswick the outlook for the crop is favourable but it is too early to indicate the probable harvest. Cane injury in Quebec is very severe in most areas. In sections where flooding occurred many canes are turning yellow and at present the yield is not expected to be more than 50 per cent of a full crop. In some sections of eastern Ontario the injury caused by freezing and breaking has reduced prospects for this year's crop and the outlook at present is only fair. In western Ontario the growth has been excellent during the month and has overcome, to a large extent, the winter injury which occurred in localized areas. With the possible exception of the Peel and York districts an average crop is now in prospect. In British Columbia a slight increase of 4 per cent over the previous harvest is expected. The fruit is not yet on the market and in view of the lateness of the season will probably not be in volume for another two weeks.

Grapes

The vines in Ontario are in very good condition and a two-bunch set is expected. The present outlook is for an average crop.



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