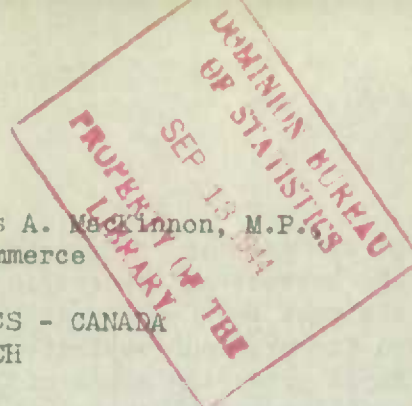


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### FRUIT AND VEGETABLE CROP REPORT

Ottawa, September 1, 1944.- 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

##### FRUIT

The current estimate of production of the various fruit crops grown in Canada shows only slight change over that of a month ago, except in the case of apples. A reduction of 7.4 per cent is indicated in the apple harvest in Nova Scotia, resulting from the prolonged dry weather and the consequent small sizing of the fruit, more than offsets the slight improvement in the Ontario and Quebec crops. The third estimate of 15,391,600 bushels is some 422,000 bushels smaller than the July outlook, but the crop is still 19 per cent greater than that of the 1943 season. The ten-year 1933-42 average production is 14,084,300 bushels. An increase of approximately 4 per cent in the total pear crop brings the present estimate to 627,900 bushels compared with 605,300 bushels of a month ago. Increases are recorded in Ontario and British Columbia with the Nova Scotia crop remaining unchanged. The crop this year is only slightly larger than the ten-year 1933-42 average of 601,100 bushels. The estimate of the plum crop shows a similar increase during the month to bring the crop to 379,200 bushels. The present estimate is only 4 per cent greater than the 1943 crop, but is 24 per cent above the ten-year average of 304,900 bushels. The peach estimate is practically unchanged from a month ago at 1,712,700 bushels. The crop is 171 per cent greater than that of last season, but is still well below the record crop in 1942 of 2,003,000 bushels. Little change has been made in the estimate of the grape crop since last month with production being now set at 54,770,000 pounds. The crop this season is 2 per cent greater than the 1943 harvest, and is 14 per cent above the ten-year average harvest.

##### VEGETABLES

Continued dry weather throughout Eastern Canada has reduced the crop prospects for most vegetables. In British Columbia, on the other hand, frequent showers and cooler weather have favoured vegetable production and adequate supplies of all kinds are now moving rapidly to market.

#### FRUITS

##### APPLES

The anticipated production of apples in Canada showed a decline of 2.7 per cent during the month to bring the crop to 15,391,600 bushels. The reduction is due to the poor outlook in Nova Scotia where the crop is now estimated at 5,427,700 bushels compared with the July estimate of 5,863,800 bushels. Continued dry weather during most of August coupled with severe aphid attacks resulted in premature ripening of the early varieties. The late varieties have not reached normal size for this



season of the year and growers express some concern as to the effects of heavy rains before the harvest on the keeping qualities of the crop. In New Brunswick showers during the past week relieved the drought but the anticipated harvest is not expected to exceed the previous estimate of 247,500 bushels. Drought conditions also prevailed in the apple producing areas of Quebec where the fruit is not sizing normally and early varieties are ripening prematurely. The 25,000 bushel increase in Missisquoi County more than offsets the decline in the outlook in the Quebec City district brought about by hail and high winds and the crop is now set slightly above the July estimate at 863,000 bushels. The prospects in Ontario remain practically unchanged at 2,373,000 bushels. In the district east of Toronto most orchards are showing the effects of the drought. The fruit is below average size, but there is some improvement in colour with the arrival of cooler weather. In this district also the early varieties are maturing prematurely. Scab is generally well controlled but sideworm injury is severe in poorly sprayed orchards. An estimated 90,000 bushels were severely damaged by hail and will be reduced in grade. The loss was most severe in Durham and Ontario Counties. In western Ontario recent rains have materially improved prospects. Early in the month dry weather caused much anxiety as the fruit was of poor size and early varieties were ripening much sooner than normal. Rains during the past two weeks have brought about a general improvement in the development of the fruit, and the estimate for the district remains unchanged since July. Apple scab is serious in some districts and side worm injury is becoming a problem. Hail damage is also reported with the greatest loss being sustained in the Peel-York district. In British Columbia the favourable outlook in July has been maintained and the estimate is practically unchanged at 6,480,400 bushels. The crop this year is 46 per cent larger than that of the past season and is the largest on record. The weather has been cool with occasional showers and the quality and colour of the fruit of the main crop is reported to be good.

#### PEARS

The improvement in the outlook in both Ontario and British Columbia brings the total Canadian pear crop to 627,900 bushels compared with 605,300 bushels a month ago. The Nova Scotia crop remains unchanged at 30,000 bushels, where the fruit is clean and of good average size. The crop is now beginning to ripen rapidly. In Ontario production is now set at 184,100 bushels compared with the second estimate of 175,400 bushels and the 334,000 bushel crop harvested in 1943. In western Ontario where the bulk of the crop is grown, the two main varieties Bartlett and Kieffer, are 42 and 53 per cent smaller respectively than in the past season. The improvement recorded during the month took place in the Kieffer variety with the Bartlett crop remaining unchanged. Recent rains greatly offset the dry hot weather early in the season and the total output was not affected. The fruit is generally clean but codling moth injury is reported in some areas. In British Columbia an increase of 3.5 per cent since July raises the estimate to 413,800 bushels from 399,900 bushels. This is a 46 per cent increase over the 1943 crop.

#### PLUMS AND PRUNES

The total plum crop also shows an increase during the month and is now estimated at 379,200 bushels compared with the second estimate of 365,700 bushels. A reduction of 12 per cent in Nova Scotia was brought about by the dry weather which resulted in poor sizing of the fruit. The crop is now placed at 11,000 bushels. In Ontario an increase of 7 per cent since the previous report brings the crop to 116,900 bushels. This year's harvest will be 11 per cent smaller than that of the 1943 season. In the main producing area of Western Ontario, improvement was noted particularly in the European varieties although the Japanese varieties are also somewhat better. Despite the dry weather, plums in the Niagara district are developing fairly well and disease and insect injury is, on the whole, greatly reduced. A slight increase in the British Columbia prospects raises the estimate to 251,300 bushels. The crop this year is 13 per cent larger than that of the past season when production was estimated at 221,200 bushels.



### PEACHES

There was practically no change in the outlook of the peach crop during the month. The estimate now stands at 1,712,700 bushels compared with 1,712,100 bushels a month ago. The increase is due to a slight revision in the British Columbia figures. The crop as a whole is 171 per cent greater than the very small harvest in 1943, when production amounted to 633,000 bushels. In western Ontario most of the early varieties showed the effects of the drought in the small size of the fruit, but recent rains favour the normal development of the later kinds. Brown rot has been noticeably reduced this season and insect damage has also been very limited. In British Columbia the crop which is estimated at 559,900 bushels will be the largest ever harvested in that province.

### GRAPES

A slight downward revision in the Ontario estimate brings the Canadian crop to 54,770,000 pounds compared with 54,913,500 pounds in July. In Ontario, the main producing province, the crop this year is now set at 52,000,000 pounds, which is the same as that of a year ago. Leaf hopper damage is reported, but the general quality of the crop is good and early varieties are now moving to market. A minor revision in the British Columbia crop brings production to 2,770,000 pounds.

### VEGETABLES

In Quebec the prolonged dry, hot weather has seriously affected many crops and the harvest depends much on the future moisture supplies. The early potato crop in the St. Remi, St. Michel, St. Edouard and Sherrington districts are approximately 65 to 70 per cent harvested and yields are reported to average from 235 to 295 bushels per acre. The potatoes from the late district north of Montreal are expected to be small to medium in size because of the continued drought. The onion crop will be reduced from the expectations of a month ago, as the tops are now beginning to ripen down. This is two weeks earlier than normal. The acreage this season was one-third greater than that of 1943. Ample supplies of beets are now on the market. The late crop is expected to be chiefly of medium size roots. Acreage of beets is estimated at 25 per cent above that of the previous year. Cauliflower supplies are light and the quality is generally poor. Many fields are heading prematurely and the fall crop will be very small unless adequate rains are received immediately. The late crop will be much smaller than the planted acreage indicated. The celery crop on the muck land is very promising, the acreage being 10 per cent greater than in 1943, and size of the heads is large. Sweet corn supplies have been moving to the market in very large quantities but corn borer damage has been severe. Mid-season cabbage supplies are limited as a result of the dry weather. Wet weather during the transplanting season and poor prices for earlier supplies reduced the acreage. The late crop will depend to a great extent on the weather during the next ten weeks as worm injury has been severe. The heads are forming slowly and in spite of the substantial increase in acreage over that of a year ago, prospects are for a smaller crop. The current supplies of carrots are limited due to poor germination and lack of moisture. The late crop is larger than that of last year but the growth has been slow and the roots, to date, are very small. The tomato crop is ripening rapidly but sunscald is affecting the quality. Supplies on the local markets, however, have been heavy. The acreage is reported to be 25 per cent greater than that of last year, but the harvesting period will be considerably reduced by the premature drying off of the plants. Turnip supplies are also limited because of the lack of rain. The fall crop depends, to a great extent, on the weather during September and October. In Eastern Ontario, August weather has been the hottest in many years and from Cobourg east little rain has fallen. The St. Lawrence River Valley and the Ottawa districts have suffered to the greatest

extent. All vegetables have been much reduced by the continued hot dry weather, but if rains are received in the near future the situation may be relieved considerably. The early potato crop has yielded well, but the late crop is suffering from the lack of moisture. The 1944 pack of canned peas is the largest ever processed in Eastern Ontario. The yield averaged better than 2,000 pounds of shelled peas to the acre, which is exceptional. Unfortunately, due to the extreme weather conditions, the quality of the pack is definitely below average. The packing of tomatoes is now getting underway. Early in August a bumper crop was indicated, but with the extreme hot and dry weather during the past month the anticipated crop has been reduced 25 per cent. A large crop has been planted, however, and with favourable weather during the remainder of the season, the quantity moving to the processors will probably be larger than last year. To date, the quality of the fruit has been very good, although early deliveries were inclined to be soft. The packing of corn will not be heavy until after September 1. This crop also has suffered from the extreme heat, particularly in the area east of Cobourg. In Western Ontario, also, adverse weather affected many of the vegetable crops during most of August, but recent rains have improved the outlook. Potatoes, corn and turnips were badly affected. Early potatoes have practically all been harvested and were of excellent quality. The growth of the late crop has been very slow and leaf hopper and blight have caused considerable damage in several districts, particularly in the Georgian Bay, northern Ontario and Head of the Lakes Sections. While some turnip areas report good conditions, many others are affected by the drought and in some cases damage by aphids is reported. The canning of corn is now underway and, while the quality is fair, a small pack is anticipated due to the adverse weather. Large supplies of tomatoes are also moving to the canners and the colour and the quality of the fruit is good.

In Saskatchewan the weather since the last report has been generally cool and scattered showers have prolonged the growing of the vegetable crops. In the east-central area the weather has been warm and windy and in the northern half of the province there has been ample rain with varied temperatures. North of the North Saskatchewan River severe frosts have been reported and a large number of gardens were badly damaged. Insect injury has not been serious except in the north-east where cutworms and potato beetles are reported to have caused serious injury. Grasshoppers have been troublesome in the gardens in the areas south-west of Moose Jaw and west of Swift Current. Potato prospects are generally good except in the area north-west of Swift Current and north of the South Saskatchewan River. In British Columbia all vegetables are being shipped in quantity, with a particularly heavy movement of mature green tomatoes. All canneries are processing tomatoes and there are present indications of adequate supplies.



The Third Estimate of Fruit Production in 1944 and the  
Final Estimate for 1943

	<u>1943</u>	<u>1944</u>
<u>Apples</u>		
		<u>bushels</u>
Nova Scotia .....	4,846,200	5,427,700
New Brunswick .....	330,000	247,500
Quebec .....	911,000	863,000
Ontario .....	2,371,800	2,373,000
British Columbia .....	4,433,200	6,480,400
<b>T o t a l</b> .....	<b>12,892,200</b>	<b>15,391,600</b>

<u>Pears</u>		
Nova Scotia .....	20,000	30,000
Ontario .....	334,000	184,100
British Columbia .....	282,800	413,800
<b>T o t a l</b> .....	<b>636,800</b>	<b>627,900</b>

<u>Plums and Prunes</u>		
Nova Scotia .....	10,000	11,000
Ontario .....	131,500	116,900
British Columbia .....	221,800	251,300
<b>T o t a l</b> .....	<b>363,300</b>	<b>379,200</b>

<u>Peaches</u>		
Ontario .....	440,000	1,152,800
British Columbia .....	193,000	559,900
<b>T o t a l</b> .....	<b>633,000</b>	<b>1,712,700</b>

<u>Grapes</u>		
		<u>pounds</u>
Ontario .....	52,000,000	52,000,000
British Columbia .....	1,924,000	2,770,000
<b>T o t a l</b> .....	<b>53,924,000</b>	<b>54,770,000</b>

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