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Dominion Statistician:	S. A. Cudmore, M.A. (Oxon.), F.S.S., F.R.S.C.
Acting Chief, Agricultural Branch:	Ian McArthur, M.Sc.
Statistician:	R. E. Johnson, M.Sc.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE CROP REPORT

Ottawa, October 3, 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

In general, the prospects for fruit production in Canada improved somewhat during the past month. The current estimates of all crops still not completely harvested, show a slight upward revision with the exception of apples. A reduction in the anticipated apple harvest in Nova Scotia and Western Ontario slightly offset the improved outlook in New Brunswick, Quebec and British Columbia, bringing the Canadian total to 15,339,100 bushels, compared with the August estimate of 15,391,600 bushels. This year's crop, however, is still 19 per cent larger than that of the 1943 season, which was estimated at 12,892,200 bushels. The total pear crop improved some 7 per cent during the month to bring the current estimate to 671,300 bushels compared with the previous estimate of 627,900 bushels and the 1943 final estimate of 636,800 bushels. The greatest improvement took place in Ontario, where the prospects are 20 per cent above the August outlook. A slight increase in the British Columbia estimate was also made while the Nova Scotia crop remains unchanged. A slight increase was made in the August estimate of the total plum and prune crop to bring production this year to 391,000 bushels, compared with 379,200 bushels. The estimate of the Canadian peach crop remains practically unchanged at 1,714,400 bushels. This year's crop is 171 per cent larger than the very small crop of 633,000 bushels produced last season. The prospects for the grape crop this season advanced slightly during the month and the current estimate is now set at 55,083,500 pounds or 2 per cent larger than that of the 1943 season.

VEGETABLES

The vegetable crops, particularly in Eastern Canada greatly benefitted by the frequent rains during the month of September. With few exceptions the crops will exceed early expectations. According to the first estimate, the area planted to potatoes in 1944 is 534,900 acres, which is only slightly more than the 1943 area of 532,700 acres. Increases are shown in the Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario acreages, with declines indicated in Prince Edward Island, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. The greatest increases are reported in New Brunswick, where the acreage is 66,900 acres this season compared with 60,300 in 1943, and in Ontario where the acreage increased 4,000 acres to 120,000 acres. The greatest decline in area is shown in Saskatchewan, where the acreage is estimated at 41,600 acres compared with 46,500 acres last season.

FRUITS

APPLES

The current estimate of the Canadian apple crop is revised downward slightly since last month, to bring the crop to 15,339,100 bushels compared with the August estimate of 15,391,600 bushels. The final estimate for the 1943 crop was 12,892,200 bushels. The reduction was due, in part, to the poorer outlook in Nova Scotia where a very severe wind storm on September 15 blew an estimated 1,800,000 bushels from the trees. This fruit will not be a complete loss, but the estimate for the province now stands at 5,229,600 bushels compared with 5,427,700 bushels in August.

The crop this year is still some 8 per cent larger than the previous harvest of 4,846,200 bushels. Despite a 10 per cent drop brought about by the heavy winds of September 15, the crop in New Brunswick is now estimated at approximately 9 per cent larger than the August prospects. The windfalls will all be merchantable and with the rapid increase in size of the fruit during the month the crop is now set at 270,000 bushels, compared with the August estimate of 247,500 bushels. In Quebec the drought has been relieved by frequent showers during the month of September. The fruit developed rapidly, but the hot, humid weather did not favour normal colouring, particularly of the McIntosh. A 4 per cent upward revision in the August estimate brings the production to 900,000 bushels. The crop this year is now only slightly smaller than the 1943 harvest of 911,000 bushels. The Ontario estimate shows a slight downward revision at 2,352,000 bushels compared with the August estimate of 2,373,000 bushels. The crop prospects in Eastern Ontario remain unchanged from a month ago. There was a general improvement in the size of the fruit in this district, but in the orchards in Durham County and eastwards, the fruit is still below normal in size. The colour of the fall and winter varieties is only average with Spies colouring very slowly. In the western section of the province the August outlook declined 2 per cent. The Spy crop shows some improvement but this was offset by decreases in the Wealthy, McIntosh, Snow, Baldwin and Stark crops. The further increase in the British Columbia estimate brings the 1944 crop to 6,587,500 bushels. This year's harvest is 49 per cent greater than the 1943 crop of 4,433,200 bushels and is the largest on record for the province.

PEARS

Total pear production in Canada is now estimated at 671,300 bushels, which is 5 per cent above the 1943 crop of 636,800 bushels. A 20 per cent increase in the August estimate in Ontario was brought about by a greatly improved outlook for Bartletts and Kieffers in the western areas of the province. The Ontario crop now stands at 220,300 bushels, compared with 184,100 bushels in August. No change was made in the Nova Scotia crop, which still stands at 30,000 bushels. The British Columbia prospects advanced slightly to bring the current estimate to 421,000 bushels. The British Columbia crop this year is 49 per cent larger than that of last season and is the largest ever produced.

PLUMS AND PRUNES

The Canadian plum and prune prospects improved slightly during the month and the estimated harvest is now set at 391,000 bushels compared with 379,200 bushels in August and 363,300 bushels last season. Nova Scotia crop estimate is unchanged at 11,000 bushels, while the Ontario and British Columbia outlook advanced 7 and 2 per cent respectively. In Ontario yields of European varieties were heavier than anticipated and the crop is now set at 124,800 bushels, or 5 per cent below the 1943 harvest of 131,500 bushels. The British Columbia crop estimate also advanced slightly to 255,200 bushels. This crop is not the largest on record, but it is still well above the ten-year 1933-42 average of 179,100 bushels.

PEACHES

The prospects for the total peach crop remains practically the same as a month ago at 1,714,400 bushels. The Ontario crop, now set at 1,154,500 bushels, was unusually free from insect and disease damage. Rapid ripening in the Niagara District resulted in much of the fruit being shipped in an advanced stage of maturity. This crop is 162 per cent larger than the very small harvest in 1943 of 440,000 bushels. The British Columbia estimate still stands at 559,900 bushels, which is 190 per cent above the 1943 crop of 193,000 bushels.

GRAPES

The Canadian grape crop this season is now estimated at 55,083,500 pounds, or approximately one per cent above the August estimate of 54,770,000 pounds. Minor upward revisions in both Ontario and British Columbia brings the crops to 52,190,000 pounds and 2,893,500 pounds respectively. In Ontario the fruit developed well and matured uniformly. A severe wind and hail storm caused serious damage in a restricted area of the Niagara District, but this fruit was still saleable to wineries and juice manufacturers.

VEGETABLES

Frequent rains during the month of September greatly improved the vegetable crops in Quebec. The weather has been warm and favoured the development of all crops. It is still too early to estimate the size of the carrot, cabbage and turnip crops, but they have improved to a marked degree during the month and winter supplies will equal and may surpass those of last season. Beets and parsnips are very large in size and the crop is expected to exceed that of the 1943 season. Onions have matured well and topping is almost complete. The seeded onions are medium to small in size while transplants are large and well matured. Potatoes in the St. Martin, Ste. Rose, Terrebonne, Ste. Therese Districts are of medium size and good quality. Harvesting in the early districts south of Montreal is about complete. The sweet corn crop is about finished except for a few late varieties. The crop is larger than in 1943 and not as badly infested with corn borer. Cauliflower has also improved with the abundance of rainfall and the late crop is expected to be of average size. Tomatoes are practically finished. As the season advanced the tomatoes ripened too rapidly and, with severe cracking, losses were heavy. Late lettuce and spinach supplies are expected to be heavy and of excellent quality.

In Eastern Ontario the weather during the past month has been warmer than usual. Lack of moisture throughout the season affected the development of most vegetables, especially potatoes in the district east of Cobourg to the Ottawa River. Potato blight was less severe than in 1943, but leaf hoppers have done some damage. The canning crop of tomatoes has been heavier than anticipated. Processing was confined to a relatively short period as the crop ripened very rapidly. The quality of the pack on the whole has been better than average. The canning corn crop varied considerably throughout the district depending on the moisture supplies. On the whole, however, the pack is expected to exceed that of last year. In Western Ontario rains during the last week of August and early September broke the drought and the late vegetable crops have made a rapid recovery. Prospects for potatoes and onions have quite definitely improved. In the Head of the Lakes and Northern Ontario Districts excessive moisture seriously affected the potato production causing much blight and field rot.

In Saskatchewan the weather during the past month has been warm with scattered showers. Heavy winds in the middle of the month caused some damage to gardens in the central areas of the province. In the northern districts frost damaged the crops on two nights. Supplies of potatoes will be adequate for local needs in most districts, except in Crop Districts 4 and 7. A surplus of potatoes is reported in the district east of Regina to the Manitoba border and a few carlots will be available in Crop Districts 6, 8 and 9. The surplus does not appear to be large, however. The weather in British Columbia throughout the past month has been satisfactory for all vegetable crops. Canning of tomatoes is about completed and harvesting of the onion crop is still progressing and the quality of the crop is fair. The harvesting of all other vegetable crops is proceeding satisfactorily.

First Estimate of Potato Acreage in 1944 and Final Estimate for 1943

	<u>1943</u>	<u>1944</u>
	- acres -	
Prince Edward Island	40,500	39,000
Nova Scotia	23,000	25,000
New Brunswick	60,300	66,900
Quebec	168,000	168,900
Ontario	116,000	120,000
Manitoba	28,400	27,800
Saskatchewan	46,500	41,600
Alberta	31,200	28,700
British Columbia	18,800	17,000
CANADA	532,700	534,900



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The Fourth Estimate of Fruit Production in 1944 and the

Final Estimate for 1943

	<u>1943</u>	<u>1944</u>
	- bushels -	
<u>Apples</u>		
Nova Scotia	4,846,200	5,229,600
New Brunswick	330,000	270,000
Quebec	911,000	900,000
Ontario	2,371,800	2,352,000
British Columbia	4,433,200	6,587,500
T o t a l	12,892,200	15,339,100
<u>Pears</u>		
Nova Scotia	20,000	30,000
Ontario	334,000	220,300
British Columbia	282,800	421,000
T o t a l	636,800	671,300
<u>Plums</u>		
Nova Scotia	10,000	11,000
Ontario	131,500	124,800
British Columbia	221,800	255,200
T o t a l	363,300	391,000
<u>Peaches</u>		
Ontario	440,000	1,154,500
British Columbia	193,000	559,900
T o t a l	633,000	1,714,400
	- pounds -	
<u>Grapes</u>		
Ontario	52,000,000	52,190,000
British Columbia	1,924,000	2,893,500
T o t a l	53,924,000	55,083,500