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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, November 1, 1944: The Dominion Bureau of Statistics in cooperation with the Fruit Branch of the Department of Agriculture and the Provincial Departments of Agriculture, issued today a report on the fruit and vegetable crops in the main producing areas.

S U M M A R Y

A further upward revision in the tree fruit and grape crop estimates has been made since the September report. With harvesting of the apple crop nearing completion, it is now indicated that the crops in Nova Scotia, Ontario and British Columbia are larger than anticipated in September. Production in Canada this year is now estimated at 16,487,400 bushels or approximately 7.5 per cent above the September outlook. The present crop is 27.9 per cent greater than the 1943 harvest of 12,892,200 bushels. An upward revision of 22 per cent in the estimate for the 1944 pear crop in Ontario raises the Canadian total to 719,700 bushels compared with the September estimate of 671,300 bushels. The plum and prune harvest in Ontario was also larger than was indicated a month ago and the total crop for Canada this year now amounts to 400,100 bushels compared with the September outlook of 391,000 bushels. A slight upward revision in the September estimate of the peach harvest brings the total crop to 1,733,900 bushels. Here again the increase is due to an improvement in the September outlook in Ontario. The greatest increase in crop prospects during the month is shown by the grape crop which is now set at 60,043,500 pounds compared with 55,083,500 pounds.

First estimate of the 1944 potato crop sets production this season at 47,540,000 cwt. compared with the 1943 crop of 43,541,000 cwt. The increase is due both to an overall increase in acreage and a higher average yield per acre. There was a general improvement in the crop prospects for the fall vegetable crops throughout the Dominion and the estimates generally are above the September level.

APPLES The current estimate of the 1944 apple crop of 16,487,400 bushels shows an improvement of 7.5 per cent over the September outlook. The crop this season is approximately 28 per cent greater than that of 1943 when 12,892,200 bushels were harvested. A considerable loss of apples was sustained in isolated areas in Nova Scotia during the storm of September 15 but the loss was almost completely overcome by the rapid increase in the size of the fruit remaining on the trees. The quality of the crop was good being of excellent colour and finish. Scab damage was generally negligible but codling moth and other insect injury was reported. Harvesting in many orchards is completed but in some areas a considerable quantity of fruit still remains on the trees. In New Brunswick harvesting is about completed and the quality of the crop was better than was expected early in September. The colour and size of the fruit was excellent. The McIntosh variety, particularly, showed considerable improvement since the middle of September. Late September prospects have been maintained and the estimate still stands at 270,000 bushels. The crop this year, however, is approximately 18 per cent smaller than the unusually large output in 1943 of 330,000 bushels. In Quebec the crop was of good quality, colour and size. Harvesting is practically completed in all sections and the September estimate of 900,000 bushels remains unchanged. The crop this season is practically the same size as that of 1943 which was estimated at 911,000 bushels. An increase of 2.5 per cent in the outlook for the Ontario crop brings the current estimate to 2,411,400 bushels. This crop is slightly larger than that of last season which was estimated at 2,371,800 bushels.

APPLES (concluded)

The improvement, since September, took place in both Eastern and Western Ontario. In Eastern Ontario picking is practically finished. The size of the fruit was average except in some orchards where the trees bore heavy loads of Spies and Delicious. The colour of the late varieties was average. In Western Ontario, increases are indicated for Spy, Baldwin, McIntosh and other late varieties while Snow and early varieties show a decline since September. Improved weather conditions favoured an increase in size and colour of the fruit. Codling moth injury ranged from slight to severe, but scab has been well controlled for the most part. In British Columbia the fruit has run heavy to large sizes and the current estimate indicates a 13.8 per cent increase over the September prospects. The crop is currently estimated at 7,500,000 bushels which is approximately 69 per cent greater than the 1943 output of 4,433,200 bushels. This year's harvest was the largest in the history of the province. All fruit is expected to be off the trees early in November and the quality and colour have been good.

PEARS

An overall increase of approximately 7 per cent in the September estimate brings the Canadian total pear crop to 719,700 bushels. The increase is due to the continued improvement in Ontario and the crop now shows a 13 per cent advance over the 1943 harvest of 636,800 bushels. Harvesting has been completed in Nova Scotia where the crop was of good quality and size. The current estimate of 30,000 bushels is 50 per cent larger than that of the 1943 season of 20,000 bushels. In Ontario the great bulk of the crop is produced in the western section of the province where the improvement in size indicated last month continued with the result that an increase of 22 per cent over the September estimate for the province as a whole is now indicated. The current estimate of production this year is 268,700 bushels compared with 220,300 bushels last month and 334,000 bushels in 1943. No change has been made in the estimate of the British Columbia crop which was estimated a month ago at 421,000 bushels. The crop this season is approximately 49 per cent larger than that of 1943 which was estimated at 282,800 bushels.

PLUMS

A minor upward revision in the plum and prune estimate increases production this season to 400,100 bushels compared with the September estimate of 391,000 bushels. The increase is due entirely to a 7 per cent increase in Ontario where the crop now stands at 133,900 bushels compared with 124,800 bushels in September. The estimate of the Nova Scotia and British Columbia crops remains unchanged at 11,000 bushels and 255,200 bushels respectively.

PEACHES

An increase of approximately 20,000 bushels in the Ontario estimate brings the Canadian total to 1,733,900 bushels which is an increase of 1 per cent. The Ontario harvest is now set at 1,174,000 bushels compared with the September estimate of 1,154,500 bushels. The British Columbia estimate remains unchanged at 559,900 bushels.

GRAPES

The grape harvest in Ontario was considerably heavier than was anticipated in September and brings the Canadian total to 60,043,500 pounds. The Ontario grape crop is now set at 57,150,000 bushels which is 9.5 per cent above the September outlook. No change is made in the British Columbia estimate which stands at 2,893,500 pounds.

POTATOES

The first estimate of the 1944 crop indicates that the production will amount to 47,540,000 cwt. or 9.2 per cent larger than the 43,541,000 cwt. crop harvested last season. The larger harvest is due both to an increase in acreage and average yield per acre. The acreage this season is estimated at 534,900 acres compared with 532,700 acres in 1943 and the average yield per acre this season is estimated at 89 cwt. compared with 82 cwt. With the exception of Prince Edward Island all the eastern provinces show an increase in area over that of the previous year while in the three prairie provinces and British Columbia the area planted to potatoes was reduced. Higher yields per acre than last year are indicated for Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Saskatchewan and Alberta while reduced yields are reported in New Brunswick, Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia. Although the average yield in New Brunswick was good this year it is considerably lower than the exceptional yields in 1943. In Ontario drought in the

POTATOES (concluded)

eastern section of the province and excessive rains in the northern areas reduced the yield per acre for the province. In Manitoba frequent rains caused much disease and serious flooding while in British Columbia the season was not as favourable as in 1943 with the result that the yields were lower.

OTHER VEGETABLES

Crop prospects for the winter vegetables in Quebec continued to improve during the month of October as a result of the now abundant moisture supplies. Frost on September 24, however, ended the season of the tender crops such as beans, cucumber, tomatoes, peppers, egg plant etc. Rains during the last month delayed harvesting of the late root crops. The late cabbage crop is now expected to be 50 to 60 per cent larger than in 1943. Some fields have been harvested but many are still growing and ample supplies for winter storage are assured. Carrot production shows an increase this year amounting to from 30 to 35 per cent over the 1943 figure. The quality is excellent and the size of the roots are medium on the average. A substantial increase in the beet crop amounting to 75 per cent above the 1943 level is now indicated. The roots are medium to large in size which in part accounts for the increase. Parsnips are expected to produce a crop 20 per cent greater than that of last year. The roots are of medium size and of very fine quality. The turnip crop will be 20 per cent smaller than of last season. The acreage was reduced and the crop has suffered from the drought and serious injury was caused by insects. The roots are running from medium to small in size. The red onion harvest shows an increase of 10 per cent over the previous crop while yellow onion production will be 50 per cent larger. Cauliflower production is 50 per cent below the 1943 level as a result of the dry weather and excessive worm injury to the foliage.

In Eastern Ontario the weather during the past month, with the exception of two wet days, has been ideal for the harvesting of all crops. Moisture conditions have improved in October but the continued dry weather in August and September delayed the sizing of many late vegetables. All crops have matured well and are going into storage in better-than-average condition. Frost damage so far has been negligible. Practically all vegetable crops show an increase in acreage over that of the previous season. In Western Ontario more favourable weather during late September and early October permitted rapid growth of all vegetable crops. Disease and insect injury show a seasonable decline with the lower temperatures. Light frost during the middle of the month in most districts damaged only a small balance of the unharvested tender crops. Except for late celery all crops show an increase in acreage.

In Saskatchewan weather during the first week of October was generally cool and in the northern half of the province snow and severe frost occurred, which damaged vegetables and potatoes. The last two weeks in the month were generally warm and dry. Supplies of vegetables are sufficient for local requirements. In the southern district, a carload of vegetables is being shipped into the dried-out area in the extreme western part of the province. All the vegetable crops in British Columbia are being harvested in sufficient volume to meet the demand. Cauliflower are being shipped to the coast markets in satisfactory volume.



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F R U I T

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

	<u>1 9 4 3</u>	<u>1 9 4 4</u>
<u>APPLES</u>	- Bushels -	
Nova Scotia	4,846,200	5,406,000
New Brunswick	330,000	270,000
Quebec	911,000	900,000
Ontario	2,371,800	2,411,400
British Columbia ...	4,433,200	7,500,000
T o t a l	<u>12,892,200</u>	<u>16,487,400</u>
<u>PEARS</u>		
Nova Scotia	20,000	30,000
Ontario	334,000	268,700
British Columbia ...	282,800	421,000
T o t a l	<u>636,800</u>	<u>719,700</u>
<u>PLUMS</u>		
Nova Scotia	10,000	11,000
Ontario	131,500	133,900
British Columbia ...	221,800	255,200
T o t a l	<u>363,300</u>	<u>400,100</u>
<u>PEACHES</u>		
Ontario	440,000	1,174,000
British Columbia ...	193,000	559,900
T o t a l	<u>633,000</u>	<u>1,733,900</u>
<u>GRAPES</u>	- Pounds -	
Ontario	52,000,000	57,150,000
British Columbia ...	1,924,000	2,893,500
T o t a l	<u>53,924,000</u>	<u>60,043,500</u>

P O T A T O E S

First Estimate of Potato Production in 1944 and Final Estimates for 1943

Province	Area		Yield Per Acre		Production	
	1943	1944	1943	1944	1943	1944
	acres	acres	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.
Canada	532,700	534,900	82.0	89.0	43,541,000	47,540,000
Prince Edward Island.	40,500	39,000	82.0	120.0	3,321,000	4,680,000
Nova Scotia	23,000	25,000	60.0	122.0	1,380,000	3,050,000
New Brunswick	60,300	66,900	173.0	135.0	10,432,000	9,032,000
Quebec	168,000	168,900	67.0	85.0	11,256,000	14,357,000
Ontario	116,000	120,000	65.0	61.0	7,540,000	7,320,000
Manitoba	28,400	27,800	85.0	45.0	2,414,000	1,251,000
Saskatchewan	46,500	41,600	62.0	87.0	2,883,000	3,619,000
Alberta	31,200	28,700	69.0	87.0	2,153,000	2,497,000
British Columbia	18,800	17,000	115.0	102.0	2,162,000	1,734,000