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FRUIT AND VEGETABLE CROP REPORT

Ottawa, June 1945 - The Dominion Bureau of Statistics in cooperation with the Marketing Service of the Department of Agriculture and the Provincial Department of Agriculture, issues today a report showing the condition of fruit and vegetable crops in the main producing areas.

SUMMARY

The total production of tree fruits in Canada this season will be much below normal. Despite excellent prospects in British Columbia, the poor crops in eastern Canada, the result of adverse weather during the critical period, have brought anticipated supplies to an unusually low level. The first estimate of the apple crop indicates a reduction from the very large crop in 1944 of 52 per cent. The present outlook is for a harvest of 8,183,000 bushels compared with 16,879,000 bushels last season. If the present prospects continue, the crop will be the smallest since 1926. Declines are reported in all provinces, but the greatest reduction took place in eastern Canada. While the British Columbia crop is below that of last season, it is still about average for the province. Pear production is also down sharply from last season, this year's crop being estimated at 557,000 bushels compared with 895,000 bushels. This year's anticipated harvest will be the smallest since 1935. Plum and prune prospects are also down sharply from last season at 376,000 bushels. This is a reduction of 24 per cent. The crop in British Columbia is practically the same as that of last year, but a record small crop is anticipated in Ontario. Peach production will be 24 per cent lighter than in 1944. Here again, the decline is due to the poor prospects in Ontario. The crop is currently estimated at 1,313,000 bushels compared with 1,720,000 bushels. Cherries also will be a smaller crop this season, despite the unusually large crop in British Columbia. The sharp drop in the outlook in Ontario brings the Canadian total to 172,000 bushels compared with 268,000 bushels in 1944. Apricots, which are grown in commercial quantities only in British Columbia, show an improvement over the previous crop. The current estimate of production is 142,000 bushels, while the 1944 crop amounted to 115,000 bushels.

The small fruit crops, unlike the tree fruits, are all substantially above the 1944 level. Strawberry production is up 31 per cent over last year, with increases reported in all provinces. The crop is at present estimated at 14,060,000 quarts compared with 10,736,000 quarts last season. Total raspberry production is also above that of a year ago. Increases in Nova Scotia, Ontario and British Columbia more than offset the slight declines in Quebec and New Brunswick, to bring the total to 11,313,000 quarts compared with the 1944 crop of 9,259,000 quarts. The anticipated grape harvest will be the third largest on record, exceeded only by the very large crops in 1928 and 1942. Increases over the previous crop are expected in Ontario and British Columbia, to bring the total to 67,839,000 pounds, an increase of 13 per cent over the 1944 harvest of 60,235,000 pounds. Loganberries are grown only in British Columbia and production this season is 20 per cent above the 1944 level. The crop is currently estimated at 1,688,000 pounds.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Fruit

There was a heavy bloom in the orchards in Prince Edward Island but low temperatures and frequent rains occurred during the blooming period and may have affected the set of the fruit. There were several ground frosts but these are not expected to have curtailed tree fruit production to any extent. These frosts, however, caused extensive damage to the small fruits in some localities. Strawberry plantations bloomed late and the crop was expected to be equal to that of last season. Weevils, however, are causing some damage.

Vegetables

Production, as near as can be determined, will be the same as last year. The acreage of these crops does not fluctuate from year to year in this province. Potato production, however, will be definitely larger than last season. Applications for inspection of seed potatoes already exceed the 1944 acreage and are still being received.

NOVA SCOTIA

Fruit

The first estimate of the apple crop indicates the extent of the damage resulting from the unusual spring weather. The outlook at present is for a crop of 1,200,000 bushels or a reduction of 77 per cent from the 5,262,000 bushel crop harvested in 1944. The weather was generally unsuited to pollination during the blossoming period which lasted from May 26 to June 6. This, together with heavy frosts in late April and early May resulted in a very light set of fruit. There is considerable variation between varieties and between localities but the majority of trees now show some frost damage. Apple scab is prevalent in unsprayed orchards and even partially sprayed orchards are showing severe scab infection which may cause defoliation of the trees. The pear crop, on the other hand, is much better than normal. The present estimate indicates a 50 per cent increase over the 1944 outlook. Production this season is expected to reach a 45,000 bushel level as compared with 30,000 bushels last season. Plum production is down from that of last year, the crop being estimated at 8,000 bushels compared with 11,000 bushels. The strawberry plantations have made an excellent recovery after the unusually dry season in 1944. Production this year is at present estimated at 790,000 quarts, which is 50 per cent above the small 1944 crop of 527,000 quarts. Raspberry plantations wintered in good condition and have grown unusually well this year. The outlook is much better than that of a year ago. Present prospects are for a crop of 70,000 quarts. This is an increase of 35 per cent over the previous crop.

Vegetables

The backward season has delayed all seeding and planting operations. It is reported that so far only 50 per cent of the canning pea acreage has been seeded. Planting of turnips will be heavy if the weather clears during the next week. Carrots, which are grown mostly on the lighter soils, are developing well and are expected to be a full crop. The cabbage acreage shows an increase over that of last season. This is due chiefly to the increased use of cabbage by processors. Present prospects for the potato crop are below average. The stands are poor due to the wet condition of the soil and excessive weed growth.

NEW BRUNSWICK

Fruit

The first estimate of the apple crop indicates a harvest of 74,000 bushels, which is a reduction of 75 per cent from the 1944 crop of 297,000 bushels. There was a very heavy bloom and first indications were for a record crop. Unsettled weather, however, affected the set of fruit. Frequent rains made spraying difficult and considerable scab is now in evidence. The small fruits were not affected by the weather to the same extent and good crops of both strawberries and raspberries are looked for. The present indications are that the strawberry crop will amount to 1,200,000 quarts compared with 412,000 quarts in 1944. Raspberry production is slightly down, however, and the first estimate amounts to 47,000 quarts, compared with the 50,000 quart crop grown last season. If wet weather continues, however, there will be some loss from soft fruit and decay, causing a further reduction.

Vegetables

Cold, wet weather retarded the growth of all vegetable crops and delayed seeding and weeding operations. Harvesting dates of all crops will be ten days to two weeks later than normal, even with an immediate improvement in the weather. There is a reduction in the acreage of certain root crops from last season but the acreage of all other vegetables is of normal size. Yields of field cucumbers and tomatoes will be definitely curtailed by the cool, wet weather.

QUEBEC

Fruit

According to the first estimate, the apple crop this year will be the smallest on record. Present indications are that the output will amount to 90,000 bushels, which is a decline of 90 per cent from the 900,000 bushel crop harvested last season and 87 per cent below the ten-year 1934-1943 average of 703,000 bushels. Unfavourable weather continued throughout the prolonged blooming period and this, coupled with three heavy frosts, have combined to practically destroy the crop. Many orchards are so heavily infested with scab that much of the foliage will drop and growers fear that this may reduce the fruit bud formation for 1946. Growers who were able to get on spraying material have fairly clean foliage and some orchards have reasonably good crops of fruit, but the majority of growers report a severe infection of scab and no apples. Strawberry production, on the other hand, will be considerably heavier this season. This year's harvest is estimated at 3,500,000 quarts as compared with 2,044,000 quarts in 1944. The raspberry crop is expected to be 17 per cent smaller than that of a year ago and is currently estimated at 719,000 quarts compared with 866,000 quarts.

Vegetables

Growers lost the first three cuttings of asparagus and the total yield, as a result, was less than one-third of normal. Rhubarb supplies are ample as retail sales are reduced 25 per cent due to the sugar shortage. Radish supplies are adequate, although the earliest fields were lost by frost. The lettuce acreage is smaller than last year and present supplies are lighter. Local production, however, is meeting the current needs. The spinach acreage is also reduced as a result of flooding but there will be ample quantities to meet the demand. The acreage of transplanted beets is limited, following the wet spring, and early supplies are short. The first bunches arrived on the market on June 18, approximately three weeks later than last season. There will be ample supplies later in the season as seeding has been heavy. Early cabbage will be a smaller crop than in 1944. The first arrival on the market was a week later than in 1944. The second-early crop cabbage is growing well and abundant supplies of fall and winter cabbage are in prospect. Early carrots will be marketed during the

first week in July. This crop is also late but ample supplies will be available to meet all requirements. The early celery acreage is about the same as last year. Transplanting of late celery has not yet commenced. Bunching onions will also be in good supply. The acreage of winter onions is down about two-thirds from last year due to the prolonged wet weather and difficulty in seeding and weeding. The pea acreage is smaller than in 1944. The earliest seeded beans were frozen but later plantings are now growing satisfactorily. The crop will be smaller than last season, however. Transplanting of tomatoes is practically finished but is fifteen days later than last year. The acreage will be as large as in 1944 but harvesting will begin at a much later date.

ONTARIO

Fruit

The tree fruit crops throughout the province will be considerably smaller than those of last year. Reductions are reported for all tree fruits ranging from 39 per cent for peaches to 87 per cent in the case of pears. The small fruits, on the other hand, are expected to produce heavier crops than in 1944. The first estimate of the current apple crop shows a decline of 64 per cent from that of last season and is estimated at 952,000 bushels as compared with 2,620,000 bushels. The greatest reduction is reported in eastern Ontario, where the decline amounted to 77 per cent. The early and fall varieties suffered less than the winter kinds in both districts. Further reductions may be expected as the "drop" still continues. Apple scab, which is abundant in all sections, also may affect the output. The pear harvest in 1945, which at present is estimated at 49,000 bushels, will be the smallest crop on record for the province. The 1944 crop amounted to 372,000 bushels; the decline was general throughout the province with the greatest reduction taking place in the heavy producing sections of western Ontario. Once again a further decline may be expected as the season progresses, as the "drop" is still in progress. The plum and prune crop also is much below that of 1944, the first estimate sets the production this season at 31,000 bushels as compared with the 1944 crop of 144,000 bushels. In western Ontario, where the bulk of the fruit is grown, the prune crop is practically a complete failure, while European varieties show a reduction of 80 per cent from last year. Japanese varieties suffered less but will, nevertheless, be 65 per cent below the 1944 level. Peaches this year are at present estimated at 716,000 bushels or 39 per cent smaller than the 1,174,000 bushel harvest of 1944. The present crop, however, is considerably larger than the unusual small output in 1943 of 440,000 bushels. Cherry production this season is also much below the 1944 level. The reduction occurred in both eastern and western Ontario. The current estimate of the 1945 crop is 35,000 bushels or 75 per cent below the 1944 level of 140,000 bushels. Strawberry and raspberry prospects show an improvement over the 1944 harvest, being estimated at 4,842,000 quarts and 4,703,000 quarts respectively. The strawberry crops in both districts of the province are larger than those of last season but the outlook for raspberries in western Ontario shows a reduction of 2 per cent below that of a year ago. This reduction is more than offset by improved prospects in the eastern section of the province. The grape prospects are the brightest of any fruit and production this year is currently estimated at 64,221,000 pounds. This is an increase of 12 per cent over the larger-than-average crop of 57,340,000 pounds harvested last year.

Vegetables

In eastern Ontario the adverse weather reported in May continued into June. Frequent rains and lack of sunshine delayed planting of the vegetable crops and a large proportion is still not in the ground. Much of the early seeded crops failed to develop and are now being transplanted. Most vegetables are developing slowly and will be two to three weeks later than usual. In western Ontario subnormal

temperatures, heavy rains and cold winds, relieved only by occasional short periods of warm weather, combined to delay seeding and planting of all vegetables. Flooding and erosion, although not generally serious, occurred in some areas. Poor germination especially of corn, beans and vine crops have caused much re-seeding. Harvesting will be two to three weeks later than usual. Warm weather is needed to ensure further development and maturing of all crops. Owing to the continued unsettled weather it is still too early to give a preliminary estimate of production this season but all indications are that a general decrease in most vegetable crops is to be expected.

MANITOBA

Vegetables

The acreage of crops is down from last year particularly potatoes. The reduced potato acreage is due chiefly to the shortage of seed supplies, while the reduced acreage of other crops resulted, to some extent, from the cold, wet, backward spring, making it impossible to sow late varieties. The prolonged cold weather was followed more recently by excessive heat which has already reduced the potential crop from the acreage already sown by 25 per cent. Continued hot, dry weather will be serious.

SASKATCHEWAN

Vegetables

Vegetable plantings in this province are about two weeks later than usual. The condition of the crops is good in the east-central and central areas but poor in the south and south-western districts. Weather to-date has been too cold for rapid growth in the north-western area and lack of moisture has retarded development in the southern half and western areas of the province. No vegetables have been marketed with the exception of the lettuce, radish, spinach and rhubarb. The total acreage planted to vegetable crops is expected to be about the same as last season.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Fruit

The apple crop, approximately 25 per cent smaller than that of last season, is well above the ten-year 1934-1943 average. The first estimate of this year's crop indicates a harvest of 5,867,000 bushels as compared with 7,800,000 bushels in 1944 and the ten-year average of 5,377,000. Fruit is developing well but the usual summer "drop" is not yet completed. Mildew is common throughout the heavy producing areas and scab is prevalent in some districts. Codling moth activity has been retarded by the cool weather but the worms are now becoming active. The pear crop this season is also somewhat lighter than the record harvest of 1944. A reduction of 6 per cent is anticipated to bring the crop this year to 463,000 bushels. This is 60 per cent above the ten-year 1934-1943 average and is the second largest crop ever grown in the province. The plum and prune crop is practically the same as that of a year ago and is estimated at 337,000 bushels compared with 340,000 bushels a year ago. The current estimate of the 1945 peach crop of 597,000 bushels sets a new record for production for this fruit and exceeds the unusual large crop grown in 1944 of 546,000 bushels by 9 per cent. The crop this year is 202 per cent above the ten-year average. Cherry production also shows an increase over last season and is estimated at 137,000 bushels,

an increase of 7 per cent over that of last season. Here again, production exceeds all previous records. Apricots, likewise, will be in excess of the previous crop. An increase of 23 per cent over the 1944 crop is now indicated to bring the anticipated harvest to 142,000 bushels. Strawberries, raspberries and loganberries all show substantial improvement over the previous year's production. The current estimates are: strawberries 3,728,000 quarts, raspberries 5,774,000 quarts, and loganberries 1,688,000 pounds and indicate increases over the 1944 crops of 21 per cent, 53 per cent and 20 per cent respectively. Grape production also shows a substantial increase over the previous crop and is estimated at 3,618,000 pounds as compared with 2,895,000 pounds.

Vegetables

In the coastal areas vegetables are generally developing well. Insect damage is reported to be severe in some sections but on the whole the crops are satisfactory. In the Okanagan district the cool weather crops have not been affected by the prevailing weather, but such crops as cucumbers, tomatoes, peppers, etc., show a definite need of warm weather. Lettuce is now abundant and is moving in car lot quantities. Growth of celery, however, is retarded and marketing has been delayed in the Kootenay district. Ground vegetables are developing rapidly. Locally grown onions, spinach, lettuce, radish and early cauliflower are all moving to market.

FIRST ESTIMATE OF FRUIT PRODUCTION IN CANADA, BY PROVINCES, IN 1945 AND FINAL ESTIMATE FOR 1944.

<u>Kind and Province</u>		<u>1944</u>	<u>1945</u>
		- bushels -	
Apples	Nova Scotia	5,262,000	1,200,000
	New Brunswick	297,000	74,000
	Quebec	900,000	90,000
	Ontario	2,620,000	952,000
	British Columbia	7,800,000	5,867,000
T o t a l		16,879,000	8,183,000
Pears	Nova Scotia	30,000	45,000
	Ontario	372,000	49,000
	British Columbia	493,000	463,000
T o t a l		895,000	557,000
Plums and Prunes	Nova Scotia	11,000	8,000
	Ontario	144,000	31,000
	British Columbia	340,000	337,000
T o t a l		495,000	376,000
Peaches	Ontario	1,174,000	716,000
	British Columbia	546,000	597,000
T o t a l		1,720,000	1,313,000

<u>Kind and Province</u>		<u>1944</u>	<u>1945</u>
		- bushels -	
Cherries	- Ontario	140,000	35,000
	British Columbia	128,000	137,000
T o t a l		268,000	172,000
		- quarts -	
Strawberries	- Nova Scotia	527,000	790,000
	New Brunswick	412,000	1,200,000
	Quebec	2,044,000	3,500,000
	Ontario	4,678,000	4,842,000
	British Columbia	3,075,000	3,728,000
T o t a l		10,736,000	14,060,000
Raspberries	- Nova Scotia	52,000	70,000
	New Brunswick	50,000	47,000
	Quebec	866,000	719,000
	Ontario	4,522,000	4,703,000
	British Columbia	3,769,000	5,774,000
T o t a l		9,259,000	11,313,000
		- pounds -	
Grapes	- Ontario	57,340,000	64,221,000
	British Columbia	2,895,000	3,618,000
T o t a l		60,235,000	67,839,000
Loganberries	- British Columbia	1,401,000	1,688,000

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