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LIBRARYDominion Statistician: Herbert Marshall
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OTTAWA, June 3, 1949 - The Dominion Bureau of Statistics in co-operation with the Marketing Service of the Department of Agriculture and the Provincial Departments of Agriculture, issues to-day a report on the condition of the fruit crops in Canada during the last two weeks in May and farmers' intentions to plant potatoes on April 30, 1949.

S U M M A R Y

Judging by the bloom, the orchard and small fruit prospects in Eastern Canada are good but it is still too early to estimate the size of the crops. The outlook in British Columbia, however, is variable with the strawberry, raspberry and loganberry crops definitely well below the 1948 level. The apple orchards in Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes bore heavy loads of blossoms. The weather has favoured pollination except in Quebec where the days were mostly cool and wet during the blooming period. Pear trees in Ontario also bloomed well but in Nova Scotia the outlook is not too favourable. The plum trees in these provinces bloomed heavily although some frost damage is reported in sections of Ontario. Cherry trees in Ontario were also severely damaged by frost in the Georgian Bay area but elsewhere the loss was only slight. Peaches bloomed heavily in the main producing areas of Ontario and the set of fruit appears to be excellent. The strawberry crop in Western Ontario is expected to be lighter than that of last season but in the rest of Eastern Canada the bloom indicates that a heavy crop is in prospect. In British Columbia the first estimate shows a decrease of 23 percent from last year. It is still too early to obtain a clear picture of the raspberry crop in Eastern Canada but in British Columbia the harvest is expected to be 28 percent smaller than that of a year ago. Loganberries in British Columbia are also down sharply since last year. The outlook for the grape crop in Ontario is uncertain as growth is not yet far enough advanced in most sections.

NOVA SCOTIA-

Early varieties of apples were in bloom in the Annapolis Valley during the last week of May and all orchards are expected to be in full bloom during the first week of June. The trees are carrying a better-than-average bloom and frost damage to date has been very slight. Plums appear to have set well but pears are somewhat off. Strawberry prospects are good although the beds are thin as a result of dry weather. Raspberry plantations appear to be in healthy condition and are leafing rapidly. Fruit bud development is good.

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NEW BRUNSWICK-

The apple orchards were in full bloom in the St John River valley between May 23 and May 27 which is 7 to 8 days earlier than last year, although not the earliest on record. Full bloom is not expected in the eastern part of the province until early June. McIntosh and Cortland trees generally carried good to very good loads of bloom while other kinds varied considerably. On the whole, however, the prospects are for a better-than-average crop provided pollination is satisfactory and the weather continues favourable. The two weeks' period preceding the opening of the bloom was exceptionally dry and favoured spraying operations which were carried through with more than average thoroughness. The strawberry crop looks promising.

QUEBEC-

The apple orchards wintered well and show practically no winter injury. Insects and disease are not causing any concern and control sprays are very effective. The orchards in all parts of the province bloomed heavily. The flowering period came a week to 10 days earlier than usual and lasted from about May 12 to May 17. During this period there were only one or two days of sunshine when pollination could take place. On the whole the blooming period was cold and wet. For this reason there is some anxiety concerning the set of fruit. In one or two south-western sections frost may have caused some injury but in the remainder of the province no damage is reported.

The strawberry plantations throughout the province bloomed well but cold wet weather prevails at present and it is impossible to say how heavy the set of fruit will be. The beds generally are clean and are free of insect or disease damage. The raspberry crop is becoming less important each year and there has been very little new planting recently. The canes in some plantations show winter injury but the prospect is for a good crop if the weather is satisfactory. Very little insect or disease damage is reported.

ONTARIO-

The fruit trees in Eastern Ontario came through the winter in excellent condition except in a few cases where mice did considerable damage. There has been a noticeable improvement in orchard practices and the trees are in better condition than in the past few years. All varieties of apples, with the exception of a few blocks of Snows and Starks, bloomed very heavily and dry weather during the month was favourable for scab control. The first scab spray went on during the first week in May. Dormant sprays to control bud moth, however, have not been successful in many orchards. Pear trees bloomed heavily and the weather was favourable for pollination. Plums and sour cherries also bloomed heavily during favourable pollination weather. The prospects for cherries is good in many orchards. Strawberry and raspberry plantations wintered well and have made excellent growth this spring. Early varieties of strawberries are carrying a heavy load of bloom and the fruit is setting well.

In Western Ontario tree and small fruit plantations came through the winter in satisfactory condition except in Middlesex-Huron-Lambton where mouse damage is reported. Spring temperatures were mild but a sharp frost in mid-April caused damage to apples, cherries, pears and plums in the Norfolk, Middlesex-Huron, Peel-York, Georgian Bay and eastern Niagara areas. There were several days of almost ideal weather during the blooming period in all areas but severe frosts on May 10 caused damage, as yet not fully assessed, to apple, cherry, pear, plum and strawberry blossoms especially in Norfolk, Middlesex-Huron, Peel-York, Georgian Bay and eastern Niagara. Early apples are now in the calyx stage in most areas while fall and winter varieties are just at

the end of the bloom in southern areas and at full bloom in northern districts. No scab is evident to date and insect injury is not serious. Red mites are troublesome in some orchards but control measures are being applied. Most varieties of pears bloomed heavily between May 5 and May 10. Light localized frost damage is reported in the Middlesex-Huron, Peel-York and Georgian Bay districts. Plums also carried heavy loads of bloom in all areas. No insect or disease damage is reported so far but frost injury was serious in the Georgian Bay section. Peaches bloomed heavily in Niagara, Norfolk and Essex. While it is still too early to be certain, the set of fruit appears to be heavy. Sweet and sour cherries bloomed heavily but frost on May 10 did varying amounts of damage particularly in the Georgian Bay area. Strawberry beds in all districts but Essex and Peel-York are inclined to be thin. Frost damaged early blossoms in the Norfolk, Middlesex-Huron-Lambton, Peel-York and eastern Niagara areas and the crop is expected to be considerably lighter than last year. Raspberry plantations show no winter injury and commenced to bloom about May 15. The vineyards are also in good condition but growth as yet is limited except in Niagara where one to three bunches are showing.

BRITISH COLUMBIA-

In British Columbia the first estimate of production of small fruits indicates that the crops will be substantially lighter than in 1948 with a decrease of 23% for strawberries, 26% for raspberries and 45% for loganberries indicated.

The apple crop on Vancouver Island is past the blooming period and the set of fruit is fair. On the Lower Mainland apple prospects are good and in the southern Okanagan district the crop is expected to equal that of 1948. In the Creston district the prospects are for a heavy crop. The pear crop on Vancouver Island is expected to be of normal size but in the southern Okanagan area the fruit did not set well. Plums are expected to be a fair crop on Vancouver Island while on the Lower Mainland plum and prune prospects are good. In the upper Okanagan districts plums will be lighter than the bloom indicated as a result of winter injury. In the central Okanagan district the peach crop will be only fair. The Hale and Elberta varieties did not winter well and the set is disappointing. In the south end of the Okanagan valley peaches suffered severely from winter injury. Cherries will be a fair crop on Vancouver Island. In the Okanagan valley the set is spotty but it is too early to indicate the size of the crop. A moderate crop is looked for at Creston. Apricots in the Okanagan valley have reached the thinning stage. The Moorepark variety carries a heavy crop but the Blenheim crop will be light.

FARMERS' INTENTIONS TO PLANT POTATOES AT APRIL 30, 1949

	Planted Area 1948 acres	Percent of 1948 acres	Intended Area 1949 acres
CANADA-	508,200	95	481,600
Prince Edward Island	48,200	92	44,300
Nova Scotia	21,000	95	20,000
New Brunswick	67,900	89	60,400
Quebec	155,000	93	144,000
Ontario	115,300	97	111,800
Manitoba	26,300	99	26,000
Saskatchewan	34,300	101	34,600
Alberta	22,800	100	22,800
British Columbia	17,400	102	17,700

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