

22-003

D.B.S. MEMORANDUM

Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa, Canada

DOMINION BUREAU
OF STATISTICSDOES NOT CIRCULATE
NE PAS PRETER

F. V. R. No. 3

Price: \$1.00 for 1952 series.

CONDITION OF FRUIT CROPS MAY 1952

This is the first of six reports issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics dealing with the 1952 fruit crops, in the principal commercial fruit producing areas of Canada. These reports are prepared in the Agriculture Division of the Bureau from material submitted by officials of the Federal and Provincial Departments of Agriculture.

Orchards in all fruit producing areas came through the winter of 1951-52 in good condition. In general, little frost damage to the buds and blossoms was reported during the spring. The apple bloom varied between the different areas to some extent but was generally good. Preliminary reports on stone fruit conditions were optimistic. By the end of May, however, there was some suggestion that in British Columbia the set of practically all fruits was poorer than had been anticipated earlier.

Strawberry plantations appear to be in satisfactory condition at the present time, although it is anticipated that the crop may be a little later than usual.

Nova Scotia:- Apple orchards in Nova Scotia wintered well and heavy budding was reported. Spring weather conditions were cool and the soil dry, tending to retard growth in orchards. This was regarded favourably as it protected the fruit buds from frost. No frost damage was reported to the buds this season and full bloom was anticipated by about the beginning of June.

Strawberry plantations also wintered well and although a little retarded by the cool weather, prospects are for at least a normal yield with increases in production due to increased bearing acreages this year. Raspberries were the only fruit suffering from winter damage in Nova Scotia. Deep snow appears to have been responsible for injury to the lower portion of the canes, which suggests a reduced production this season.

New Brunswick:- Orchards wintered well with a heavy bloom in prospect. Strawberry plantations also came through the winter in a very satisfactory condition and a good crop is anticipated. As in Nova Scotia heavy snow is reported to have done some damage to the raspberry canes although they escaped any spring frost injury.

Quebec:- Apples in the major producing districts were in full bloom by May 24th. The McIntosh variety had a heavy blossom while Fameuse was light and the early varieties variable. In spite of some rain there was sufficient warm, sunny weather for pollination. On the Isle d'Orleans and in the Quebec City district (where fruit crops are normally later) a heavy blossom was in prospect. Strawberry plantations throughout the province wintered well and a good crop is anticipated this year. Raspberry prospects are also good.



1010740858

Ontario:- In Ontario the winter of 1951-52 caused no serious low temperature injury to fruit trees. However, rodent damage was reported in many sod orchards. Spring was early but developed slowly with late rains. Apples were in full bloom around May 15 in western Ontario and by May 18 in eastern Ontario. In the latter area the bloom was below average. Pear orchards in Ontario blossomed heavily although in western Ontario the weather was unfavourable at pollination time. A heavy blossom on plums was observed. In the major producing areas of the Niagara Peninsula and Essex and Kent Counties the peach bloom was heavy on practically all varieties with every indication of a heavy set. Both sweet and sour cherries blossomed heavily and indications are that there has been a good set of those fruits.

Strawberry plantations in the Niagara Peninsula suffered somewhat from winter heaving. However, the blossom was heavy although some frost damage was sustained in the spring. In eastern Ontario, winter injury to strawberry plantations was at a minimum. Raspberry canes suffered some winter damage in certain localities.

British Columbia:- Orchards in the fruit growing area of the Okanagan Valley came through the rather cold winter in good condition. Early in May a week of frosty nights was experienced in some sections but the damage to fruit buds and blossoms was limited. At the middle of May, apples were reported to be in full bloom while petals were falling from peach blossoms and the apricot bloom was over. However, by the end of May, it became apparent that the set of fruit was poorer than might have been expected from the heavy bloom and fruit crop prospects were not so good as they had appeared earlier.

In the lower Fraser Valley, the principal small fruit producing area of British Columbia, strawberry plantings came through the winter in good condition. The spring in this area was cool with the result that berry crops are somewhat retarded. Nevertheless, a good crop is expected. It is anticipated that it will be June 15th before British Columbia strawberries reach the market in large quantities. Raspberry canes suffered to some extent from dry weather in the summer of 1951 but a fairly satisfactory crop is expected. Some frost damage to the buds was sustained this spring. It is anticipated that the loganberry crop both in the Fraser Valley and on Vancouver Island will be better than in 1951.