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There was a considerable decline in the production of maple syrup and maple sugar in the four producing provinces in Canada in 1943, according to the estimate released today by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The 1943 crop is estimated at 2,058,200 gallons of syrup and 2,416,000 pounds of sugar, a total of 2,299,700 gallons expressed as maple syrup. This falls short of the 1942 crop of 3,250,600 gallons by 950,900 gallons or 29 per cent. The 1943 crop moved very rapidly at higher prices than in the previous year, the bulk of the sales being made direct to the consumer. The total value of the crop was estimated at \$5,750,000, a decrease of \$966,300 or 14 per cent compared with the 1942 crop which was valued at \$6,716,300.

The 1943 Maple Crop Season

The tapping season was longer and later than usual but weather conditions in the principal producing sections, particularly in the early part of the season were not favourable for a good flow of sap and runs were very uneven. In Northern Ontario the season was reported as the poorest on record. On the whole, however, approximately the same number of trees were tapped as in 1942, although many farmers did not tap on account of the deep snow in the bush, the difficulty of securing help and the scarcity of fuel. A few days' good run near the end of the season in Beauce County and the Eastern Townships saved the crop from being a failure in these areas. Strong, cold winds and heavy rains were unfavourable factors in many districts, the latter making it necessary to boil the sap longer with the result that the syrup was darker in colour and the quality generally not equal to the high standard of the 1942 crop.

Production

The total maple production in 1943 in terms of maple syrup amounted to 2,299,700 gallons, of which 1,792,100 gallons or 78 per cent was produced in Quebec, 21 per cent in Ontario and the balance in the Maritime Provinces. This crop was smaller than the 1942 crop of 3,250,600 gallons by 950,900 gallons or 29 per cent and was 9.5 per cent lower than the 10-year (1932-1941) average production of 2,540,000 gallons. The 1943 production consisted of 2,058,200 gallons of maple syrup and a farm-make of 2,416,000 pounds of maple sugar. The 1942 crop consisted of 2,876,900 gallons of syrup and 3,737,200 pounds of sugar. The 1943 output of both sugar and syrup was lower in all provinces than in the previous year.

Prices and Marketings

With supplies insufficient to meet the strong consumer demand at good prices, the crop sold rapidly, the greater proportion of sales being made direct from the bush to the consumer. Only a small volume reached the wholesale and retail trade and there were practically no sales on farmers' retail markets where trading is usually very active. Crop correspondents of the Bureau reported that approximately 21 per cent of this year's make of sugar and syrup would be kept by the producers for home use. Although the crop was inferior to that of the previous year from the standpoint of quality, prices paid to producers averaged 30 cents per gallon more for syrup and 5.5 cents per pound more for sugar than the prices paid for the 1942 crop. The spread would undoubtedly have been wider if sales had not been regulated by the ceiling prices imposed by the Wartime Prices and Trade Board. Sales of the 1943 crop averaged \$2.49 per gallon for maple syrup and 25.5 cents per pound for maple sugar as compared with \$2.07 per gallon for syrup and 20 cents per pound for sugar paid to producers for the 1942 crop.

Average prices per gallon received by the producers for maple syrup are estimated as follows, with the 1942 prices within brackets: Nova Scotia \$2.69 (\$2.31); New Brunswick \$2.87 (\$2.44); Quebec \$2.32 (\$1.94); Ontario \$3.05 (\$2.59). Corresponding prices for maple sugar, in cents per pound, averaged for Nova Scotia 35 (33.5); New Brunswick 40 (31); Quebec 25 (19.5); Ontario 30 (26.5).

The total value of the combined production of maple sugar and syrup in 1943, estimated at \$5,750,000 is 14 per cent less than the value of the 1942 crop which returned \$6,716,300 to the producers. The values, by provinces in order of magnitude, follow, with the corresponding values for 1942 within brackets: Quebec \$4,198,900 (\$5,098,400) Ontario \$1,454,400 (\$1,510,500); New Brunswick \$65,600 (\$68,800); Nova Scotia \$31,100 (\$38,600).



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Table 1

Farm Production of Maple Syrup and Maple Sugar, in Canada, 1934 to 1943

Years	Maple Syrup	Maple Sugar	Total Production Expressed as Syrup	Gross Farm Value
	gal.	lb.	gal.	\$
1934	1,838,400	4,940,700	2,332,500	3,040,600
1935	2,250,800	6,539,000	2,904,700	3,522,400
1936	2,022,700	9,231,800	2,945,900	3,713,800
1937	1,232,100	4,413,100	1,673,400	2,245,000
1938	2,955,300	3,453,900	3,300,700	3,849,900
1939	2,302,200	2,900,200	2,592,200	3,443,900
1940	2,755,200	3,437,500	3,099,000	4,209,300
1941	2,037,400	2,390,000	2,276,400	3,561,200
1942	2,876,900	3,737,200	3,250,600	6,716,300
1943	2,058,200	2,416,000	2,299,700	5,750,000

Table 2

Maple Sugar: Production and Value, 1942 and 1943

Provinces	Production		Average Farm Price		Gross Farm Value	
	1942	1943	1942	1943	1942	1943
	pounds		cents per pound		\$	
Nova Scotia	39,400	28,500	33.5	35.0	13,200	10,000
New Brunswick ...	90,600	73,300	31.0	40.0	28,100	29,300
Quebec	3,537,900	2,289,100	19.5	25.0	689,900	572,300
Ontario	69,300	25,100	26.5	30.0	18,600	7,500
Canada	3,737,200	2,416,000	20.0	25.5	749,800	619,100

Table 3

Maple Syrup: Production and Value, 1942 and 1943

Provinces	Production		Average Farm Price		Gross Farm Value	
	1942	1943	1942	1943	1942	1943
	gallons		\$ per gallon		\$	
Nova Scotia	11,000	7,900	2.31	2.69	25,400	28,500
New Brunswick ...	16,700	12,700	2.44	2.87	40,700	73,300
Quebec	2,272,400	1,563,200	1.94	2.32	4,408,500	2,289,100
Ontario	576,800	474,400	2.59	3.05	1,491,900	25,100
Canada	2,876,900	2,058,200	2.07	2.49	5,966,500	2,416,000

United States Maple Crop

Canada's only competitor in the production of maple syrup and syrup is the United States. According to reports issued by the United States Department of Agriculture, approximately 6 per cent fewer maple trees were tapped this spring than in 1942. The season was longer than usual but the flow was impeded by a period of severely cold weather. Production of equivalent sugar per tree was somewhat lower than last year but about 25 per cent above the 10-year (1932-41) average. This year's syrup production of 2,555,000 gallons in the 10 main producing states was 12 per cent below the 1942 total of 2,915,000 gallons, while the maple sugar production of 578,000 pounds showed a similar decrease from the 654,000 pounds produced in 1942.