

Census Statistics of Fruit and Vegetable Production.—Much of the most valuable statistical information regarding the production of fruit and vegetables in Canada can be obtained only through the medium of the decennial censuses.

Fruit.—In the course of each census a record is obtained of the numbers of the different kinds of fruit trees and of grape vines of bearing age or planted out but not yet of bearing age at the date of the census, in addition to the acreage devoted to orchard, vineyard and small fruit. Furthermore, an accurate check is made upon the annual estimates of fruit production by obtaining from each producer a statement of the quantities and values of different kinds of fruit produced. Such information obtained through the census is summarized in Tables 25 and 26. A notable fact shown in Table 25 is that the number of bearing trees of each kind of fruit, with the exception of pears, and of those not of bearing age, except peaches, as well as the total acreage in orchard, were less in 1931 than in 1921 or 1911. The smaller number of trees planted out in 1931 as compared with previous censuses indicated a continuation of the decline although in the case of peaches the figures point to the probability of some prospective increase in acreage. In the case of grapes, the Census of 1931 showed a large increase in bearing vines, while the number of young vines not yet bearing indicated the possibility of a further increase of more than 50 p.c. in productive vineyard. The total acreage of vineyard was at a record level. The acreage devoted to small fruits has shown very little expansion over the past 20 years.

25.—Fruit Trees, of Bearing Age and Not of Bearing Age, and Acreages of Fruit in Canada, 1911, 1921 and 1931.

Item.	Of Bearing Age.			Not of Bearing Age.		
	1911.	1921.	1931. ⁴	1911.	1921.	1931. ⁴
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Trees—						
Apples ¹	10,617,372	9,794,234	8,649,536	5,599,804	2,668,098	2,171,806
Peaches.....	839,288	1,023,679	678,216	1,056,359	172,542	359,512
Pears.....	581,704	496,610	512,081	385,538	177,292	169,305
Plums.....	1,075,130	982,190	787,881	637,220	269,983	213,880
Cherries.....	741,992	686,608	612,918	495,082	199,979	193,984
Totals, Trees.....	13,855,486	12,983,321	11,240,632	8,174,003	3,487,894	3,108,487
Grape vines.....	2	2,956,784	4,699,581	2	201,383	2,599,253
Acreages of Fruit—²	acres.	acres.	acres.			
Orchard.....	403,596	297,053	268,925	—	—	—
Vineyard.....	9,836	7,090	16,159	—	—	—
Small fruits.....	17,495	17,741	18,822	—	—	—

¹ Includes crab-apple trees.

² Not given.

³ Including acreages not of bearing age.

⁴ Figures for this year have been revised since publication of the 1934-35 Year Book.

There was a comparatively small number of specialized fruit farms in Canada in 1931. Of 728,623 occupied farms only 7,977 or 1.1 p.c. reported more than 300 trees. Only those farms with over 300 trees can really be considered as specialized fruit farms, since 300 trees represent 7 to 10 acres of apples or 3 to 4 acres of other tree fruits. On p. 279 of the 1934-35 Year Book a table appears showing numbers of farms reporting orchards according to size of farm, grouped by the number of trees per farm. It was not possible to show the total number of trees in each group; had this analysis been available it is probable that a large proportion of the total trees would be found to be on the farms with over 300 trees per farm. By far the largest number of specialized fruit farms are from 10 to 200 acres in size.