

Subsection 6.—Fruits and Vegetables

Fruits.—Commercial fruit growing in Canada is confined almost exclusively to rather limited areas in the Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia. Nova Scotia production is centred mainly in the Annapolis Valley and New Brunswick production in the St. John River Valley and Westmorland County. The fruit growing districts of Quebec are the Montreal area, the North Shore area, the Eastern Townships and the Quebec City district. Ontario fruit is grown in all the counties adjacent to the St. Lawrence River and the Great Lakes as far west as Georgian Bay, the Niagara district being the most productive. In British Columbia the four well-defined fruit areas are the Okanagan Valley, the Fraser Valley, the Kootenay and Arrow Lakes district and Vancouver Island. The climate elsewhere in Canada is not generally suitable for commercial tree-fruit culture. In most producing areas, particularly in the Annapolis Valley of Nova Scotia, the Niagara Peninsula of Ontario and the Okanagan Valley of British Columbia, fruit growing is either the principal or one of the most important forms of agriculture and is very important to the economy of those areas. Apples and small fruits are produced commercially in the provinces named but tender tree fruits and commercial vineyards are limited largely to Ontario and British Columbia.

Strawberries are grown commercially in all provinces for which tree-fruit statistics are prepared, as well as in Prince Edward Island. However, this crop is produced over a somewhat wider area than are tree fruits. In Nova Scotia, for example, considerable quantities of strawberries are grown in Colchester County and farther north, as well as in the apple producing areas of the Annapolis Valley. In British Columbia most of the strawberries are grown in the Fraser Valley.

Raspberries are grown commercially in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Quebec but the bulk of the crop is produced in Ontario and British Columbia. The Fraser Valley of British Columbia is the most important producing area.

Wild blueberries are harvested on a commercial scale in Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Quebec. This crop is indigenous to certain areas in these provinces and a large percentage of the crop is frozen and exported. There is also some production of cultivated blueberries, particularly in British Columbia.

A marketing system has been developed for distributing fresh fruit from the specialized production areas to all parts of the country and a large proportion of the deciduous fruit consumed in Canada is grown domestically. Considerable quantities of apples, strawberries and blueberries are exported.

Canning and processing industries have developed in the fruit growing districts and, although the importance of the processing market varies with different fruits, it provides a valuable outlet for substantial proportions of most Canadian-grown fruit crops.

Tables 25 and 26 show the estimated commercial production of fruit, by kind, for the years 1962-64 and by province for 1957-64.

25.—Estimated Commercial Production and Farm Value of Fruit, 1962-64

| Kind of Fruit and Year | Quantity | Weight | Farm Value | Kind of Fruit and Year | Quantity | Weight | Farm Value |
|------------------------|----------|-----------|------------|--------------------------|----------|----------|------------|
| | '000 bu. | '000 lb. | \$'000 | | '000 bu. | '000 lb. | \$'000 |
| Apples— | | | | Cherries (sour)— | | | |
| 1962..... | 20,095 | 904,275 | 28,056 | 1962..... | 212 | 10,600 | 1,005 |
| 1963..... | 23,036 | 1,036,620 | 31,028 | 1963..... | 346 | 17,300 | 1,716 |
| 1964..... | 20,052 | 902,338 | 31,598 | 1964..... | 604 | 30,200 | 2,003 |
| Apricots— | | | | Cherries (sweet)— | | | |
| 1962..... | 310 | 15,500 | 714 | 1962..... | 422 | 21,100 | 2,946 |
| 1963..... | 99 | 4,950 | 327 | 1963..... | 406 | 20,300 | 3,143 |
| 1964..... | 387 | 19,350 | 754 | 1964..... | 558 | 27,900 | 4,603 |