

FRUIT CONDITIONS IN ONTARIO

The Canadian Horticulturist up to May 25th had received fruit crop reports from some 400 fruit growers in all the leading fruit producing sections of Ontario. Detailed statements dealing with the prospects of each of the leading fruit crops are given below.

Readers must bear in mind that all state-

ments given at this early season are liable to be greatly changed as the season advances and the actual conditions become more apparent. In brief it now appears that the yield of strawberries, plums and peaches will be light, while apples, pears and cherries will be a good average crop.

Apple Trees in Good Condition

Several hundred correspondents scattered throughout all the principal apple producing counties of the province, reporting to The Horticulturist state that trees have come through the winter in good condition. Prospects for both the early and winter varieties of apples are very encouraging. A few correspondents indicate that Baldwins and Spys will be light in some sections. On the whole the early varieties appear to be in quite a little the better condition.

The damage by mice will be no greater than reported last month, when it was estimated the total loss for the province would not be greater than 2 to 3 per cent. In some counties whole orchards have been destroyed through the trees being girdled, but in many sections no loss at all has taken place. Trees appear to be blooming very nicely. On the whole, the reports received from growers show that they feel quite hopeful for this year's crop. In the early varieties of apples prospects are fair to good in Wentworth, Halton and York counties, uniformly good in Ontario, Northumberland, Hastings, Victoria and the eastern counties. In the vicinity of Lake Huron and Georgian Bay, Lambton and Huron counties report trees are in full bloom. Conditions along Lake Erie are equally favorable, as large crops are anticipated in Kent, Oxford, Lincoln and Norfolk counties and fair to good crops in Essex and Welland counties.

THE WINTER VARIETIES.

As already intimated, prospects for the winter varieties do not appear to be as bright as for early apples. Bordering Lake Ontario, Wentworth, York, Northumberland, Durham, Hastings and Lennox counties intimate that they do not anticipate more than 50 to 50 per cent. of an average crop, while in Peterboro and the eastern counties only 60 to 70 per cent. of a full crop is expected. Trees in Ontario county are said to be in excellent condition.

Much the same conditions rule in the Lake Huron section, as reports say the yield is not likely to be more than an average in Huron, Bruce and Grey counties, while Simcoe county will probably be below the average. Moderate yields are expected in Essex, Kent and Welland counties, and good returns in Norfolk and Lincoln county.

I had thought of stopping The Horticulturist, for at 75 years of age I do not take as much interest in fruit as I formerly did, but I like to see how fruit growing improves, so am renewing my subscription.—(A. D. Lee, Stoney Creek, Ont.)

Peach Prospects Still Uncertain

Up to as late as May 25 correspondents located in the peach districts reported that it was very difficult to give an accurate estimate of the chances for the peach crop. From the replies received it would seem that the number of trees winter killed will not be as large as at first feared, although in some districts, and in fact in a few townships, peach orchards have been utterly ruined. There are, on the other hand, numerous sections where the damage is reported to be very light.

The most serious reports of loss have been received from Brant county. In West Brantford township the peach trees are reported almost all winter killed. One grower, living near Mohawk, announces that he has lost all of the peach trees on his farm, over 2,000 in number, and that 10,000 trees in that section have been killed. A second correspondent places the number of trees killed at 70 per cent., while a third says that half the trees have been killed and all the buds destroyed.

In Essex county the estimates of damage range all the way from 5 to 90 per cent, showing how conditions vary in different parts of the county. On a whole the loss is evidently much less than at first feared. The conditions in Kent county are much the same, estimates ranging from 3 to 75 per cent. The prospects in Elgin county appear to be better, as no correspondent places the damage at above 25 per cent. Growers in Welland and Lincoln counties appear to take a more hopeful view of the situation. Most of them write that while it is too early to state definitely what the damage has been, they know it has been serious. Old trees have suffered much the worst. One grower writes that his old trees are going to leaf out nicely and some to blossom, but he fears there is not much vitality left in them and they will die later. On the whole it appears that the loss in these two counties has not been serious. Prospects in Wentworth county are good. The trees appear to have come through the winter in excellent shape, although there has been some loss in the old orchards.

PERCENTAGE OF BUDS.

Buds appear to be showing in a most encouraging manner. On this point some growers are enthusiastic in their replies, announcing that there is a "splendid showing for fruit" or "enough for a full crop." Brant county seems to be the worst sufferer, as replies indicate that many trees there are not budding at all, although in two or three sections trees have budded in a promising manner. In Essex and Kent counties estimates of the number of buds