

# Ontario Department of Agriculture

## FRUIT BRANCH

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### Bee-Keeping in Ontario.

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#### DETAILED REPORT ON THE HONEY PROSPECTS IN THE VARIOUS COUNTIES.

For the purpose of reporting on the condition of bees in Ontario, and the Honey Crop prospects for 1911, blanks were sent to five thousand beekeepers last month by the Fruit Branch of the Department of Agriculture. Six hundred replies were received, from which this report has been summarized.

The total number of colonies reported for the Fall of 1910 was 23,730. For May, 1911, it is 20,414. This represents a winter loss of fourteen per cent., which is five per cent. more than that reported a year ago. This also means that the remaining colonies are weaker in proportion, and are less fit for the work of gathering honey which the clover fields, weather permitting, will provide. On the other hand, the condition of clover is reported almost uniformly good. A few counties report "poor" and "below the average," and some "extra good."

While a spring report is of value in determining the present prospect of the honey crop, there is no other farm crop so entirely dependent on weather conditions from day to day during harvest time. Any sudden change from hot to cold will often check the secretion of nectar in the flowers and reduce the expected honey crop by hundreds of thousands of pounds.

The following is the detailed report arranged by counties: