

Wheat

A London, Ontario scientist, Charles E. Saunders, later knighted, helped to make the west "golden" by developing Marquis wheat in 1906. This strain, excellent for baking and milling, matures ten days earlier than others often destroyed by frost. World famous improved varieties descended from Marquis.

Wheat exports — over 700 million bushels — in 1972, were valued at \$918 million.

A southern Alberta farm near Lethbridge holds the record for the most wheat planted in one field anywhere — 35,000 acres sown in 1951.

Fruit and Vegetables

Fruit and vegetable crops bring some \$300 million to Canadian farmers.

Canada's best-known apple — the McIntosh Red — sprang from a chance seedling transplanted at Dundela, Ontario, in 1796 by John McIntosh. The apples resembled those of the Fameuse trees brought to Quebec from Normandy in the 1600's.

Apples are the most important fruit grown in commercial orchards in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario and in British Columbia's Okanagan Valley. This valley claims to have more annual sunshine than Florida.

Strawberries grow in all provinces; raspberries in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and British Columbia; and wild blueberries in all the Atlantic provinces and Quebec. Saskatoon berries grow on the Prairies although they remain a local delicacy.

Fiddleheads are greens which enthusiasts liken to asparagus and spinach. They are the unopened fronds of the ostrich fern, and only grow in profusion along the banks of two rivers in New Brunswick.