
Horticulture

Background

Farm Production

The horticulture sector produces fruit, vegetable, honey, maple, floriculture and nursery products. It has a total production of 5.7 million tonnes and a farmgate value of \$1.7 billion. Approximately 27,310 farmers were employed in horticulture as a whole in 1986.

Horticultural crops are produced in all regions in Canada. The Atlantic region produces about 14 per cent of the farmgate value of all Canadian horticultural crops, leads in the production of all types of potatoes and has a significant production of apples and crops for processing.

Quebec's horticultural industry is diversified and accounts for 15 per cent of the farmgate value of all Canadian horticultural crops. This province leads the production of carrots, lettuce and celery on organic soils. Quebec dominates the maple sector with over 90 per cent of the recorded commercial production for Canada.

The industry in Ontario is highly diversified and accounts for some 44 per cent of total production. This province leads in areas such as greenhouse vegetables, tomatoes for the processing and fresh markets, and grapes, and shares with British Columbia the bulk of the production of apples, peaches, cherries and ornamentals.

The Prairie Provinces, despite a difficult climate, have developed a horticulture sector with concentrated production near Winnipeg and in southern Alberta. Approximately eight per cent of Canadian horticultural products, primarily vegetables, is produced on the Prairies. The processing of vegetables and potatoes as well as fresh market vegetables and seed potatoes dominates the sector. This region dominates the honey sector with over 60 per cent of the total volume produced.

British Columbia, especially the Okanagan Valley and the coastal region, has a favourable climate for fruit crops. This province leads in raspberry production and is strong in grapes, apples, nursery crops and tree fruits in general, producing approximately 16 per cent of the farmgate value of Canadian horticultural crops. Farmgate value by region is shown in Table 4.7.

Imports of horticultural commodities, including tropical fruits, off-season crops, processed products and ornamentals, amount to \$2.2 billion. Exports account for \$477 million.