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FRUIT CROP REPORT

The August Fruit Crop Report gives conditions of the Canadian fruit crop up to August 31. The drought, no doubt, seriously affected small fruits in their season, and many correspondents attribute the heavy 'drop' in apples to the dry weather; otherwise late fruits were not affected. The latter part of August sufficient rain fell in Ontario and Quebec to meet the needs of the fruit growers The weather in British Columbia, particularly in the coast region, was exceptionally hot and dry. Nova Scotia has had excellent weather for tree growth, but at the same time the weather conditions favored the development of scab.

A noticeable feature has been the large number of hailstorms that have prevailed. The effects were, perhaps, most serious in Western Ontario, in the counties of Essex, Kent, Elgin and Lambton. The Niagara district did not be of excellent quality, but in orchards altogether escape, and, though the storms were by no means so numerous, the injury done, especially to the grape crop, has been great.

An exceptional feature of the month is the reports of frosts in the interior of British Columbia, and in Eastern Ontario, sufficiently severe to injure tomatoes and other tender crops.

The Northwest is not buying fruit so freely as last year. Buyers from the United States have been making inquiries in the Dominion for fruit. It cannot be doubted that the demand from Great Britain will be quite urgent. The better trade relations ought to improve the German market; and, though the crop in France is fair there is always an opening there, though perhaps not at high prices, for our late keeping Russets, Stark and Ben Davis. Norway and Sweden are possible customers, some sales having been made last season, and inquiries are being made already this year.

PREVENT SALE OF DISEASED FRUIT

The fruit growers of British Columbia will not be permitted to sell infected home-grown fruit. Thomas Cunningham, provincial inspector of fruit pests, states that the regulations governing the same will be strictly enforced. The inspector says: "After all the education that has been given to the people in regard to the importance of and all the assistance that has been given the fruit growers, it is unreasonable to expect that growers who neglect the care of their trees will be permitted to put infected fruit on the market to break down the price of fruit produced by careful growers.

It is understood that the design of this strict enforcement of the regulations is to force the growers to adopt up-todate methods, increase their revenue and keep up the splendid reputation which this province has already obtained for its fruit. It is the intention of the department to make spraying compulsory as soon as the trees have become dormant this fall. It is stated that there will be no exception to the rule. Fruit growing land in British Columbia has become so valuable that it can no longer be permitted to be encumbered with diseased and infected trees.

Showing the necessity of the protection which is accorded the fruit growing industry of British Columbia, Mr. Cunningham stated that no less than 61 shipments of American fruit have been condemned in Vancouver since July 1. He continued that this shows it is up to our own people to put none but good fruit on the market.

When asked as to this year's fruit crop the inspector stated: "There will be a very fair fruit crop throughout the province of British Columbia this season. It is probable that the entire



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crop will be three times as large as that of any year in the history of the province. It is expected that 1,000 carloads of fruit will be shipped out of the Okan-agan Valley alone. The reports of conditions in the Kootenay are exceedingly favorable. On the lower mainland the yield will be better than the average, and the same applies to Vancouver Island. Where the orchards have been carefully sprayed the fruit bids fair to which have been neglected a great deal of fruit will be unfit for market.

CROPS IN ORCHARDS

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

I do not usually recommend the growing of any crops in an orchard, yet a good deal depends on the man, and consequently on his treatment of the crop. The objections to cropping the orchard are that it robs the land of much-needed moisture, that it interferes with the necessary repeated cultivation, and that it deprives the soil of the fertility which is needed to produce fruit. But, in a young orchard, before it comes into bearing, a hoed crop may be grown if the soil is manured in excess of, or at least to the full extent of, the plant food needed to mature the crop, if the crop is not grown too close to the trees, and if persistent cultivation is carried on. Raspberries and strawberries are sometimes thus grown.

This is safe, if above conditions are complied with, but here another objection crops up, especially with strawberries, which are fruiting at the time arsenical sprays are called for by the tree. It is not a nice idea this eating berries tainted with arsenic, even in homeopathic doses. Potatoes are a good, safe crop to grow, if the ground is properly manured, and, if the crop is taken off early, and a dressing of fertilizer given. A crop of roots may follow this, though when a winter cover crop, such as winter rye, is needed this is naturally impossible.

In no case must such crops be grown after the trees are two years old, and in no case should the crop come within five feet of the trees, so that only a fraction of the orchard is available for this, and, where fillers are grown, and the distance between the trees thereby halved, the game is hardly worth the candle.

For my part I prefer fillers and no crops, and a judicious small annual application of manure and fertilizer, to be increased as the trees come into bearing. It stands to reason that each year's crop removes a lot of fertility from the soil, especially potash and phosphate, which must be replaced. To supply nitrogen I like growing peas and red clover in the fall, working this into the soil once growth starts in the spring. The peas, of course, will winter kill, but will give a good deal of nitrogen and humus, though dead, and the clover will have made enough growth to

prove a cheap source of nitrogen. W. J. L. HAMILTON.

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