

## FRUIT TREES AND BUSHES HAVE WINTERED WELL

Reports which have reached The Canadian Horticulturist from the principal fruit districts in Canada show that fruit trees and bushes have come through the winter in unusually good condition. The only loss reported is in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, where the heavy snow broke down some of the trees and where mice have done some damage.

In the leading fruit sections spraying is on the increase. Where fruit is not grown extensively but little interest in spraying is being shown. There has not been a marked increase in plantations in any of the provinces.

### EASTERN ONTARIO.

Mr. Harold Jones, Maitland, Ont.: Fruit trees of all kinds have come through the winter in excellent condition. Apple trees especially look bright and healthy, and the fruit bud is in good condition. With favorable weather the chances are for a good crop. Mice did some damage to trees near fences, but the injury is not serious, a few trees having portions of the bark chewed, but hardly any girdled. Strawberries are coming out bright and healthy, no winter injury even in plots that had no covering. There is practically no planting being done in this vicinity. The farmers and fruit growers are discouraged owing to losses and low prices for their fruit the last two or three years. Spraying is also being neglected in some cases. There are some of our most careful growers spraying as carefully as ever, but the tendency is to neglect the work.

### THE GRIMSBY DISTRICT.

Mr. Linus Woolverton, Grimsby, Ont.: The past winter has been a favorable one for fruit. The cold has not been severe enough to injure the fruit buds, and there has been an excellent covering of snow to protect the roots of trees and fruit crowns of strawberry plants. Indications point to an excellent fruit year, giving good profit to the fruit grower if better methods of sale can be found. Planting is always going on in the Niagara district, but not of apple trees, especially on its rich sandy loam, where even the Baldwin goes too much to wood to produce abundant crops. A great many apple orchards are being grubbed out on this account. Intelligent spraying is being practised, and power sprayers are coming into common use.

### NEAR WINONA, ONT.

Mr. Murray Pettit, Winona, Ont.: Everything, including small fruits, has come through the winter in first-class shape. Prospects are excellent. The ground was covered with snow, and strawberries were well protected, and there has been little freezing or thawing since the snow left to cause injury. It has been several years since fruit came through the winter so well.

### AROUND ST. CATHARINES.

Mr. W. H. Runtling, St. Catharines, Ont.: Winter has been favorable for all kinds of fruit, and except where vitality has been weakened by San Jose scale or other causes trees are in good condition. Prospects are for a good crop. Not many apples or grapes are being planted, but there is a considerable increase in peaches and cherries. Spraying is on the increase.

Mr. R. F. Robinson, St. Catharines, Ont.: Trees, vines, bushes and strawberry plants have wintered extremely well, as the wood was well ripened last fall, especially where the land was plowed early and a cover crop put in. Most varieties are sufficiently full of fruit buds for an average crop. Strawberries wintered well but did not thrive last year sufficiently to make a very big crop, and the acreage was lower than usual owing to the difficulty in securing plants last spring. If the rot is controlled in sweet cherries this year there is excellent showing in most varieties. The acreage of fruit in this section is not increasing very rapidly for three reasons: 1. Expense of nursery stock; 2. The ravages of the winter of 1903-4; 3. Anxiety as to the possibility of controlling the San Jose scale. Of peaches the Yellow St. John, Niagara, Fitzgerald, Alberta, early and late Crawfords, Toronto and Smocks seem the favorite varieties. Of plums the later varieties such as Coe's Golden Drop, Reine Claude, Monarch and Grand Duke, but not so many Japanese plums as formerly. In cherries, E. Richmond, Montmorency and English Morello of the sour kind, and comparatively few sweet cherries are being set. The Cuthbert, and where the land is suitable, the Marlboro raspberry. Strawberries Michael's Early, Brandywine and Williams are the most popular. There is considerable increase in spraying, especially with the lime and sulphur. Practical men now consider it an absolute necessity. However, there is yet room for much more enthusiasm in this cause.

### IN QUEBEC.

Mr. A. C. Abbott, Hudson Heights, Que.: Trees, vines and bushes have stood the winter well and are in good condition. The fruit buds indicate an average crop of apples and plums. There are only a few large orchards in this vicinity, and outside of these planting is only done with a view to supplying the needs of the home or the local demand. Apples principally, with plums and a few pears, are the only varieties of fruit planted. Spraying is not on the increase. It is only the larger growers that spray.

### PROSPECTS BRIGHT IN NOVA SCOTIA.

Mr. D. C. Crosley, Berwick, N. S.: Apple, plum and pear trees have wintered well, but have been badly broken by snow drifts, and mice caused great loss. Strawberries and other small fruit have wintered better than usual. The prospect is bright, but late frosts may ruin it. Last year's market prices discouraged planting of increase areas. The favorite varieties of apples are Stark, Wagner, Ren Davis, Baldwin, Gravenstein and Bishop Pippin. Spraying is on the increase, many growers believing it to be the only method of securing good fruit.

Mr. A. A. Blight, Waterville, N. S.: On account of the unusual depth of snow quite a percentage of trees were broken down. Mice also caused considerable damage, especially in orchards under sod. Small fruits and strawberries wintered well. Fruit buds indicate a good crop. There is only about 40 per cent. of the average amount of planting, growers being discouraged by low prices last season. The favor-