

Canadians in the past have used to having supplies of fresh vegetables the year around. With the high prices prevailing and increased demand in the United States for their own products it would be impossible to make these commodities available at reasonable prices without tremendous expense that would be difficult to justify. Assistance has been given by removing duties and controlling markets and handling in Canada.

Fruit and vegetable contracts recently entered into by Canada with the British Ministry of Food:

Fruit and Vegetable Contracts July, 1943, to April, 1944.

Commodities	Contract (short tons)
Potatoes	3,920
Cabbage	785
Carrots	560
Turnips	336
Green beans	16
Beets	11

200,000 bushels British Columbia apples.
450,000 bushels Nova Scotia apples.

The United Kingdom is prepared to take more dehydrated fruits and vegetables, but it is likely that Canada can meet the existing contract because of supply, labour and space shortages.

Agricultural objectives for production of fruits in 1944 have been in large measure predictions, as production can be but slightly influenced by planning in a one-year period.

POTATOES

Five per cent more potato acreage is asked for in 1944, the designated total being 558,980 acres. Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia have undertaken increases of 10% each. Quebec and Alberta will aim for 5% increases. The Maritime Provinces, in all of which 1943 plantings were greater than longtime averages, will maintain their level of production, as will Saskatchewan.

Factors considered in compiling the national objective were: The scarcity of supply on many central markets in the spring of 1943, even though the 1942 crop had exceeded those of immediately preceding years; the expectation that disease may affect the shrinkage of the 1943 crop in storage; dehydration undertakings for the 1943 crop which were greater than ever before and likely to be maintained subsequently; and the active export demand for any certified seed which it is seen fit to permit to be exported.

VEGETABLES

Acreage and production information for vegetables is unreliable, and publication of such on a national scale has not yet been extensively undertaken. It was necessary to consider these crops in terms of tonnage rather than acreage and to group them generally into: (1) leafy green and yellow and (2) root vegetables. In both classes acreage and yield per acre declined in 1943. The need for adequate supplies of these for fresh consumption, canning and dehydration was recognized in increased objectives for supply next year. For leafy green vegetables, which include cabbage (now being dehydrated in large quantities) and some of the leading canning crops, an objective of 139% of 1943 production has been set. For the root vegetables 113% of the 1943 crop is desired.

For tomatoes it is recognized that increased production for processing is required, as the 1943 pack was about 20% less than that of 1942. The packs of corn, peas and green and wax beans declined even more -- 22% for beans, 34% for corn and 50% for peas.