

In addition to tree fruits, strawberries and raspberries are cultivated commercially in the Maritime provinces, Québec, Ontario and British Columbia. British Columbia fruit growers also produce loganberries commercially in the lower mainland and on Vancouver Island. Grapes are grown in the Niagara District of Ontario and in the Okanagan Valley; grape production has increased considerably in recent years, reflecting the increasing popularity of Canadian wines. The native blueberry is found wild over large areas in Canada and is harvested in commercial quantities in the Atlantic provinces, particularly New Brunswick, and Québec; a cultivated crop is grown in British Columbia.

The production of field-grown vegetables in Canada is seasonal. During the growing season varying percentages of domestic requirements are met by Canadian crops. Some vegetables are exported from Canada, particularly to metropolitan areas in the United States.

Potatoes are the most important of the vegetables produced in Canada. All the provinces except Newfoundland produce potatoes commercially, with the Maritimes accounting for nearly 43% of Canadian potatoes. Soil and weather conditions combine to make regions within the Maritime provinces ideal potato-growing areas. Indeed, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick potatoes are generally regarded as among the finest available on any world market.

P.E.I. produces the largest number of seed acres of any province in Canada and, at the same time, also has the lowest level of disease of any potato growing area in the world. The Russett Burbank strain is the most common variety of potato grown here.

New Brunswick potato producers plant an average of 53,000 acres annually and in 1984 total production reached the 522,221 tonne level.

An increasing demand for floral crops on world markets has created excellent export opportunities for Canadian producers. In the 1984-85 season, Canada exported to 55 different countries around the world, with the two major markets being the United States and West Germany.

Greenhouse growers located in Ontario and British Columbia have developed a strong market demand for Canadian-grown, high quality, flowering potted plants and, to a lesser degree, cut flowers.

The combined exports of ornamentals, which includes floral and nursery crops, reached the 40,000,000 unit mark, including 17,226 phytosanitary certificated to the United States alone.

Canadian greenhouses are highly specialized and use many state-of-the-art techniques which, while they reduce labour costs and increase productivity, ensure top quality products suited to the exacting standards of international customers.

Canada's primary agricultural crops enjoy an excellent reputation around the world and Canadian producers will no doubt continue to attract significant international markets. ■

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