

OUR SPECIAL FRUIT CROP REPORTS

Judging from reports received from correspondents in the different parts of Ontario up to July 26, the fruit crop will be almost an average one. Apples and pears had promising bloom, but wet weather and lack of sunlight at the proper time prevented the fruit from setting. In many sections the fruit set, but, fell off later on.

Cherries were a full crop in many districts, but some growers lost a great portion of the crop by rot which came with destructive force in a day or two just when the fruit was ready to be harvested. Sweet cherries suffered more in this respect than did the sour varieties. Strawberries varied from a half to full crop, but the sample was good. Other small fruits promise greater yield than last year.

An abundant crop of plums set, but many fell off during the wet weather, and some sections report rot setting in. Despite these facts, however, the crop will be much ahead of last year.

Peaches and grapes have excellent promise. Some correspondents state that the yield will be three times last year's, but on the whole 25 per cent. increase seems to be the average estimate. The decrease owing to the destruction of trees during the severe winter of 1903-4 will scarcely be made up by the higher yield where trees escaped the frost. Grapes are ahead of last season's supply, but already the destructive rot is showing, and unless weather unfavorable to its development sets in a considerable percentage of the crop will be destroyed in a number of sections.

PROSPECTS IN LAKE ERIE SECTION.

The outlook for apples in the counties along Lake Erie is not very bright. Most reports state that the crop will be light and only 40 to 50 per cent. of last year's yield. Pears are also very light, and in many cases reported as a failure. Reports give plums medium to heavy crop, or about double that of last season. Cherries did not yield as well as was anticipated, but peaches and grapes are much ahead of last year. Strawberries have been scarce, but other small fruits have excellent promise.

NIAGARA PENINSULA OUTLOOK.

Apples in the Niagara district have a poor promise. One grower places the yield at 10 per cent. that of last year. The prospects,

however, are for 30 to 50 per cent. The deficiency in apples is made up by a fine promise of other fruits, even pears in some cases being a fair crop. Cherries were abundant, but rot destroyed some orchards. Plums promise 40 to 75 per cent. increase over last year's yield. A report from Ridgeway says the plums are falling off, while one from Glanford states that rot is developing.

HEAVY CROP OF PEACHES.

Were it not for the fact that so many peach trees were destroyed by frost, this season would give a bumper crop. Almost every orchard in the Grimsby and St. Catharines districts promises an increase of 20 to 40 per cent. over last year's yield. Several growers are shaking or picking off the fruit so that they may have better quality. The grape crop promises to be about the same or slightly better than 1904.

IN BURLINGTON DISTRICT.

Apple growers in the Burlington district promise only a medium crop, some reports placing it at one-third that of last year. Pears are a light crop. Plums, peaches and grapes are very much above the yields of last season. Small fruits are a medium to full crop.

COUNTIES ALONG LAKE ONTARIO.

Early apples are a medium crop in the counties bordering on Lake Ontario, but the fall and winter varieties are not up to last year except in a few cases. The fruit, though lacking in quantity promises to be above the average in quality. Pears are scarce and scab has been reported bad in Ontario county. The outlook for plums is for a full crop, double that of 1904.

POOR PROMISE ALONG LAKE HURON.

As anticipated in last month's report, the apple crop in the Lake Huron district will be light. The best the growers can promise is 30 to 50 per cent. of last year's yield. Pears promise a light crop to a failure, although one report quotes 25 per cent. ahead of 1904.

GEORGIAN BAY COUNTIES.

Reports from growers in the Georgian Bay district place the apple crop equal to last year's. Ben Davis trees are well loaded. Prospects early in the season were bright for the Pewaukee, but the fruit is falling off. Plums promise a heavy yield, while small fruits are better than last year.

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