

GROWERS' VIEWS OF FRUIT PROSPECTS

Our peach trees were thought at first to be frozen, but good luck saved them. They are not so bad as first indications led us to believe. Have been through 10 or 15 orchards and find them all the same. The mice did a lot of damage to young trees. I lost 100 out of 4,000 trees. Some are very bad.—(J. E. Hambley, Kent Co., Ont.)

Peach trees are killed at the ground, but are showing blossoms. Those on sandy ground are all killed; those on clay loam only a few killed, except those by mice.—(Harry Forbes, Kent Co., Ont.)

The spring has been so unfavorable for the trees that it is difficult to determine the true condition of the trees as to injury done by the winter.—(M. G. Bruner, Essex Co., Ont.)

I find strawberries are very badly injured by the winter, except where heavily mulched.—(G. A. Heath, Norfolk Co., Ont.)

Very few strawberries in our county. I tried them for three or four years; they would have many blossoms, but very few berries, so plowed them under.—(J. W. Harum, Hastings Co., Ont.)

Strawberries look fine. Peaches are all dead, and some plum trees. The fruit crop looks favorable. The first cry was that the buds were all killed, but they are coming out all right and everything is growing fast.—(R. Morton, Durham Co., Ont.)

Red raspberries here have been badly winter killed. Blacks have come through better.—(H. M. Casselman, Lambton Co., Ont.)

Strawberries are in very poor condition. About half the most extensive growers are plowing their berries up. In quite a few cases there are not enough plants to set out a new bed. The ice in the spring killed the strawberries, I think. Fall mulched plants are injured as bad as those not mulched.—(J. W. Munroe, Welland Co., Ont.)

We have not been troubled to any extent with borers or oyster shell bark louse. We give clean cultivation and stop working about August 1st. We thin the fruit to about six inches apart on the limbs and find it pays well to do so. If we allow our trees to overbear one year we are almost sure to have no crop the next. The loss of trees in this section has been very heavy the past winter, in some cases almost 90 per cent. My own loss by actual count has been 34 per cent.—(A. Dawson, Brant Co., Ont.)

The strawberries that were not mulched or covered with snow during the winter were nearly all killed. I lost about 25 acres. Strawberries in this section are nearly all killed. Raspberries are also damaged very much. Blackberries came through all right.—(A. Railton, Welland Co., Ont.)

Strawberry plants are badly injured. On the 3 acres I will not have enough to fill a crate, and what plants appear alive have not strength enough to throw out a blossom. Some peach

trees around Leamington appear to be as badly killed as they were five years ago, but here I believe the orchards will show a good per cent. of uninjured trees, probably 75 to 85 per cent. They are now full of bloom and foliage, excepting a couple of spots; my orchard never looked better.—(J. O. Duke, Essex Co., Ont.)

Strawberry plants are looking pretty well, but are backward. The few blossoms that are out are black with frost.—(John Mead, Halton Co., Ont.)

Strawberry plants in poor condition and over two-thirds winter killed. A large percentage of the peach trees that are showing buds now I think will die. As a rule, if one bud in ten matures a peach it makes a large crop. The few buds that are out now look very pale, which is not a good sign, as they generally drop off.—(F. G. Stewart, Lincoln Co., Ont.)

Plum trees bore so heavy last season they were in poor condition to stand the winter.—(G. Gatt, Lambton Co., Ont.)

Vineyards are being pulled up on account of dry and grey rot; poor prospects for this year's grape crop.—(J. Dougal, Essex Co., Ont.)

In Glenlog township little spraying is done. Japanese plums promise a good yield and have wintered all right. Lice are common on apple trees. Pruning has been well done.—(R. T. Edwards, Grey Co., Ont.)

Little can be said with certainty yet about the mice and winter frost. A great deal of damage was done. I lost one large Abundance, one large Burbank, and a lot of smaller trees.—(S. Spillet, Simcoe Co., Ont.)

The prevailing wet weather during May will make apple scab very prevalent, where trees are not sprayed, and curl leaf on peaches.—(Jos. Tweddle, Wentworth Co., Ont.)

Strawberries are not much good owing to the last two seasons being wet. The plots have all gone out of repair and grown up into grass, and many of them will have to be plowed up.—(J. J. Coyle, Lambton Co., Ont.)

Old trees are hurt to a great extent, perhaps 50 per cent.; 4 to 6 year old trees about 5 per cent., and 1 to 2 year trees are strong and healthy. One man had 800 trees, fully 700 of which are killed. Very few fruit buds seen as yet. I have ten acres of fruit, and not one tree girdled by mice. Out of an orchard of 1,500 peach trees only 25 are killed. Strawberries very badly killed.—(James Ellis, Wentworth Co., Ont.)

Peach trees show about 30 per cent. of the usual bloom in some cases and less in others. Winter killing of peach buds has been unusually severe, partly because many orchards are in a weak condition on account of San Jose scale infestation. Orchards that have been treated for this enemy have wintered well and buds show for a fair crop. One grower near Queens-
ton Heights lost 300 fine peach trees and others more or less.—(Mr. Armstrong, Niagara Co.