

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Bureau of Agricultural Economics  
and  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Bureau of Foods & Standards Cooperating

MARKET NEWS SERVICE ON FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

MARKETING THE MICHIGAN PEAR CROP  
Brief Review of the 1937 Season

By

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Market reports on pears were issued from the Benton Harbor, Michigan office from August 30 to October 18, 1937.

National Situation

The estimated United States pear production for 1937 amounted to 30,139,000 bushels, which is the largest crop on record. This is 12% larger than the 1936 crop of 26,956,000 bushels and 20% above the 5-year average (1928-32) of 24,344,000 bushels. The Pacific northwest reported a record crop, with the California harvest the second largest on record. In the East, production was slightly above 1936 and average, while the Central states production was much above average.

Rail shipments of pears to date (December 19) are slightly below those of a year ago, amounting to 16,617 cars as compared to 16,716 cars for 1936.

Michigan Situation

Michigan's 1937 pear harvest was estimated at 1,380,000 bushels, slightly under the record 1936 crop of 1,390,000 bushels, but almost double the 5-year average (1928-32) of 749,000 bushels. The 1937 pear harvest was the second largest on record. There was virtually no winter injury to buds or trees and little loss from frosts at blossoming time. Rain was ample during the spring and summer to set and size a heavy crop of fruit. Due to alternate bearing habits Bartletts were somewhat heavier and Kieffers a little lighter than in 1936.

Prices for pears returned around the same values as in 1936. Kieffers both to canners and over the market brought about the same as in 1936. There was almost no demand for carlots of fresh Kieffers from the Dakotas and Minnesota usually a normal outlet as earlier shipments from Illinois had filled this territory. However, the demand by local and Canadian canners was active enough to take most offerings. Kieffers 2-inch minimum over the Benton Harbor Cash Market ranged from 35¢ to 75¢ per bushel. Sales to canners for 2-1/4 inch stock and larger, bulk per cwt. moved at mostly 90¢ and for 2-inch stock 60¢. Demand for Bartletts was good. Warehouse sales f.o.b. usual terms and cash track for U.S. No. 1 2-inch minimum stock ranged during harvest season from \$1.35 to \$1.50. Cold storage stock moved as high as \$1.85. Sales over the Benton Harbor Cash Market ranged from \$.85 to \$1.95. The higher priced stock was cold storage offerings.

Rail and boat movement as well as truck movement over the Market was much lighter this season than in 1936. The combined rail and boat movement amounted to 144 cars and truck movement over the Market amounted to 201 cars. This compares to 539 cars and 588 cars respectively a year ago. The decrease in shipments of Kieffers to the fresh market and diversion to canning outlets largely accounted for this. Also the diversion of the equivalent of 220 cars of Bartletts to canners who in years prior to this haven't canned this variety in volume, accounted for some of the decrease in fresh shipments.

Canners were very active in the 1937 pear deal, using the largest quantity ever handles to date from Michigan. A total of 411,500 bushels were used by canners. Of this total, 275,000 bushels were Kieffers taken by local canners, 26,500 bushels were Kieffers taken by Canadian canners and 110,000 bushels were Bartletts used by local canners.

Summary of Pear Movement and Average Price of Benton Harbor Cash Market:

(Season)	(Carlot Equivalents)	(Value per bushel)	(Total Value)
1931	125	\$.98	\$ 49,100.00
1932	404	.75	119,831.00
1933	206	1.02	84,212.00
1934	774	.82	253,500.00
1935	280	.96	106,920.65
1936	588	.86	202,123.22
1937	201	.93	93,506.85

CANNER PURCHASES AND PRICES PAID TO GROWERS 1927-1937

Year	Number of bushels reported purchased by canners:	Prices paid to growers Bulk per cwt., U.S.No.1:
1937	301,500 Kieffers	\$.90 (2 1/4" min.) \$.60 (2-2 1/4")
1936	325,000 "	.90 " .60 "
1935	215,000 "	.90 " .60 "
1934	261,000 "	.90 " .60 "
1933	211,000 "	1.00 " .60 "
1932	217,000 "	.60 " .37 1/2-.45 "
1931	80,000 "	.80 " "
1930	210,000 "	1.00 " "
1929	100,000 "	2.25 " "
1928	225,000 "	1.40 " "
1927	125,000 "	1.35 " "
(1937)	110,000 Bartletts	1.65 (2" min.) 1.10 (1-3/4"-2")

THE PEAR OUTLOOK FOR 1938

The trend of pear production in the United States is upward, chiefly because of increasing production in the three Pacific Coast States. Although new plantings of pears have almost ceased, there are sufficient young trees to permit the upward trend in production to continue for several years. Orchards in the important commercial pear-producing areas of California, Oregon, Washington, New York, Illinois, and Michigan were given good care in 1936 and very little abandonment took place. Neglect has been general in many other States where pear growing has been relatively unimportant and proved unprofitable.

PEARS: TOTAL PRODUCTION AND PRODUCTION BY PRINCIPAL STATES AND REGIONS

Year	: East :		: Middle :		: Others :	
	: Total :	: Atlantic States :	: North Central States :	: Oregon and Washington :	: Cali-fornia :	: 1,000 bushels :
1899 <sup>3/</sup>	6,625	2,185	782	190	1,913	1,555
1909 <sup>3/</sup>	8,841	2,185	1,623	685	1,928	2,420
1919	14,891	2,653	1,046	2,490	4,625	4,077
1922-26	20,305	2,945	1,718	4,318	6,692	4,632
1927-31	23,213	1,803	1,854	6,230	9,087	4,259
1932-36	25,438	2,117	2,582	7,876	9,084	3,780
1936	26,956	1,887	2,194	9,160	9,792	3,923
1937 <sup>4/</sup>	29,822	2,060	3,770	9,118	10,099	4,775

1/ New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania. 2/ Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin. 3/ Census Reports. 4/ Preliminary.

Number of Pear Trees Declining

The number of bearing trees in the United States has decreased considerably during the last decade but the number of bearing pear trees in 1935 was only slightly smaller than in 1900. Of a total of 19,436,000 pear trees in 1935, 86% were in bearing compared with 21,271,000 trees in 1930, of which 75% were in bearing. The commercial pear industry of the United States has shifted from the East to the West in the last 25 years. Only about 16% of the pear trees in the country were located in the Pacific Coast States in 1910 whereas about one-half of the trees and 69% of the crop was centered in these States in 1935.

Pear trees: Total bearing and nonbearing trees by census years, and the percentage of trees of bearing and nonbearing age

Year	All Ages	Bearing Age	Not of bearing age	Percentage of bearing age	Percentage not of bearing age
	: 1,000 trees	: 1,000 trees	: 1,000 trees	: Percent	: Percent
1900	1/	17,716	---	---	---
1910	23,975	15,171	8,804	63.3	36.7
1920	20,700	14,648	6,052	70.8	29.2
1925	23,198	2/	---	---	---
1930	21,271	16,043	5,228	75.4	24.6
1935	19,436	16,695	2,741	85.9	14.1

Compiled from Census Reports rounded to thousands. 1/ Only trees of bearing age were supposed to be tabulated but probably some nonbearing trees were included. 2/ Only the total number of trees were reported.

-----Released at Washington, D. C. November 10, 1937.

CARLOT SHIPMENTS OF MICHIGAN PEARS DURING 1937 SEASON BY COUNTIES AND BILLING STATIONS

Rail and boat only.

County and Station	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Total
<u>Allegan</u>				
Fennville	4	16	1	21
<u>Benzie</u>				
Frankfort		2		2
<u>Berrien</u>				
Benton Harbor	1	4	42	47
Derby		3	9	12
Glendora			6	6
St. Joseph		2	1	3
Stevensville		2		2
Total	1	11	58	70
<u>Mason</u>				
Ludington		20		20
<u>Muskegon</u>				
Muskegon		1	1	2
<u>Van Buren</u>				
Bangor	1			1
South Haven	2	25		27
Total	3	25		28
Boat Shipments		1		1
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>144</b>

Continued on Page 3

DISTRIBUTION OF MICHIGAN PEAR SHIPMENTS, 1937 SEASON  
(Rail and Boat)

State and City	Cars	State and City	Cars	State and City	Cars
<b>ILLINOIS</b>		<b>OHIO</b>		<b>WISCONSIN (Cont'd)</b>	
Blue Island	3	Cincinnati	3	Oshkosh	1
Chicago	3	Cleveland	6	Racine	1
<b>IOWA</b>		Columbus	4	Sheboygan	1
Cedar Falls	1	Ironton	1	Wausau	1
Sioux City	1	<b>PENNSYLVANIA</b>		<b>ONTARIO, CANADA</b>	
<b>MICHIGAN</b>		Pittsburgh	2	Chatham	2
Detroit	4	<b>WEST VIRGINIA</b>		Fonthill	5
Houghton	1	Charleston	1	Grimsby	10
Ironwood	1	<b>WISCONSIN</b>		Niagara	5
Ishpeming	1	Abbotsford	1	St. Catherine	14
<b>MINNESOTA</b>		Appleton	3	Windsor	13
Minneapolis	2	Bloomer	1	<b>UNKNOWN</b>	16
<b>NEBRASKA</b>		Green Bay	8		
Lincoln	2	La Crosse	1		
<b>NEW YORK</b>		Manitowoc	2		
Buffalo	2	Milwaukee	21		
				<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>144</b>

CARLOT PEAR SHIPMENTS BY STATES FOR CALENDAR YEARS 1932-1937  
(Rail and Boat)

State	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
	Cars	Cars	Cars	Cars	Cars	Cars
Alabama	37	--	20	--	39	--
Arkansas	--	--	--	--	--	--
California, N.D.	5,357	4,064	5,544	3,605	5,099	5,780
" S.D.	16	26	14	25	13	15
" C.D.	2,073	1,495	2,043	1,274	1,713	1,255
Colorado	125	79	153	73	138	25
Delaware	25	--	3	2	4	--
Florida	--	--	--	--	8	2
Georgia	--	--	1	--	4	2
Idaho	16	11	12	11	18	--
Illinois	--	188	872	485	28	701
Indiana	--	--	8	13	--	2
Iowa	--	2	4	21	--	13
Kansas	--	--	13	7	--	3
Maryland, E.S.	15	4	3	1	} 8	--
" Other	21	2	2	1		--
<b>MICHIGAN</b>	490	127	413	200	539	144
Mississippi	24	--	22	--	48	--
Missouri	--	2	8	23	--	5
Nebraska	--	--	--	2	6	2
New Jersey	1	--	--	--	--	--
New Mexico	--	--	12	--	--	1
New York	2,342	989	770	252	371	294
Ohio	34	11	24	25	22	12
Oregon	3,454	2,663	2,697	3,411	4,126	2,486
Pennsylvania	11	1	1	--	--	--
Texas	92	--	52	16	22	22
Utah	13	--	15	--	20	1
Virginia, N.S.	1	2	--	--	--	--
" Other	4	--	--	--	--	--
Washington	3,729	4,340	4,634	5,315	5,896	5,197
West Virginia	3	11	3	7	3	7
<b>TOTAL U.S.</b>	<b>17,891</b>	<b>14,017</b>	<b>17,343</b>	<b>14,769</b>	<b>18,120</b>	<b>15,957#</b>

Note: (#) Total for period July 1, 1937 to November 27, 1937.

PRODUCTION OF PEARS BY STATES 1937 SEASON  
(with comparisons)

STATE	Production			STATE	Production		
	Average 1928-32	1936	1937		Average 1928-32	1936	1937
	1,000 bushels				1,000 bushels		
Maine.....	14	8	8	Florida.....	68	156	127
New Hampshire.....	13	7	15	Kentucky.....	194	80	411
Vermont.....	10	2	6	Tennessee.....	239	186	284
Massachusetts.....	70	65	65	Alabama.....	292	368	211
Rhode Island.....	10	10	12	Mississippi.....	234	484	157
Connecticut.....	43	49	48	Arkansas.....	133	90	214
New York.....	1,361	1,231	1,305	Louisiana.....	89	179	70
New Jersey.....	103	68	56	Oklahoma.....	130	5	141
Pennsylvania.....	519	588	817	Texas.....	372	360	412
Ohio.....	467	384	992	Idaho.....	64	60	56
Indiana.....	276	176	630	Colorado.....	340	220	153
Illinois.....	475	244	999	New Mexico.....	44	34	59
<b>MICHIGAN.....</b>	<b>749</b>	<b>1,390</b>	<b>1,380</b>	Arizona.....	14	10	8
Iowa.....	94	45	144	Utah.....	83	125	64
Missouri.....	314	92	684	Nevada.....	4	5	4
Nebraska.....	39	19	43	Washington.....	1/3,921	5,400	5,694
Kansas.....	144	26	220	Oregon.....	1/2,855	3,760	3,621
Delaware.....	25	12	10	California.....	1/9,534	9,792	9,822
Maryland.....	104	101	73	<b>TOTAL UNITED STATES-</b>			
Virginia.....	284	360	416		<b>24,334</b>	<b>26,956</b>	<b>30,139</b>
West Virginia.....	63	17	111				
North Carolina.....	220	240	281				
South Carolina.....	96	112	72				
Georgia.....	226	396	244				

1/ Includes some quantities not harvested on account of market conditions.

BENTON HARBOR CASH MARKET ON PEARS, 1937 SEASON

Prices are for truckloads cash to growers, Bushel baskets, U.S.No.1 stock, sizes as indicated. Equivalents are on a basis of 400 bushels per carload.

Date	Bosc. 2" & 2 1/4" min	Bartletts		Seckels 1-3/4" min	Anjous, Clairgeaus, Howells Sheldons, Sugars, Garbers		Carlots Equivalents
		2" & 1 gr.	1-3/4" min		2" & 2 1/4" min.	Kieffers	
Aug. 30		\$.85-1.35	.65-.70				8.59
31		.90-1.35		.75-1.10			6.34
Sept. 1		1.10-1.40					8.58
2		1.15-1.40		.80-.90			7.63
3		1.10-1.40	.75-.85		1.00		5.30
6		1.25-1.40	1.00-1.10		1.25		8.89
7		1.25-1.50	1.00-1.15		.75	Kieffers	4.00
8		1.25-1.50	1.00-1.10			.50	6.59
9		1.35-1.60	1.10-1.15	.75	.75		4.84
10		1.35-1.75		.90-1.00	.80-.90		2.77
12		1.50-1.75		1.00-1.10	.90-1.10	.65	5.91
13		1.65-1.85		1.00	.85-1.00	.40	2.19
14		1.50		1.00-1.15	.80-.85		1.38
15		1.25-1.65	1.00	.85-1.10	.85-1.25	.50-.60	2.71
16		1.25-1.50		.85-1.10	.75-1.10		2.83
17		1.55-1.65			.70-1.00		.96
19		1.75		1.25-1.40	.75-1.00		3.65
20	1.25-1.40	1.75			.70-1.00	.50	1.43
21	1.25	1.75-1.90			.70-1.00	.50	2.64
22	1.25-1.40	1.75-1.90			.75-1.00		2.43
23	1.25-1.50	1.85			.60-.75		2.69
24	1.35-1.40	1.75-1.85			1.00-1.25		1.90
26	1.35	1.75				.60-.75	4.28
27	1.25-1.35				1.00	.50-.65	1.70
28	1.25-1.35				1.00	.50-.65	2.63
29	1.25	1.75-1.85		1.35	.85-1.00	.45-.60	2.18
30		1.75		1.15		.40-.70	2.02
Oct. 1	1.50	1.75		1.35		.55-.65	1.69
3	1.50	1.75			1.00	.55-.65	6.89
4		1.75			.70	.45-.65	.91
5						.45-.70	2.12
6						.50-.60	1.84
7						.50-.65	1.96
8			1.20			.45-.60	1.11
10	1.75	1.85	1.20-1.25			.45-.65	4.73
11	1.50	1.25-2.00	1.20-1.25			.45-.65	1.48
12	1.05	1.75-1.85	1.20-1.25			.45-.65	1.84
13	1.35-1.50	1.75-1.85	1.20-1.25			.50-.65	1.73
14		1.50-1.75	1.20			.50-.65	1.44
15	1.50		1.25			.45-.70	1.04
17	1.50				.75	.40-.65	2.95
18	1.50					.50-.60	1.29
19	1.50		1.25			.45-.60	1.48
20	1.50	1.75	1.25			.50-.60	2.01
21						.40-.50	2.12
22						.40-.60	1.59
24	1.50					.40-.60	1.73
25						.50-.55	.81
26						.45-.55	1.36
27						.45-.55	1.10
28						.35-.60	1.26
29						.50	.72
31						.35-.50	1.11

# indicates total 1937 season to date.

PEARS - 1937 DAILY CARLOT SHIPMENTS AND F.O.B. PRICES AT WESTERN

MICHIGAN SHIPPING POINTS

Sales are for bushel baskets, U.S.No.1 stock.

Date	Shipments		Bartletts 2" min.	Bosc 2" min.	Sheldons, Anjous, Flemish Beauties Howells, Seckles, Clairgeaus
	Mich	U.S.			
Aug. 30	1	222	1.40		
31	2	188	1.35-1.45		
Sept. 1	3	202	1.35-1.45		
2	7	195	1.40-1.45		
3	8	225	1.40-1.45		
4	3	208	1.40-1.45		
5	0	63	Sunday		
6	2	93	1.40-1.45		
7	4	219	1.40		
8	3	179	1.40-1.45		
9	0	205	1.40-1.50		
10	7	180	1.40-1.70		
11	6	230	1.40-1.65		
12	0	98	Sunday		
13	5	206	1.65		
14	2	229	1.75-1.85		
15	2	206			.85-1.30
16	1	220	1.75-1.85		
17	4	253	Too few sales reported to quote.		
18	3	272			.80-.85
19	0	103	Sunday		
20	0	223	Too few sales reported to quote.		
21	1	187	"		
22	3	205	"		
23	1	177		1.50	
24	0	204		1.50	
25	0	203	Too few sales reported to quote.		
26	0	89	Sunday		
27	0	196	Too few sales reported to quote.		
28	1	187		1.50	
29	1	174		1.40	
30	3	174	Too few sales reported to quote.		
Oct. 1	1	140	"		
2	to Oct 18		"		

MARKETING THE MICHIGAN PEAR CROP (Cont'd) 1937 Season

RANGE OF JOBBING SALES MICHIGAN PEARS 1937 SEASON  
IN IMPORTANT MARKETS

Prices are for bushel baskets  
US#1, complete size range.

CINCINNATI

Dates	Bartletts	2" min.	Dates	
Sept. 1		1.75	Sept. 23	2.00
2	1.70-1.75		24	2.00
7	1.75		29	2.00
8	1.65		30	1.90-2.00
9	1.65		Oct. 1	1.85-1.90
10	1.65		5	1.75-2.15
13	1.65-1.75		6	2.10-2.15
14	1.75		7	2.10-2.15
15	1.75		8	2.10-2.15
16	1.75			
20	1.75-2.10			
21	1.75-2.10			
22	1.75-2.10			

DETROIT

Dates	Bartletts	2" min.	2" min.	Anjous, Howells, Rosneys, Clairgeaus, Seckles	2" min.
Sept. 1	1.50-1.65	1.50-1.65			
2	1.50	1.50			
3	1.45-1.50	1.45-1.50			
7	1.75				
8	1.65-1.75	1.65-1.75			
9	1.70-1.75	1.70-1.75			
10		1.75			
13		1.75		1.15-1.25	
14				1.15-1.25	
15				1.15-1.25	
16				1.15-1.25	
17				1.10-1.25	
20				1.40	
22		1.90-2.00			
23		1.85-2.00			
24		1.85-1.90			
27	1.75			1.15-1.50	Bosc
28		1.50-1.65		1.25-1.40	1.75
29		1.50-1.75			1.50
30		1.65-1.75			1.25-1.50
Oct. 1		1.50-1.75			Kieffers
4		1.65-1.75			1.10
5		1.75			1.10
6		1.50-1.75			1.00
7		1.50-1.75			1.00
8		1.50-1.75			1.00
11					1.00
12		1.75			.90-1.00
13		1.65			.90
14		1.65-1.75			.85
15		1.50-1.75			.85

MILWAUKEE

Dates	Bartletts	Seckels	Kieffers	Dates	Bartletts	Seckels	Kieffers
	2" min.	2" min.	2" & 2 1/4"		2" min.	2" min.	2" & 2 1/4"
Aug. 30	1.50-1.65			Sept. 30	1.75-2.00		
31	1.50-1.65			Oct. 1	1.65-1.80	1.00-1.50	
Sept. 1	1.50-1.65			4	1.75-2.00		.75-.90
2	1.50-1.65			5	1.75-2.00		.75-.90
3	1.45-1.65			6	1.75-2.00		.75-.90
7	1.40-1.65			7	1.75-2.00		.75-.90
8	1.40-1.65			8	1.75-2.00		.75-.90
9	1.40-1.65			11	1.75-2.00	1.50-1.60	.75
10	1.40-1.65			12	1.75-2.00	1.50-1.60	.75
13	1.50-2.00			13	1.75-2.00	1.50-1.60	.75
14	1.90-2.00			14	1.75-2.00	1.50-1.60	.75
15	1.90-2.00			15	1.75-2.00		.75
16	2.00-2.25			16	1.75-2.00		.75
17	2.00-2.25			19	1.65-1.75		.80
20	1.85-2.25			20	1.65-1.75		.80
21	1.85-2.25			21	1.75-1.85		.80
22	1.75-2.00			22	1.75-2.00		.80
23	1.75-2.00	1.40-1.50		25	1.75-1.85		.80
24	1.75-2.00	1.40-1.50		26	1.75-1.85		.80
27	1.75-2.00	1.50		27	1.75-1.85		.80
28	1.75-2.00	1.25-1.40		28	1.75-2.00		.80
29	1.75-2.00	1.25-1.40		29	1.75-2.00		.80

CHICAGO

Dates	Bartletts	Bosc	Clapps, Clairgeaus, Howells,	Kieffers
	2 1/4" min.	2 1/4" min.	Anjous, Seckles, Flem. Beauties	2 1/4" min.
			2" & up	
Aug. 30		1.50-1.60	1.10-1.60	.60-.75
31	1.50-1.75		1.00-1.50	
Sept. 1	1.25-1.50		1.00-1.25	
2	1.25-1.50		1.00-1.50	
3	1.40-1.65		1.00-1.40	
7	1.50-1.60		1.75	
8	1.25-1.50		1.25-1.40	
9	1.40-1.75	1.25	.75-1.50	
10	1.50-1.75		1.25-1.40	
13	1.65-1.75	1.35-1.50	1.00-1.25	

