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MARKETING THE MICHIGAN PEAR CROP  
A brief review of the 1945 Season  
by  
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The following summary is a compilation based on Market News reports issued by the United States Department of Agriculture, Production and Marketing Administration, from August 3 to October 17, 1945 at Benton Harbor, Michigan.

National Situation

The national 1945 pear crop was estimated by the Crop Reporting Board, Washington, D. C. as of December 1, 1945 at 33,574,000 bushels, 5% larger than the 1944 crop of 31,956,000 bushels and 17% above the 10-year (1934-43) average of 28,616,000 bushels.

In the West, where about three-fourths of the crop is usually grown, production was about a third above average. The North Atlantic states, however, produced only about one-fourth of an average crop, and the North Central states about one-half of average. Spring frosts and freezes severely damaged the crops in these sections. In the three Pacific states, production of Bartletts was 16% above last year and 40% more than average. Other varieties were 14% above 1944 and 22% above average.

Total United States rail shipments of pears through January 19, 1945 amounted to 18,448 cars compared to 16,053 cars a year ago to date and final forwardings of 1944-45 shipments of 17,111 cars.

Michigan Situation

Michigan's 1945 pear production was severely damaged by freakish spring weather. During March and early April, extremely warm weather prevailed and trees were in bloom two to three weeks in advance of usual date. During the latter part of April and early in May, frosts and freezing temperatures were general with a heavy freeze occurring April 28 and May 1. In addition, considerable rainfall occurred during May causing poor pollination. As a result of these conditions, the 1945 pear crop was the smallest since records have been issued.

The 1945 Michigan pear production was estimated by the Crop Reporting Board, Washington, D. C. as of December 1, 1945 at 178,000 bushels, 85% below the 1944 crop of 1,193,000 bushels, and 84% below the 10-year (1934-43) average of 1,114,000 bushels. The 1945 crop was also 63% below the light crop for 1943 of 481,000 bushels. Quality of the crop was very poor and little or no attempt was made by growers to put up a U. S. No. 1 pack. This was especially noted of the offerings over the Benton Harbor Cash Market. A small volume of Bartletts graded U. S. No. 1 and realized good prices, however, most Kieffers were only ordinary quality and sold at lower figures. Size of all varieties was very irregular.

Marketing

Receipts over the Benton Harbor Cash Market were the lowest ever recorded, amounting to 33 carlot equivalents, based on 500 bushels per carload, and compares to 388 carlot equivalents in 1944, 138 carlot equivalents for the light 1943 crop, and to the previous high of 774 carlot equivalents recorded in 1934. The weighted average price for all varieties and grades over the Market was set at \$2.50 per bushel and compares to \$1.91 per bushel in 1944 and \$3.05 per bushel in 1943, the highest price recorded. Cash to growers sales over the Benton Harbor Cash Market showed a wide range in prices due to quality and condition and ranged as follows: Howells, very few sales \$2.25-3.40, Bartletts \$2.50-4.40, Kieffers \$1.25-2.00.

F.o.b. sales at country shipping points were too few to quote at any time during the season.

The volume of Michigan pears used by Western Michigan processors during 1945 was extremely light and an accurate tabulation by varieties is unavailable, however, reports indicate considerably less than 3,000 bushels were used for processing.

Shipments

Shipments by rail were also the lowest ever recorded with a total of 10 cars for the 1945 season, destinations of which are unavailable. Rail shipments in previous years were as follows: 194 cars for 1944, 36 cars for 1943, 85 cars for 1942, and 95 cars for 1941.

PRODUCTION OF PEARS BY STATES 1945 SEASON

Crop report as of December 1, 1945, Production with Comparisons. Released by Crop Reporting Board, Washington, D. C., December 18, 1945

Production 1/				Production 1/			
STATE	Average	1944	1945	STATE	Average	1944	1945
Thousand Bushels				Thousand Bushels			
Maine	7	10	1	Kentucky	223	135	248
New Hampshire	9	10	1	Tennessee	286	188	467
Vermont	3	3	2/	Alabama	291	312	416
Massachusetts	55	48	10	Mississippi	360	354	401
Rhode Island	7	7	3	Arkansas	172	228	231
Connecticut	64	77	37	Louisiana	163	245	228
New York	1,053	1,157	272	Oklahoma	143	96	203
New Jersey	58	52	37	Texas	403	502	496
Pennsylvania	513	464	120	Idaho	59	69	59
Ohio	500	373	238	Colorado	195	157	255
Indiana	267	157	146	New Mexico	47	50	54
Illinois	517	335	354	Arizona	10	10	5
MICHIGAN	1,114	1,193	178	Utah	127	170	223
Iowa	104	55	58	Nevada	4	6	4
Missouri	354	175	370	Washington, all	6,260	8,665	7,922
Nebraska	26	10	12	Bartlett	4,420	6,885	6,302
Kansas	131	63	117	Other	1,841	1,780	1,620
Delaware	6	7	3	Oregon, all	3,720	4,354	5,134
Maryland	61	52	23	Bartlett	1,553	1,794	2,250
Virginia	349	428	61	Other	2,167	2,560	2,884
West Virginia	76	132	18	California, all	9,951	10,417	13,959
North Carolina	317	364	360	Bartlett	8,722	9,167	12,084
South Carolina	128	160	191	Other	1,229	1,250	1,875
Georgia	347	500	502	UNITED STATES	28,616	31,956	33,574
Florida	135	176	157				

1/ For some States in certain years, production includes some quantities unharvested on account of economic conditions. In 1944 and 1945, estimates of such quantities were as follows (1,000 bushels): 1944 - New York, 25; Pennsylvania, 16; Ohio, 10; Washington Bartlett, 287; California Bartlett, 125; 1945 - California Bartlett, 458.

2/ Production less than 1,000 bushels.

PROCESSORS' PURCHASES AND PRICES PAID TO GROWERS

YEAR	Number of bushels reported purchased by processors	Prices paid to growers bulk per cwt. U. S. No. 1				
		1 3/4"	1 3/4" 2"	2"	2" 2 1/4"	2 1/4"
1945	Very small crop - too few purchases reported to tabulate					
1944	130,000 Kieffers	\$1.00		\$1.50		\$2.25
	127,800 Bartletts	1.90			\$3.65	
1943	35,800 Kieffers	1.87		2.37		
	7,224 Bartletts			4.21		
	1,246 Howells			3.94		
1942	230,210 Kieffers		\$.50		1.00	1.50
	140,000 Bartletts		1.50	2.80		
1941	295,000 Kieffers	.30		.60		.90
	220,000 Bartletts		1.25	2.25		
1940	348,290 Kieffers	.30		.60		.90
	159,807 Bartletts	1.25		2.00		2.00
1939	349,000 Kieffers				.60	.90
	110,000 Bartletts				1.00	1.75
1938	250,000 Kieffers				.40	.60
	140,000 Bartletts				.80	1.20
1937	301,500 Kieffers				.60	.90
	110,000 Bartletts	1.10		1.65		
1936	325,000 Kieffers				.60	.90
1935	215,000 Kieffers				.60	.90
1934	261,000 Kieffers				.60	.90
1933	211,000 Kieffers				.60	1.00
1932	217,000 Kieffers				.375	.45
1931	80,000 Kieffers					.80
1930	210,000 Kieffers					1.00
1929	100,000 Kieffers					2.25
1928	225,000 Kieffers					1.40
1927	125,000 Kieffers					1.35

BENTON HARBOR CASH MARKET ON PEARS

1945 Season

Prices are for truckloads cash to growers, bushel baskets, various sizes and grades

DATE	Howells	Bartletts	Anjous	Clairgeans	Kieffers
Aug. 16	\$3.40	\$4.40			
Sept. 3		2.50			
5		4.00			
23	2.25-2.75		\$2.25-2.75		
30			2.00-2.25	\$2.00-2.25	\$1.75-2.00
Oct. 3					1.50-1.80
4					1.50
5					1.50
7					1.50-1.75
8					1.50-1.65
9					1.35-2.00
10					1.35-1.60
11					1.50-1.75
12					1.50-1.65
14					1.25-1.85
16					1.25-1.50
17					1.25-1.50

SUMMARY OF PEAR MOVEMENT AND AVERAGE PRICE ON BENTON HARBOR CASH MARKET

(Season)	(Carlot Equivalents)	(Value per bushel)	(Total Value)
1931	125	\$.98	\$ 49,100
1932	404	.75	119,831
1933	206	1.02	84,212
1934	774	.82	253,501
1935	280	.96	106,921
1936	588	.86	202,123
1937	201	.93	93,507
1938	326	.75	122,114
1939	373	.82	152,845
1940	307	.95	145,696
1941	381	.83	158,022
1942	249	1.57	195,490
1943	138	3.05	210,908
1944	388	1.91	370,503
1945	33	2.50	41,080

MICHIGAN PEAR TRUCK MOVEMENT - 1945 SEASON

Benton Harbor Truck Carlot Equivalents - Basis 500 bushels per car

DATE	1945	DATE	1945	DATE	1945	DATE	1945
Aug. 31	4	Sept. 13	0	Sept. 26	0	Oct. 9	0
Sept. 1	Sat.	14	0	27	0	10	1
2	Holiday	15	Sat.	28	0	11	1
3	2	16	1	29	Sat.	12	1
4	1	17	0	30	1	13	Sat.
5	1	18	0	Oct. 1	0	14	3
6	1	19	1	2	0	15	0
7	0	20	1	3	0	16	1
8	Sat.	21	0	4	1	17	1
9	1	22	Sat.	5	0	18	6*
10	0	23	1	6	Sat.	Total	33
11	0	24	0	7	2	(#) Total through 8/31/45.	
12	0	25	0	8	1	(* Total to end of season	