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MARKETING THE MICHIGAN PEAR CROP

A Brief Review of the 1947 Season

by

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The figures and tabulations contained in this Summary are compilations based on Market News reports issued by the Fruit and Vegetable Branch, Production and Marketing Administration, United States Department of Agriculture. These reports on Pears were issued at Benton Harbor, Michigan, from August 11 through October 31, 1947.

PRODUCTION: National Situation

Total United States production of pears as estimated December 1, 1947, by the Crop Reporting Board, Washington, D. C., was 35,350,000 bushels, a record high. This figure is 3 percent higher than the 1946 crop of 34,447,000 bushels and 5,840,000 bushels above the 10-year (1936-45) average of 29,510,000 bushels. 1945 production was 33,042,000 bushels.

Production in the Western States is usually around three-fourths of the National crop. In California, Oregon, and Washington the 1947 production of 28,280,000 bushels was 352,000 bushels greater than the 1946 figure of 27,928,000 bushels and 6,675,000 over the 10-year (1936-45) average total of 21,605,000 for the three States. The remainder of the country's production, 7,070,000 bushels, was 8 percent larger than the 1946 total and 10 percent under the 10-year (1936-45) average of 7,905,000 bushels. Bartlett pear production in the three Pacific Coast States totaled 20,340,000 bushels, an increase of 87,000 bushels over the 1946 crop of 20,253,000, and 4,334,000 bushels over the 10-year (1936-45) average of 15,026,000 bushels. Other varieties produced heavily and a total 7,940,000 bushels was reported as compared to the 7,675,000 bushels in 1946 and 5,579,000 bushels average for the 10-year period, 1936-45.

PRODUCTION: Michigan Situation

The 1947 Michigan pear crop, as of December 1, 1947, was estimated by the Crop Reporting Board, Washington, D. C., at 564,000 bushels. This was 132,000 bushels under the 1946 figure of 696,000 bushels, but 424,000 bushels over the extremely short crop of 140,000 bushels in 1945. The 10-year (1936-45) average of 976,000 bushels shows 422,000 bushels greater than the 1947 estimated crop.

Growing conditions in Michigan were not normal during the 1947 season. The cold weather of late spring and early summer did not favor the rather light set and some fruit was lost during this period. Moisture conditions, however, were fairly good except for the dry period of July and early August. Fruit development was rapid after beneficial rains in August and gave fair promise of good quality and size. On September 1 a severe wind storm, reportedly a straggling end of the Florida hurricane, moved through the fruit belt with quite extensive damage resulting in all tree fruits. Wind velocities of up to 60 miles per hour were reported. The effects of this wind were spotted, however, with some growers reporting almost total losses while others in near vicinity reported only 5 to 10 percent fall. Windfall was heavy in some cases, especially in the brittle-stommed Kieffer variety. Some of this windfall stock was salvaged but a large percentage of the drop was almost a total loss. Quality and size of the crop was fair to good.

PRODUCTION OF PEARS BY STATES 1947 SEASON

Crop Report as of December 1, 1947. Production with Comparisons. Released by the Crop Reporting Board, Washington, D. C., December 17, 1947.

Production 1/				Production 1/			
STATE	Average 1936-45	1946	1947	STATE	Average 1936-45	1946	1947
Thousand bushels				Thousand bushels			
Maine	7	7	9	Kentucky	188	115	134
N. Hampshire	8	8	13	Tennessee	230	120	183
Vermont	3	1	5	Alabama	306	343	288
Massachusetts	53	44	73	Mississippi	354	347	350
Rhode Island	6	6	6	Arkansas	166	195	204
Connecticut	58	42	48	Louisiana	183	235	207
New York	975	693	960	Oklahoma	141	157	209
New Jersey	46	23	20	Texas	389	407	402
Pennsylvania	430	345	262	Idaho	60	64	70
Ohio	386	135	229	Colorado	192	87	232
Indiana	198	142	154	New Mexico	45	48	31
Illinois	427	270	402	Arizona	10	9	3
MICHIGAN	976	696	564	Utah	151	115	205
Iowa	91	81	76	Nevada	4	6	4
Missouri	260	148	216	Washn., all	6,780	8,890	8,305
Nebraska	21	27	27	Bartlett	4,905	6,750	6,156
Kansas	100	90	99	Other	1,876	2,140	2,149
Delaware	6	3	4	Oregon, all	4,074	6,120	5,724
Maryland	56	25	51	Bartlett	1,700	2,335	1,975
Virginia	328	353	280	Other	2,374	3,785	3,749
West Virginia	90	104	46	Calif., all	10,751	12,918	14,251
North Carolina	298	299	298	Bartlett	9,421	11,168	12,209
South Carolina	132	126	127	Other	1,329	1,750	2,042
Georgia	380	396	385	U. S. TOTAL	29,510	34,447	35,350
Florida	153	207	194				

1/ For some States in certain years, production includes some quantities unharvested on account of economic conditions. In 1945 and 1947, estimates of such quantities were as follows (1,000 bushels): 1945 - Washington, Bartlett 400; Oregon, Bartlett 40; California, Bartlett 333; 1947 - New York, 19.

MARKETING: Benton Harbor Cash Market

Early season demand was fairly good for best quality stock of good size. Kieffers, however, held slow throughout most of the period and at times were very hard to move, despite the light volume moving over the Market. Season price ranges by varieties and sizes for U. S. No. 1 stock is as follows:

MARKETING: Benton Harbor Cash Market - Continued

Size	Bartlett	Bosc	Clapp Favorite	Clairgean	Howells	Kieffers
2-1/2" up	2.85-3.50	2.75-3.00	2.00-3.10	2.00-2.35	2.00-2.75	1.60-1.90
2" up	2.50-4.40	1.75-3.25	1.75-3.35	1.75-2.75	1.65-2.75	1.25-1.85
1-3/4min	1.50-2.60	1.25-2.00	1.00-2.25	1.00-1.50	1.00	.75-1.25

The weighted average price per bushel for all varieties and grades over the Benton Harbor Cash Market with season values for the past ten years and 10-year averages are as follows:

Date	Bushels	Season Value	Date	Bushels	Season Value
1947	\$ 1.73	\$ 105,055	1942	\$ 1.57	\$ 195,490
1946	2.31	186,308	1941	.83	158,022
1945	2.50	41,080	1940	.95	145,696
1944	1.91	370,503	1939	.82	152,845
1943	3.05	210,908	1938	.75	122,114

10-year average per bushel \$1.64; for season value to growers \$168,802.

Trading at country points was very limited during the season and there were too few sales to establish a daily f.o.b. market. Because of the light movement no f.o.b. price tabulations were made in 1947.

DISPOSITION: Movement of the crop

The volume of pears purchased during 1947 by Michigan commercial processors, 200,637 bushels, was slightly under the 1946 purchases of 203,887 bushels. This difference is mainly in the Bartlett purchases which were about 15,000 bushels lower than in 1946 while Kieffer purchases were around 11,000 more than in 1946. No comparison can be made to the 1945 crop which was a near failure and too few purchases were made to establish tabulations. In 1944, however, 257,800 bushels went to commercial processors. The following table indicates the volumes going to processors for the past ten years with weighted average prices paid to growers bulk per cwt.

PROCESSORS' PURCHASES AND PRICES PAID TO GROWERS

YEAR	Number of bushels reported purchased by processors	Price 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"
1947	119,244 Kieffers ; 81,393 Bartlett	\$ 1.12# 1.75#
1946	107,753 Kieffers ; 96,134 Bartlett	\$1.00 1.90
1945	Too few purchases to tabulate - very small crop	
1944	130,000 Kieffers ; 127,800 Bartlett	1.00 1.90
1943	35,800 Kieffers ; 7,224 Bartlett	1.87 4.21
1942	1,246 Howells ; 230,210 Kieffers ; 140,000 Bartlett	3.94 \$.50 1.50
1941	295,000 Kieffers ; 220,000 Bartlett	.30 1.25
1940	348,290 Kieffers ; 159,807 Bartlett	.30 1.25
1939	349,000 Kieffers ; 110,000 Bartlett	.60 1.00
1938	250,000 Kieffers ; 140,000 Bartlett	.40 .80

The 1947 truck movement of pears over the Benton Harbor Cash Market totaled 60,726 bushels or 121 carlot equivalents on the basis of 500 bushels per car. The carlot equivalent volume over the Market in 1946 was 161 cars, the record low was 33 cars in 1945 and in 1944 388 carlot equivalents passed over the Market. The 10-year (1938-1947) average movement over the Market is 247 carlot equivalents.

MICHIGAN PEAR TRUCK MOVEMENT - 1947 SEASON

Benton Harbor Truck carlot equivalents - Basis 500 bushels per car	
DATE	Cars
Aug. 15	1#
16 Saturday	2
17	6
18	3
19	5
20	10
21	5
22 Saturday	2
23	8
24	2
25	2
26	3
27	4
28	2
29	2
30 Saturday	2
31 Holiday	20 Saturday
Sept. 1	3
2	1
3	1
4	2
5	2
6	3
7	4
8	2
9	3
10	1
11 Saturday	3
12	3
13	3
14	1
15	1
16	2
17	1
18	1
19	1
20	3
21	2
22	1
23	3
24	1
25	1
26	1
27	1
28	1
29	1
30	1
31	1
Season total	121

Total through August 15.

Rail shipments during 1947 totaled only 24 cars as compared to 71 cars shipped in 1946, 11 cars in 1945 and 194 cars moving in 1944. Practically all cars were loaded in Benton Harbor from trucks moving over the Market except some stock which was destined to processors outside of the State. Shipments were billed to 10 cities in 4 States and Canada. A table of distribution is included elsewhere in this Summary for those who wish to make a further study of Michigan pear distribution.

BENTON HARBOR CASH MARKET ON PEARS - 1947 SEASON

Note: Prices are for truckloads, cash to growers, bushel baskets, sizes as shown, quotations are for U.S. No. 1 stock. Some prices cover stock unmarked but of good quality and within the U. S. No. 1 price range.

Table with columns for DATE, Clapp's Favorite, Bartletts, Kieffers, and Bosc. Rows list dates from August to October with corresponding price ranges for each variety.

RANGE OF JOBBING SALES MICHIGAN PEARS 1947 SEASON IN IMPORTANT MARKETS

Note: Prices are for bushel baskets, U.S. No. 1 stock. Some quotations include sales for ordinary and fair conditions stock. In some cases no grade is indicated and quotations are included under stock within the same price range.

Table with columns for DATE, CHICAGO (Bosc, Clairgeaus, Kieffers), and DETROIT (Kieffers, Bosc). Rows list dates from October 1 to 5 with price ranges.

RANGE OF JOBBING PRICES MICHIGAN PEARS 1947 SEASON IN IMPORTANT MARKETS -Con't.

DATE	CHICAGO				DETROIT		
	Bosc 2" min	Clairgeau 2" min	Kieffers 2" min	Kieffers 1-3/4" min	Kieffers 2" min	Kieffers 1-3/4" min	Bosc 2" min
October 6		2.25	1.75		2.00		
7		2.15-2.25			2.00-2.25		
8	2.00-3.50				2.25		
9	2.50-3.50				2.00-2.25		
10	2.50-3.50	2.25				1.50	2.50-3.00
11	Saturday						
12	Sunday						
13	2.50-3.50	2.25			2.25		
14			1.50-2.00		2.00-2.25	1.50	2.75
15			.50-2.00		2.00-2.25	1.50	2.75
16			2.00		2.00-2.25	1.50	2.75
17	2.50				2.00-2.25	1.50	2.75
18	Saturday						
19	Sunday						
20					1.50-2.00		
21	2.50-2.75						
22	1.50-2.00			1.50		1.50	
23				1.00-2.00			
24			1.25-1.75	1.00	1.50		
25	Saturday						
26	Sunday						
27							
28	1.00-2.00		1.00		1.35-1.50		
29	1.00-3.25				1.35-1.50		
30	3.00						
31	1.75			1.25-1.50			

CARLOT DISTRIBUTION OF MICHIGAN PEAR SHIPMENTS, 1947 SEASON

State and City	Cars	State and City	Cars
IOWA		WISCONSIN (Con't)	
Ames	1	Sheboygan	2
MICHIGAN		Stevens Point	1
*Niles	6	Total	13
Ishpeming	2	CANADA	
Total	8	Montreal	1
WISCONSIN		Saulte Ste. Marie	1
Appleton	2	Total	2
Fondulac	2	TOTAL FOR SEASON	24
Green Bay	6		

* Diversion point.

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