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MARKETING THE MICHIGAN PEAR CROP

by
J. H. Selby

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, U. S. Department of Agriculture. These reports on Pears were issued from the Benton Harbor, Michigan office of the Market News Service.

PRODUCTION: National Situation

Figures released by the Crop Reporting Board, B. A. E., as of December 1, 1948 placed the national pear production figure at 26,399,000 bushels, a decline of 25 percent from the 1947 crop of 35,312,000 bushels and 13 percent below the 10-year (1937-46) average of 30,222,000 bushels.

In the three Pacific Coast States Bartlett production was 15,135,000 bushels. This is 26 percent under the 1947 production of 20,458,000 bushels and 9 percent below the 10-year average of 17,969,000 bushels. In Washington the Bartlett crop was down about 33 percent, 25 percent in California and 10 percent in Oregon. Compared with 1947 production the winter pear production in these States is 17 percent less in Washington, 22 percent less in Oregon and 39 percent less in California.

In other pear producing sections of the nation, production totalled 5,307,000 bushels, 23 percent below 1947 and 32 percent under the 10-year average.

PRODUCTION: Michigan Situation.

In Michigan the 1948 pear production was estimated at 336,000 bushels a decline of almost 50 percent from the 650,000 bushel production in 1947 and almost 65 percent below the 10-year average of 916,000 bushels.

PRODUCTION OF PEARS BY STATES 1948 SEASON

Crop Report as of December 1, 1948, Production with Comparisons. Released by the Crop Reporting Board, Washington, D. C., December 17, 1948.

STATE	Production 1/			STATE	Production 1/		
	Average 1937-46	1947	1948		Average 1937-46	1947	1948
Massachusetts	49	73	38	Arkansas	177	204	236
Connecticut	56	48	34	Louisiana	187	207	240
New York	946	960	384	Oklahoma	156	209	142
Pennsylvania	415	262	255	Texas	394	402	236
Ohio	368	229	178	Idaho	60	70	61
Indiana	198	154	142	Colorado	179	232	140
Illinois	431	402	330	Utah	149	205	140
MICHIGAN	916	650	336	Washington, all	7056	8305	5933
Missouri	266	216	170	Bartlett	5156	6156	4158
Kansas	106	99	135	Other	1900	2149	1775
Virginia	327	280	252	Oregon, all	4314	5724	4741
West Virginia	99	66	90	Bartlett	1775	1975	1809
North Carolina	302	298	209	Other	2539	3749	2932
South Carolina	132	127	108	California, all	11038	14376	10418
Georgia	579	385	385	Bartlett	9663	12334	9168
Florida	158	194	214	Other	1375	2042	1250
Kentucky	193	134	118	Other States 2/	300		
Tennessee	223	183	86				
Alabama	306	288	288				
Mississippi	342	350	350	UNITED STATES	30222	35342	26399

1/ For some States in certain years, production includes some quantities unharvested on account of economic conditions. In 1947, estimates of such quantities were as follows (1,000 bushels): New York 19, Illinois 30, Washington Bartlett 185, Other 86.
2/ "Other States" totals include Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Iowa, Nebraska, Delaware, Maryland, New Mexico, Arizona and Nevada. Estimates of pear production for those States discontinued beginning with the 1947 crop.

MATURITY AND HARVESTING: Michigan Crop

The 1948 season was not favorable to good pear production. There was a good and heavy bloom but during the blooming period temperatures were sub-normal and pollination was very poor. The resulting set was very light. General opinion is that the poor pollination was almost entirely responsible for the short crop. Moisture conditions were fairly favorable in most sections.

Quality of the crop was only fair. The light set was responsible for many growers neglecting the crop which did develop and the crop was further shortened and quality affected. Growers who did make efforts to care for their pears were beset by difficulties in applying spray materials. Rains during this period made much of the spraying ineffective.

MARKETING THE CROP: Benton Harbor Cash Market

Because of the light offerings of pears on the Benton Harbor Cash Market there were few days of trading on which a definite market could be established. The wide variation in condition and quality was also a contributing factor to this situation. Only a few good quality pears were offered on the market and buyers were willing to pay a premium for this type of pack. The following tabulation gives daily price ranges on the Benton Harbor Cash Market of bushel baskets US#1 stock. However, these quotations include some prices on stock not marked as to grade or size.

DATE	BENTON HARBOR CASH MARKET ON PEARS - 1948 SEASON			
	Bartletts	Clapps Favorite	Howells	Kieffers
Aug. 10	\$ 2 ^{up}	\$ 1 3/4-2 ^{up}	\$ 2.75-3.00	\$ 2 ^{up}
11				
12				
13				
14				
15			2.50-3.25	1.25-1.35
16			2.25-3.50	1.75
17			3.00-3.50	2.00
18			2.50-3.00	1.50-2.00
19			2.50-3.00	1.25
20			2.50-3.25	1.25
21				
22			2.50-3.50	1.75-2.00
23	3.50		2.75-3.00	1.75
24			2.10-3.00	1.25-1.75
25			2.75-3.25	1.50
26	3.00-4.00	2.50	2.50-3.25	1.75-2.00
27	3.50		2.50-3.00	1.50-1.75
28				
29	2.75-3.65	2.00-2.25	2.75-3.00	
30	3.50-3.75	2.25-2.50	3.00-3.50	2.00-2.25
31	3.50-4.00	2.25-3.00	2.75-3.00	

BENTON HARBOR CASH MARKET ON PEARS - 1948 SEASON - Cont'd

DATE	Bartletts		Clapps Favorite		Howells		Kieffers	
	2 nd up	1 3/4-2 nd	2 nd up	1 3/4-2 nd	2 nd up	1 3/4-2 nd	2 nd up	1 3/4-2 nd
Sept. 1	\$3.50-4.00	\$1.50-2.00	\$2.75-3.25	\$1.50-1.75				
2	3.50-4.50	1.50-2.25	2.50-3.25	1.50-2.00				
3	3.00-3.75	1.75-2.25	2.75-3.00					
4								
5								
6	2.75-4.00	1.50-2.25						
7	2.75-3.50	1.50-2.50						
8	3.25-3.75	2.00-2.25						
9	3.20-3.75	2.00-2.25			2.00-2.25			
10	3.00-3.25	2.00			2.00			
11								
12	3.00-4.00	2.00-2.50						
13	3.00-4.00							
14	3.75	2.00-2.75						
15	2.75-3.75	2.00-2.50			3.25-3.35			
16	3.25-3.50	1.50-1.75						
17	3.25-3.75							
18								
19	3.50-3.75	2.00-2.25			2.75			
20	3.50							
21					2.50			
22	3.75-4.25	2.00						
23	3.50	2.00			2.50-2.60	1.50		
24	3.50-3.75	2.00			2.50			
25								
26	3.50				2.25-2.75	1.25		
27					2.50			1.25
28					2.75	1.25	1.75	
29	4.00-4.25				2.75		1.75	
30	4.00				2.50		1.75	1.10
Oct. 1								
2							1.75	1.25
3							1.75-2.00	1.00-1.35
4							1.25-1.50	1.00
5							1.75-2.00	1.25
6					2.25			
7							1.75	1.25-1.35
8							1.75	1.25
9								
10							1.65-1.80	1.25
11								
12							1.65-1.75	
13							1.65	
14							1.65-1.75	
15								1.25-1.35

Indicated in the following tabulation are weighted price per bushel for all varieties and grades passing over the Benton Harbor Cash Market with seasonal values for the past 10 years with 10-year averages.

Season	Carlot Equiv.	Season Average	Total Value	Season	Carlot Equiv.	Season Average	Total Value
1948	30	\$ 2.30	\$ 34,371	1943	138	\$ 3.05	\$ 210,908
1947	121	1.73	105,055	1942	249	1.57	195,490
1946	161	2.31	186,308	1941	381	.83	158,022
1945	33	2.50	41,080	1940	307	.95	102,636
1944	388	1.91	370,503	1939	373	.82	152,845
Ten-year Average					218	1.80	160,028

DISPOSITION OF THE CROP: Processors

Perhaps the largest outlet of the 1948 pear crop in Michigan was the processors. Volume moving to processors was 67,342 as compared to the 200,637 bushel total in 1947. This was the smallest volume going to processors on record except for the 1943 season and 1945 season when the crop was almost a complete failure. Figures contained in the following tabulation were assembled in cooperation with the Michigan Cooperative Crop Reporting Service.

This table indicates volume going to processors for the past six years with weighted average price paid to grower 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	No. Size
		1 3/4-2 nd	2 nd	1.9 ⁺
1948	Kieffers 30,778			4.12
	Bartletts 36,564			
1947	Kieffers 119,244		1.12#	
	Bartletts 81,393		1.75#	
1946	Kieffers 107,753	1.00	1.50	2.25
	Bartletts 96,134	1.90	3.65	
1945	Too few purchases to tabulate - very small crop			
1944	Kieffers 130,000	1.00	1.50	2.25
	Bartletts 127,800	1.90	3.65	
1943	Kieffers 35,800	1.87	2.75	
	Bartletts 7,224		4.21	
	Howells 1,245		3.94	

(#) Includes all grades.

DISPOSITION OF THE CROP: Benton Harbor Cash Market Movement.

The 1948 truck movement of pears over the Benton Harbor Cash Market was 14,944 bushels as compared to the 60,726 bushels in 1947. Carlot equivalents tabulated on basis of 500 bushels per car.

MICHIGAN PEAR TRUCK MOVEMENT - 1948 SEASON

DATE	1948 Cars	1947 DATE	1948 DATE	1947 DATE	1948 Cars	1947 DATE	1948 DATE	1947 DATE
Aug. 13	1	Aug. 27	10	Sept. 10	1	Sept. 24	1	3
14	Sat	28	Sat	11	Sat	25	Sat	1
15	1	29	1	12	1	26	1	2
16	Sat	30	Sat	13	Sat	27	Sat	Sat
17	1	31	Sun	14	1	28	1	1
18	1	Sept. 1	1	15	1	29	1	2
19	1	2	1	16	1	30	1	1
20	1	3	1	17	1	1	1	1
21	Sat	4	Sat	18	Sat	2	Sat	1
22	1	5	Sun	19	1	3	1	1
23	1	6	Sat	20	1	4	1	Sat
24	1	7	1	21	1	5	1	3
25	1	8	1	22	1	6	1	1
26	1	9	1	23	1	7	1	2

MICHIGAN PEAR TRUCK MOVEMENT - 1948 SEASON - Cont'd.											
Cars		Cars		Cars		Cars		Cars		Cars	
DATE	1948	DATE	1948	DATE	1948	DATE	1948	DATE	1948	DATE	1948
Oct. 8	-	Oct. 14	-	Oct. 20	-	Oct. 26	-	Oct. 30	-	TOTAL	30
9	Sat	15	-	21	-	27	-				121
10	1	16	Sat	22	-	28	1				
11	-	17	1	23	Sat	29	-				
12	-	18	1	24	-	30	Sat				
13	1	19	-	25	-						

Because of the light crop and extremely light rail movement no effort was made to secure primary destinations of rail car movement during 1948. No complete records are available for truck destinations. Jobbing prices in terminal markets usually published in this summary have also been omitted because of the very few quotations available.

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