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Fresh Deciduous Fruit

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Report Highlights: Apple crop prospects in all major producing provinces, except British Columbia, point to lower Canadian fresh apple production in 2000. Post forecasts 2000/01 apple output at about 521,500 metric tons, down 10% from last year's above average crop of 582,270 metric tons. Canada's import market for apples has declined in recent years and import demand prospects for MY2000/01 remain flat. Weaker demand for apples reflects the growing availability of an increasingly wider choice of other fruits from global sources and the purchasing patterns of recent immigrants. Per capita consumption of fresh apples fell 10% in the five years ending 1998. In contrast, fresh pear per capita consumption held steady during the same period.

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Executive Summary

- * Apple crop prospects in all major Canadian apple production regions, except British Columbia, point to lower Canadian fresh apple production in 2000. Post forecasts 2000/01 apple output at about 521,500 metric tons, down 10% from last year's above average crop of 582,270 metric tons.
 - * The present outlook for Canadian fresh pear production in 2000 is for a crop of about 18,000 metric tons, a small increase over last year's level. Fresh pear production in Canada has declined in the last decade. During the 1980's, the national crop averaged more than 25,000 metric tons, while average annual output during the 1990's fell to below 18,000 metric tons.
 - * Fresh apple imports from the United States in MY1999/00 slipped to 83,606 metric tons, down more than 9% from the year earlier. Canada's import market for apples has declined in each of the last three years and import demand prospects for MY2000/01 remain flat.
 - * In 1999, Granny Smith remained the most important U.S. apple variety exported to Canada, accounting for more than 25% of total U.S. fresh apple exports to the country. According to Statistics Canada, one-third of fresh apple imports from the United States during 1999 were destined for processing in Canada.
 - * In the five year period ending 1998, the average annual growth rate for Canadian per capita fresh apple consumption is -2.2%. In addition to weaker demand by consumers, who have an increasingly wider choice of other fruits from global sources, the majority of recent Canadian immigrants are not from countries where apples are among the leading consumed fruits. The per capita consumption rate of fresh apples in 1998 fell to 12.44 kg, 10% below the rate of 13.93 kg five years earlier.
 - * In a February 2001 grower plebiscite, Ontario apple growers will vote on whether to maintain the Ontario Apple Marketing Commission as the marketing arm of the provincial apple industry. There are an estimated 750 apple producers in Ontario. The Ontario Apple Marketing Commission is funded through acreage fees paid by producers.
 - * Oversupply and low prices for juice apples prompted the the Ontario Apple Commission to participate in Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Price Pooling Program, and contract the processing of 2,600 metric tons of apples. However, a late start meant that poorer quality apples were utilized and the average pool return to producers after costs for processing, storage, and transportation was less than expected. The Ontario Juice Apple Program is currently being evaluated, but it appears that the federal government will be obligated to cover a financial shortfall.
 - * B.C. announced a Tree Fruit Replant Program and tree fruit growers can access C\$5 million in 2000 for replanting. Another C\$1.5 million will be paid under a transitional program to be paid immediately to approximately 475 growers to help with the transition between the time of removal of old, less-productive trees and when the new orchards come into production.
- Section I. Fresh Apples and Pears

Apple Situation and Outlook: For the 2000 crop, all major Canadian apple regions, except British Columbia, report prospects for reduced production from 1999. As a result, post forecasts 2000/01 apple output at 521,500 metric tons, down 10% from last year's above average crop of 582,270 metric tons.

From Ontario through the Maritime production region, the 2000 apple growing season was characterized by cooler than normal temperatures, reduced sunshine hours, and above normal precipitation levels. The unfavorable weather conditions reduced apple yields all across central and eastern Canada. In the west, British Columbia weather conditions were much improved over the rainy, wet and cool season a year ago and orchardists generally anticipate the 2000 B.C. apple crop to be nearly one-third larger than last year. However, the increase in the B.C. crop will not offset the significant year-to-year production declines estimated in Ontario (23% lower) and Quebec (down 20%). Although area planted to apples in Canada is in decline, Census data show there were 1.2 million more trees in 1996 compared to 1991. Higher density plantings have resulted in increased yields per hectare. In the medium term (3-5 yrs.), Canada maintains the ability to produce annual apple crops exceeding 525,000 metric tons.

PSD Table						
Country	Canada					
Commodity	Fresh Apples				(HA)(1000 TREES)(MT)	
	Revised	1999	Preliminary	2000	Forecast	2001
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		07/1999		07/2000		07/2001
Area Planted	0	28484	0	27900	0	26500
Area Harvested	0	26669	0	26000	0	25000
Bearing Trees	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non-Bearing Trees	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Trees	0	0	0	0	0	0
Commercial Production	530000	582270	0	521500	0	530000
Non-Comm. Production	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL Production	530000	582270	0	521500	0	530000
TOTAL Imports	120000	111428	0	110000	0	115000
TOTAL SUPPLY	650000	693698	0	631500	0	645000
Domestic Fresh Consump	365000	401706	0	381500	0	385000
Exports, Fresh Only	85000	66992	0	65000	0	70000
For Processing	200000	225000	0	185000	0	190000
Withdrawal From Market	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL UTILIZATION	650000	693698	0	631500	0	645000

Pear Situation and Outlook

Present prospects for Canadian fresh pear production in 2000 point to a crop of about 18,000

metric tons, a small increase over last year's level. Production in British Columbia is expected to be improved over 1999 reflecting better weather conditions during the growing period. Production in Ontario and Nova Scotia is forecast to decline due to prolonged periods of cool, damp weather. Fresh pear production in Canada has declined in the last decade. During the 1980's, the national crop averaged more than 25,000 metric tons, while average annual output during the 1990's fell to below 18,000 metric tons. According to Statistics Canada, bearing area fell sharply in 1999 to 1,386 hectares from 1,637 hectares in 1998, a decline of nearly 15%. In the short term (1-3yrs.), Canadian pear production is expected to average near 17,000 metric tons.

PSD Table						
Country	Canada					
Commodity	Fresh Pears				(HA)(1000 TREES)(MT)	
	Revised	1999	Preliminary	2000	Forecast	2001
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		07/1999		07/2000		07/2001
Area Planted	0	1503	0	1400	0	1300
Area Harvested	0	1386	0	1200	0	1090
Bearing Trees	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non-Bearing Trees	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Trees	0	0	0	0	0	0
Commercial Production	15800	17419	0	18000	0	17500
Non-Comm. Production	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL Production	15800	17419	0	18000	0	17500
TOTAL Imports	70000	70670	0	72000	0	75000
TOTAL SUPPLY	85800	88089	0	90000	0	92500
Domestic Fresh Consump	79850	82610	0	84800	0	87600
Exports, Fresh Only	950	779	0	700	0	600
For Processing	5000	4700	0	4500	0	4300
Withdrawal From Market	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL UTILIZATION	85800	88089	0	90000	0	92500

Section II. Trade

Apple Imports

Total Canadian apple imports in MY1999/00 fell 6% from the year earlier and marked the third successive year of decline. Reduced imports reflected increased domestic supplies from an above average Canadian crop and a continuing trend to weaker demand by consumers who have an increasingly wider choice of other fruits from global sources. Fresh apple imports from the United States in MY1999/00 slipped more than 9% from the year earlier, falling more sharply than imports from other suppliers which were down 6% year-to-year, a situation which may be partly related to the general strength in the Canadian currency against most currencies except for the U.S. dollar. Canada's import market for apples has declined in each of the last three years and import demand prospects for MY2000/01 remain flat.

Canadian Fresh Apple Imports					
Marketing Year, July/June					
Units: metric tons					
HS 0808.10					% change
					99/00
Country	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	98/99
-- The World ---	107,884	122,547	118,568	111,428	-6.0%
United States	90,630	96,824	92,048	83,606	-9.2%
New Zealand	5,493	9,026	8,911	11,632	30.5%
Chile	5,104	7,260	7,633	8,180	7.2%
South Africa	6,163	9,046	8,361	7,058	-15.6%
Argentina	400	135	1,175	517	-56.0%
Thailand	3	21	94	141	49.7%
Uruguay	3	0	0	37	100.0+%
All Others	88	237	345	256	-25.7%

Source: World Trade Atlas

Apple Imports from the U.S., by Variety

In 1999, Granny Smith remained the most important U.S. apple variety exported to Canada, accounting for more than 25% of total U.S. fresh apple exports to the country. A more detailed analysis of apple imports became available beginning 1998 when Statistics Canada began distinguishing imports for fresh market and for processing. According to Statistics Canada, one-third of fresh apple imports from the United States during 1999 were destined for processing in Canada (see below).

Apple Imports from the U.S., by Variety				
(Calendar Years 1997-1999)				
Units: metric tons		1997	1998	1999
Granny Smith		23,593	22,576	23,502
for fresh market		na	12,216	15,815
for processing		na	10,360	7,687
Red Delicious		24,378	20,723	19,896
for fresh market		na	13,602	13,177
for processing		na	7,121	6,719
Golden Delicious		19,478	17,732	17,052
for fresh market		na	11,506	11,708
for processing		na	6,226	5,344
Gala		1,293	5,792	9,573
for fresh market		na	4,398	7,807
for processing		na	1,394	1,766
Empire		840	2,797	1,649
for fresh market		na	2,399	1,425
for processing		na	398	224
MacIntosh		5,011	1,767	282
for fresh market		na	1,105	204
for processing		na	662	78
Ida Red		131	1,082	744
for fresh market		na	22	166
for processing		na	1,060	578

				Continued...
Apple Imports from the U.S., by Variety...Continued				
		1997	1998	1999
Other		19,594	18,158	18,397
for fresh market		na	10,900	11,349
for processing		na	7,258	7,048
Totals		94,318	90,627	91,095
for fresh market		na	56,148	61,651
for processing		na	34,479	29,444
Source: World Trade Atlas				

Apple Exports

Despite above average Canadian apple production in 1999/00, total Canadian apple exports fell 3% from a year ago to 67,000 metric tons reflecting the poor outturn of the B.C. crop, the major apple exporting province, and weaker markets for Canadian apples in the Philippines and Mexico. The United States and the U.K. accounted for 84% of total Canadian apple exports in MY1999/00. In the short term, industry analysts expect wide fluctuations in Canadian apple exports to destinations other than the United States reflecting abundant world supplies.

Canadian Fresh Apple Exports					
Marketing Year, July/June					
Units: metric tons					
HS 0808.10					% change
					99/00
Country	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	98/99
The World	106,945	74,766	69,066	66,992	-3.0%
United States	73,059	57,297	38,717	46,135	19.2%
United Kingdom	5,184	5,643	5,906	10,093	70.9%
Philippines	12,899	4,877	12,527	3,850	-69.3%
Mexico	218	2,068	4,542	2,958	-34.9%
Indonesia	4,249	1,173	970	1,517	56.5%
Colombia	512	750	118	716	507.5%
Trinidad & Tobago	289	634	295	623	111.4%
Cuba	159	332	266	310	16.3%
Taiwan	2,655	523	1,575	51	-96.8%
Hong Kong	242	191	1,651	0	-100.0%
Singapore	1,376	555	475	0	-100.0%
Thailand	3,903	187	441	0	-100.0%
All Others	2,199	535	1,583	739	-53.3%
Source: World Trade Atlas					

Pear Imports

The Canadian pear import market showed continued growth in 1999/00 climbing more than 6% above the year earlier level to exceed 70,000 metric tons for the first time. U.S. pear exporters were the main beneficiaries of strong Canadian demand for fresh pears increasing their shipments to Canada to 47,446 metric tons, nearly 16% greater than the 1998/99 level. U.S. pears have faced increasing competition in the Canadian pear market in recent years mostly from Argentina, Chile, South Africa and other Southern Hemisphere suppliers, but have managed to hold on to an average 66% market share since MY1996/97.

Canadian Fresh Pear Imports					
Marketing Year, July/June					
Units: metric tons					
HS 0808.20					
					% change
					99/00
	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	98/99
The World	56,909	69,531	66,451	70,670	6.3%
United States	38,244	49,582	41,008	47,446	15.7%
Argentina	6,769	8,090	14,557	12,296	-15.5%
Chile	7,503	5,460	5,835	3,548	-39.2%
South Africa	1,933	3,579	2,276	3,424	50.4%
Korea, South	17	2	646	791	22.4%
Italy	292	265	519	729	40.4%
New Zealand	737	575	421	598	42.1%
China	92	122	389	596	53.0%
Portugal	655	904	43	567	1217.2%
Australia	567	728	502	543	8.2%
All Others	99	223	255	132	-48.2%
Source: World Trade Atlas					

Pear Exports

Canadian fresh pear exports are relatively insignificant. The United States is the main destination for minor exports of Canadian pears.

Canadian Fresh Pear Exports					
Marketing Year, July/June					
Units: metric tons					
HS 0808.20					% change
					99/00
	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	98/99
The World	866	1,090	647	779	20.4%
United States	573	777	570	613	7.6%
Colombia	41	60	0	78	100.0+%
Venezuela	0	0	0	46	100.0+%
Philippines	0	0	0	43	100.0+%
Hong Kong	218	131	17	0	-100.0%
Cuba	0	0	6	0	-100.0%
All Others	34	123	56	0	-100.0%

Source: World Trade Atlas

Section III. Consumption

Per Capita Consumption

In the five year period ending 1998, the average annual growth rate for Canadian fresh apple consumption is -2.2%. In addition to weaker demand from consumers who have an increasingly wider choice of other fruits from global sources, the majority of recent Canadian immigrants are not from countries where apples are among the leading consumed fruits. The Canadian per capita consumption rate of fresh apples in 1998 fell to 12.44 kg, 10% below the rate of 13.93 kg five years earlier. In contrast, fresh pear per capita consumption held steady at 2.2 kg during the same five-year period.

Canada: Per Capita Consumption, Apples & Pears			
Units: kilograms, retail weight*			
Year	APPLES	PEARS	
1990	12.73	2.14	
1991	11.91	2.08	
1992	11.45	2.10	
1993	10.69	2.13	
1994	13.93	2.27	
1995	13.25	2.27	
1996	11.92	2.18	
1997	10.33	2.25	
1998	12.44	2.21	
*incl. fresh equivalent of processed			
Source: StatCan; Food Consumption in Canada, PartII			
percap.wk4			

Prices

Wholesale apple prices were mostly steady to slightly higher than a year ago according to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

Fresh Apples: Wholesale to Retail Market Prices - TORONTO					
Week Ending September 8, 2000					
Prices in \$C, by origin, variety & weight					
				Price Range	
Origin	Variety	Weight	Grade	Low \$C	High \$C
Ontario	Empire	Tray Pack 120s	-	24.00	24.00
California	Gr. Smith	Tray Pack 113s	XFCY	37.00	40.00
California	Gr. Smith	CTN 14X3 lbs.	-	25.00	25.00
So. Africa	Gr. Smith	CTN 14X3 lbs.	-	28.00	30.00
California	Gala	Tray Pack 100s	XFCY	28.00	36.00
California	Gala	Carton 113s	XFCY	20.00	28.00
Washington	Gol. Del.	Carton 100s	XFCY	33.00	33.00
Washington	Gol. Del.	Carton 113s	XFCY	27.00	34.00
Washington	Red Del.	Carton 113s	XFCY	23.00	24.00
Source: AAFC; infohort					

Pear prices on the Toronto wholesale market in early September 2000 were generally stronger than a year ago for all offerings of fresh pears.

Fresh Pears: Wholesale to Retail Market Prices - TORONTO					
Week Ending September 8, 2000					
Prices in \$C, by origin, variety & weight					
				Price Range	
Origin	Variety	Weight		Low \$C	High \$C
Ontario	Bartlett	6X3 liter		16.50	18.00
Ontario	Bosc	Carton 100		30.00	30.00
California	Bosc	Carton 110		31.00	36.50
Washington	Bosc	Carton 100		40.00	47.00
California	Bartlett	CTN 36 lbs; 100s.		18.00	20.00
Source: AAFC; infohort					

Section IV. Apple Storage Holdings

Canadian fresh apple storage holdings on July 1, 2000 were more than 80% above the year earlier level reflecting the large outturn of the 1999 crop, particularly in Ontario where a record crop in 1999 resulted in a July 1, 2000 storage stock carryover nearly 2.5 times greater than the level of July 1, 1999.

Apple Storage by Type

Fresh Apple Storage by Type - July 1				
with Year Earlier Comparisons				
Units: '000 lb.				
Year: 2000	C.A.	Cold	Common	All Types
Maritimes	5,540	0	0	5,540
Quebec	16,624	0	0	16,624
Ontario	23,154	8,607	0	31,761
British Columbia	11,848	28	0	11,876
CANADA TOTALS	57,166	8,635	0	65,801
Year: 1999	C.A.	Cold	Common	All Types
Maritimes	0	0	0	0
Quebec	9,486	0	0	9,486
Ontario	10,734	1,999	0	12,733
British Columbia	6,228	7,888	0	14,116
CANADA TOTALS	26,448	9,887	0	36,335
Includes imports in storage				
C.A. = Controlled Atmosphere				
Source: AAFC, Infohort				

Apple Storage by Variety

Canada: Apple Storage by Variety - July 1			
(includes imports in storage)			
Units: '000 lb.			
Variety	1998-1999	1999-2000	% change
McIntosh	11,438	17,920	57%
Red Delicious	1,493	4,078	173%
Golden Delicious	911	675	-26%
Cortland	82	211	157%
Spartan	7,932	9,920	25%
Crispin	77	433	462%
Spy	7,472	11,587	55%
Lobo	241	100	-59%
Idared	3,093	11,228	263%
Empire	77	5,850	7497%
Gravenstein	0	0	
Newtown	0	0	
Other	3,519	3,799	8%
Total	36,335	65,801	81%
Source: AAFC Infohort			

Section V. Policy

Anti-Dumping Duties Terminated

On February 8, 2000 the Canadian International Trade Tribunal (CITT) rescinded the anti-dumping duties on U.S. fresh Delicious and Red Delicious apples that had been in effect for the last five years. Following a review of the case, conducted during the last half of 1999 (see CA9088), the CITT concluded that a resumption of dumping is unlikely if the finding is rescinded. Canada initially imposed anti-dumping duties on imports of U.S. Red Delicious apples in 1989. The initial case was allowed to expire in early 1994 but the GOC responded with a new anti-dumping investigation which resulted in the renewed application of anti-dumping duties. Since February 1995, if U.S. f.o.b. export prices to Canada were below US\$12.99 per 42 lb. box, Revenue Canada applied a dumping duty equal to the difference between the export price and US\$12.99. The anti-dumping duty did not apply to imports between July 1 and September 30 each year.

In a summary statement, the CITT concluded that...

“ imports of Red Delicious apples from the United States will continue to be of high quality and at premium prices beyond the current crop year. Given the premium which growers are able to extract from the market for higher-quality Red Delicious apples, the Tribunal is of the view that these apples are unlikely to be dumped. The Tribunal notes that decreasing Red Delicious apple acreage in the United States, the significant level of exports to other countries and efforts to increase U.S. domestic consumption of Red Delicious apples are combining to better balance supply and demand conditions in the United States for Red Delicious apples. Moreover, the Tribunal is of the view that the rapid growth of new and higher-priced apple varieties is an additional factor that is likely to alleviate the pressure on prices. The Tribunal also notes that very little dumping has occurred since the finding was issued. Therefore, the Tribunal finds that it is unlikely that, absent an abnormally large crop, Red Delicious apples from the United States will be dumped, in any significant quantity, in the near future.

Historical levels of production of Red Delicious apples in Washington, in recent years, indicate that crop volumes significantly above average levels occur once every five or six years. These abnormally high volumes can cause prices to fall to a level close to, or even below, costs of production for part of that year. However, the Tribunal is of the view that a likelihood of resumed dumping cannot be established solely on the basis of the likely price effects should there be an abnormal crop year, which may or may not occur in the near term. For the foregoing reasons, the Tribunal concludes that dumping is not likely to resume in the foreseeable future and hereby rescinds its finding concerning fresh, whole, Delicious and Red Delicious apples originating in or exported from the United States of America. In light of this conclusion, it is not necessary for the Tribunal to consider the issue of the likelihood of injury.” The full text of the order is available on the CITT website at: www.citt.gc.ca

Ontario Apple Vote

Successive years of poor returns combined with an increase in the number of growers leaving the industry, has prompted Ontario apple producers to push for a vote on whether they want to maintain their provincial marketing body, the Ontario Apple Marketing Commission. The Commission has the power (under provincial law) to set apple prices in the province, but in recent years industry participants (growers and packers) have reportedly not adhered to the price levels because of supply and demand factors and the wide range of quality criteria which govern the value of apples. A producer vote is scheduled for February 2001. The mail-in plebiscite will read: "Are you in favor of the termination of the Ontario Apple Marketing Commission." The decision to proceed with the ballot was made at the commission's annual meeting in late July. If two-thirds of eligible producers cast affirmative ballots, representing at least 50% of production, the Commission will probably not survive. However, the final decision as to the fate of the commission will be made by the provincial agriculture minister. The apple commission is hopeful that producers will vote to retain the marketing body and give it an opportunity to introduce new promotional marketing initiatives and to work toward greater cooperation between packers and growers. There are an estimated 750 apple producers in Ontario. The Ontario Apple Marketing Commission is funded through acreage fees paid by producers.

Ontario Price Pooling Scheme for Juice Apples

The large 1999 Ontario apple crop resulted in a surplus of juice apples and low prices. To help alleviate the problem for Ontario growers, the Ontario Apple Commission made use of the AAFC's Price Pooling Program. This program is designed to assist and encourage cooperative marketing of eligible agricultural products, including processed products. It improves cash flow of producers through an initial payment for products delivered and provides equal returns to participating producers for products of like grades, varieties and types. The Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada enters into an agreement with a marketing agency (associations of producers, processor, or selling agent) for the marketing of agricultural products under a cooperative plan. The agreement provides a price guarantee for products sold, allows the marketing agency to make an initial payment to the producers for products delivered and covers eligible storing, processing, carrying and selling costs of the marketing agency, to a fixed maximum. The price guarantee is set at a percentage of the expected average wholesale price of the product.

The agreement covers the production of an agricultural product for a crop year. Once all the agricultural product is sold, the actual average wholesale price received by the marketing agency is determined. If the calculated value is less than the eligible initial payment plus the eligible costs, the program allows for a payment for the shortfall by the federal government. If the calculated value is greater, by contrast, the surplus is retained by the pool for future use or is distributed by the marketing agency to the producers according to the grade, variety and type of the product that they delivered to the pool.

Under the 1999 plan, Ontario Apple Commission contracted the processing of 2,600 metric tons of apples which yielded the sale of 1,200 barrels of apple juice concentrate. However, according to the Commission, the late start of the program in 1999 meant that poorer quality apples were utilized and the average pool return to producers after costs for processing, storage, and transportation were less than expected. The Ontario Juice Apple Program is currently being evaluated, but it appears that the federal government will be obligated to cover a program shortfall.

B.C. Orchard Replant Program for Fruit Growers

In September 1999, the B.C. government announced its intention to extend the province's orchard replant program for five years (\$25 million) and establish a new \$2-million industry development trust fund. Final approval of funding was contingent upon industry and community stakeholders developing a revitalization plan to use the funds effectively

In the spring of 2000, the government announced the Okanagan tree fruit replant program under which fruit growers will be able to access a total of C\$5 million in 2000 for replanting. Another C\$1.5 million will be paid under the Transitional Production Assistance Program to be paid immediately to approximately 475 growers to help with the transition between the time of removal of old, less-productive trees and when the new orchards come into production.

In details announced by the Okanagan Valley Tree Fruit Authority, the replant grants are C\$4 per tree, up to 1,400 trees per acre for a maximum of C\$5,600 per acre and, a limited grant program for current operators who wish to plant on new land (a maximum of 5 new acres per operator, to a total of 100 acres per year across the program).

The Okanagan Valley Tree Fruit Authority was created in 1990 with a 10-year mandate to help orchardists revitalize their industry and to respond to market demand for new fruit varieties. More than 800 growers have accessed a total of C\$16 million in government funding under the program to replant in excess of 5,000 acres. Growers have invested an additional C\$40 million in capital during this period.

Exchange Rates

Prices and values in this report are expressed in Canadian dollars. Exchange rates are 1997, C\$=US\$.7223; 1998, C\$=.6743; 1999, C\$=US\$.6730; September 2000, approximately US\$.6770.

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