

**CATALOGUE OF FRUIT,
POMOLOGICAL
DEPARTMENT, TORONTO,
CANADA**

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Catalogue of fruit, Pomological department, Toronto, Canada by Various

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VARIOUS

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Ontario, Commission, Columbian exposition, 1893.

**WORLD'S COLUMBIAN
EXPOSITION, 1893.**

48

CATALOGUE 
OF
 **FRUIT**

POMOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT, TORONTO, CANADA.

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FRUIT CULTURE IN ONTARIO.

A glance at the map of Ontario will reveal the fact that a large portion of the inhabited territory is bound by water. Huron, Erie and Ontario—seas in all but saltness—close in about the peninsula where settlement is most dense, and where as a rule the land is easily responsive to kindly treatment. The soil shows considerable variation between the limits described, yet in every county some kinds of fruit, large and small, are successfully grown.

Here, too, climate as well as soil is favorable to horticulture. Pelee Island, the most southerly point of Ontario—and of the Dominion—lies in about the same latitude as Newport, R.I., and is farther south than Rome in Italy. In a paper read before the Canadian Institute in 1884, a well-known climatologist said: "By a British standard the summers of much of the Province may be considered long. May in south-western Ontario is warmer than July in Edinburgh; September is warmer than July in London, and warmer than September at Vienna. The vine, maize and sorghum fully mature in most parts of the Province south of the 46th parallel, and in not a few districts as abundantly as in any part of America or Europe." The winters in Ontario are, as a rule, colder than those of the European countries just referred to, yet it is seldom that injury is done to fruit trees, bushes or vines by the severity of the frost, and the greater depth of our snowfall is regarded as a generous protection to garden and orchard.

The splendid display of Canadian fruit at the Indian and Colonial Exhibition, held in London in 1886, was a revelation to multitudes who had formed their conceptions of Canada from pictures of ice palaces and photographs of hyperborean individuals in furs, or on snow-shoes or toboggans—the property of the artist's studio. Visitors were particularly interested in the exhibit of one hundred jars of grapes, and the remark was so frequently heard, "These must have been grown under glass," that it was found necessary to enlighten the general public by large placards placed at the corners of the "trophy" bearing the legend, "Canadian Fruits, all grown in the open air."

The importance of fruit growing in this Province may be seen in the fact that the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association, a society organized in 1859, and incorporated in 1865, claims a membership of 2,700, the largest, as far as known, of

any similar body in the world. This Association has been the means of introducing into Canada many varieties of fruit now regarded as standards, and has given a great impetus to fruit culture, owing largely to the liberal aid of the Ontario Government.

The fruit most generally cultivated in Ontario, and the export of which has grown to large proportions, is the apple. All the older settled counties have their orchards. The export of Canadian apples has developed marvellously, as will be seen from the following :

	Barrels.	Value.
1868	34,405	\$ 87,333
1872	106,568	264,015
1882	212,526	540,464
1892	690,951	1,444,833

It has been estimated by a careful authority that the Province of Ontario furnishes about five-sixths of the apples exported from Canada. The total value of fruit (dried, green and canned), exported from the Dominion in the year ending June, 1892, was \$1,634,182.

The high character of Ontario apples is universally admitted. The product of no other country combines in so complete a degree the three great qualities of color, flavor and juiciness. Our clear summer skies, rivalling those of Italy, paint our ruddier sorts in deep or delicate blushings, while the russets range from gold to darkest bronze in pleasing shadings. The long and gentle autumn exerts a mellowing influence upon the apple, in which nature's chemistry turns into delicious flavors and sub-acids the rich juices of this pleasant fruit, and some subtle climatic influence appears to lend power to the winter sorts to long resist decay. On the 10th of May, 1886, the Royal Horticultural Society of Great Britain held a show, and Canada and Australia (then making a display at the Indian and Colonial Exhibition) were invited to participate. The Australian apples shown were gathered in March, and had just arrived by fast steamship, while the Canadian apples had been off the trees for from six to seven months. After careful comparison the judges decided that while the Australian apples were fresher in condition, and some of them larger than the Canadian, the latter were more highly colored and better flavored. The honors were divided, each exhibit receiving a silver medal and a certificate of merit.

A Liverpool market report, dated March 25th, 1893, shows the high quality of "Canadian" apples, a term used to distinguish Ontario fruit from that of the Maritime Provinces. Canadian Baldwins are quoted at 14s. to 19s. per barrel, while "Maine" apples (American) bring only 12s. to 15s. Our Greenings command 11s. to 17s., while Maine can get but 10s. to 13s. 9d.; and Canadian Russets

range from 10s. to 16s. 6d., as compared with 10s. to 11s. for American. A leading agriculturist has estimated the value to the owner of the product of an acre of apple trees in a good year at \$100.

Pears flourish with us. The blight has been light in recent years, and large yields of well matured fruit is the rule. A recent shipment of Ontario pears to Belgium has been reported—a notable instance of the fruit seeking a market in the home of the scion.

Peaches rivalling those of Delaware are grown in the Niagara district. The peach area is a surprisingly large one, extending from Lake St. Clair along the genial shores of Lake Erie and around Lake Ontario to Halton, and the business is in the hands of unusually intelligent and well-skilled men. A former president of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association placed the profits of an acre of peaches in an ordinarily good year at \$160, and in unusually good years 10 acres of peaches should be worth \$2,000.

Plums of every sort, in spite of attacks from curculio and black-knot, flourish in Ontario. Shipments of thousands of bushels are made annually to the United States, and immense quantities are consumed at home in the form of preserves. Native American varieties are being introduced every year, but such high class plums as the McLaughlin, Imperial and Yellow Gage, Coe's Golden Drop, Lombard and Washington are grown to perfection in a large range of counties, and find a ready and profitable market. The insect and fungous enemies of the plum are not dreaded so much as they were a few years ago. Mechanics and chemistry—the spray and well designed insecticides and fungicides—have come to the relief of the badly-beset orchardist.

Cherries are common, but being a rather perishable fruit, they are not so much in favor for market. Like the plum, great quantities are preserved at home, although in season the market if short is large. Nearly every variety, from the tart native sorts to the sweeter and richer English kinds, is successfully raised.

Nectarines, apricots and quinces are grown in a few localities, but their general culture is not practised. The fig has also been matured in the open air.

Reference has already been made to the grape as being grown out of doors. The extent of Ontario grape culture surprises those who have not seen an Essex county vineyard. Between Windsor and Toronto thousands of acres are devoted to grapes, and as far north as the county of Huron prosperous vineyards are to be found.

A Pelee Island correspondent of the Ontario Bureau of Industries thus refers to grapes in his report for November, 1891: "Our grape crop was a remarkable

one. Over 260 tons of the finest grapes have been pressed in one large wine cellar, and about 100 tons more have been made into wine by others, or shipped in baskets for table use. Several persons have had five tons of Concord to the acre." A Wentworth county correspondent in his report said: "About ten tons of grapes have been shipped daily from Winona (a small railway station) during the past six weeks, with two weeks' supply yet to go."

Pure grape wine is becoming an important industry in the Lake Erie region, and in this connection the opinion of M. Girardot, a native of the leading wine district of France, is worth quoting: "The yield here (Essex county, Ont.) is at least four to five tons to the acre; there not more than two. The wine here is equal to any in Eastern France. From twenty acres of grapes the yield of wine has averaged about 8,000 gallons, and it is very remunerative, a profit of \$800 (£160) per acre being frequently obtained."

Strawberries are widely grown. Oakville, on Lake Ontario, has become famous as a shipping station for this choicest of berries, which grows to perfection on the sandy loams along the lake side. In Kent and Essex, however, and in eastern Ontario where the St. Lawrence River forms, more particularly in the county of Leeds, there are tracts of land which challenge the world in the yield per acre and the glorious quality of the fruit. But there are few, if any, counties in the Province where the strawberry cannot be grown to give a fair return.

The raspberry is a native of Ontario, and the wild sorts furnish large stores of fruit, both for home and the home market. The cultivated varieties, red and white, find a hospitable climate here, while black-caps and blackberries are almost sure to flourish where properly handled.

Great quantities of gooseberries are raised, and with intelligent management bring large gains to growers, as the market is a good one. English and American varieties are chiefly grown, although some native seedlings are popular.

Currants, red, white and black, are generally grown, and with profit. Large quantities of these fruits are preserved both for home use and for the market, and they are particularly esteemed in the form of jellies.

The cranberry, which grows wild in different parts of the Province, is now being cultivated with a fair degree of success in marshes which otherwise would be waste land. Cranberries are likely to command a good market, as the demand for them has always been good.

The huckleberry, or blueberry, is also a native of Ontario, but is not cultivated save in rare instances. It abounds in the northern parts of the Province, more especially in the wilds of Muskoka and the more unsettled parts of the Georgian Bay region.

Fruits other than those already named are to be found growing in Ontario, but only to a limited extent.

Edible nuts are also grown for profit, and ready sales are found for chestnuts, hickory nuts, butternuts, walnuts and hazel nuts, the product of Ontario gardens and forests.

Although, as has been already indicated, the Lake Erie and Niagara districts are regarded as the choicest fruit sections of the Province, nearly every other county in western Ontario comes well up in the raising of some one or more kinds of fruit; while the Lake Ontario counties generally, and a few of the counties along the great St. Lawrence, are to the front in certain branches of fruit culture. The Georgian Bay counties, also, will not abate their claim to a leading place in the cultivation of some choice fruits. In short, the Province of Ontario is fast becoming a great garden. It has a genial climate and a generous soil; and what has already been accomplished in the way of supplying the home market and commanding a high place in foreign markets is, we believe, but an earnest of the larger victories that await our horticulture in the near future.