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This issue contains:

The NSFGA 2010-2011 Annual Business Meeting

This meeting will take place on November 29, 2011 in the Cornwallis Room of the Kentville Agricultural Centre starting at 2:00 pm. NSFGA members please bring the information booklet that has been sent to you.

Nova Scotia Pear Industry

The first pear tree plantings in Nova Scotia were made by the French settlers however it was not until the 1930's that significant pear production occurred in Nova Scotia. The increase in pear production came about as the result of the development of a canning industry in the Annapolis Valley. A 1939 census of apple and pear trees conducted in Nova Scotia reported 32,194 pear trees of which and nearly half of this number had been planted within the previous five years of the census. Production at this time was in the 20,000 bushel range. Pear planting through the 40's continued to increase with the 1950 census reporting 76,789 trees and an estimated acreage of 700 acres. Although the census reported tree numbers for 16 cultivars, Bartlett and Clapps account for 94% being grown.

1950 Census

Cultivar	1-5	6-10	11-20	21-40	40+	Total
Anjou		148	63	177	342	422
Bartlett	20,393	3,662	6,915	2,446	317	33,733
Bosc	283	55	31	94	11	474
Brierschmit			6			6
Clairgeau	12	18	17	305	8	360
Clapps	20,489	5,259	8,918	3,480	569	38,715
Covert		75				75
Cayuga	2	68	12			82
Flemish Beauty	1	68	12			82
Gorham	10	66	79			163
Howell	8	3	17	79	10	117
Keifer		12	132	12	10	166

Louise Bonne De Jersey		**102**	**2**	**10**	**6**	**120**
Seckel			**25**	**4**	**12**	**41**
Sheldon	**13**	**71**	**123**	**208**	**12**	**427**
Solvenier de Congress		**12**	**13**	**6**	**3**	**34**
Others	**161**	**946**	**182**	**442**	**50**	**1781**
Total	**41,372**	**10,522**	**16,553**	**7,292**	**1,050**	**76,789**
Acres						**700 estimated**

A Second Census of Apple orchards in Nova Scotia, NSDA, 1950

Through the 1950's pear number declined as a result of pear block being removed under the tree removal program. Pear plantings increased in the 1970's with the 1982 census reporting 50,967 pear trees of which Bartlett and Clapps account for 85% of the trees being reported. The estimated acreage based upon a tree density of 100 trees per acre would have been 510 acres. Production at the start of the 1980's was estimated to be in the 70,000 bu to 80,000 bu range.

1982 NS Pear tree Numbers

Cultivar	**< 5**	**5-9**	**10-14**	**15-19**	**20-39**	**40+**	**Total**
Anjou	**138**	**497**	**11**	**186**	**143**	**0**	**975**
Aurora	**30**	**280**	**11**	**0**	**242**	**0**	**563**
Bartlett	**2,325**	**2,990**	**932**	**810**	**7,696**	**1,389**	**16,142**
Bosc	**27**	**295**	**192**	**68**	**336**	**24**	**942**
Champion							
Clapps	**4,995**	**7,144**	**2,514**	**886**	**9,445**	**2,375**	**27,359**
Ewart	**0**	**8**	**3**	**0**	**63**	**0**	**74**
Flemish Beauty	**74**	**195**	**0**	**0**	**197**	**0**	**466**
Gifford	**0**	**1**	**0**	**12**	**49**	**0**	**62**
Grand Champion	**0**	**0**	**2**	**0**	**9**	**0**	**11**
Merton Pride	**0**	**0**	**22**	**2**	**1**	**0**	**25**
Moonglow	**25**	**165**	**170**	**67**	**1**	**0**	**428**
Sheldon	**0**	**0**	**2**	**0**	**60**	**10**	**72**
Other	**18**	**1,559**	**497**	**201**	**1,303**	**270**	**3,848**
Total	**7,632**	**13,134**	**4,356**	**2,232**	**19,545**	**4,068**	**50,967**

Changes in the Fruit Tree Inventory of the Annapolis Valley of Nova Scotia 1939-1982

The closure of the pear canning line by Cobi Foods in 1988 resulted in the loss of major market for Nova Scotia pears and as a result pear acreage has been on a steady decline. It was estimated that the number of pear trees had declined to 18,266 by 1996. The estimate acreage in 1996 based upon a tree density of 100 trees per acre was 180 acres. Acreage has continued to decline through the 2000's to the point where Statistics Canada place the Nova Scotia pear acreage at 100 acres in 2010 and production at 20,000 bushels in 2009.

1996 NS Pear Tree Numbers

Cultivar	< 5	5-10	11-15	16-20	21-30	30+	Total
Anjou	**0**	**0**	**0**	**53**	**39**	**344**	**436**
Bartlett	**208**	**88**	**101**	**454**	**1,366**	**2,609**	**4,826**
Bosc	**278**	**0**	**0**	**180**	**116**	**571**	**1,145**
Clapps	**286**	**599**	**524**	**2,182**	**1,865**	**5,428**	**10,884**
Flemish Beauty	**101**	**0**	**40**	**206**	**15**	**72**	**434**
Other	**90**	**16**	**0**	**145**	**6**	**284**	**541**
Total	**963**	**703**	**665**	**3220**	**3407**	**9308**	**18,266**

Fruit Tree Census of the Annapolis Valley 1996, NSDA Bill Craig

Nova Scotia has a suitable climate for pear production and pears are being sold year round in the grocery stores but the availably of Nova Scotia grown pears is pretty much over by the end of December. One would think there is potential to market locally grown pears for another 6 to 8 months. I see three factors that need to be addressed if pear production is to expand 1) dedicated CA cold storage rooms for pears. The rooms being used for apples are too large for the size of the present pear industry pears. 2) Precious dwarfing rootstock. The OHXF rootstock series have some merit for NS and produce trees smaller than seedlings but a hardy dwarfing rootstock would be best. Getting a pear orchard into production is better than it used to be but we are a long away from getting one into production by year three as we do with apples. 3) A new pear cultivar that has the type of demand that Honeycrisp does. I would encourage you to review Charlie Embree's presentation in the Nova Scotia Fruit Grower' Association 2010 Annual Report "The Potential of New Pear Cultivars".

Apple Storage Holdings

The first apple storage holdings report for the 2011 crop was released on November 9. The storage holdings for Nova Scotia are provided in the table below. When comparing the 2011 holdings with that of 2010 keep in mind the maturity in 2010 was advanced and more growers were able to complete harvesting by the end of October compared to this year. It will be interesting to see if December's holdings are down by 4%.

	2011				2012				
Cultivar	Fresh	Juice	Peeler	Total	Fresh	Juice	Peeler	Total	% Change
Ambrosia	655	0	0	655	0	0	0	0	100
Cortland	5,534	0	4	5,538	6,904	0	5	6,909	-19.85
Empire	744	0	0	744	853	0	0	853	-12.77
Gala	1,817	0	0	1,817	1,185	0	0	1,185	53.33
Golden Del	1,624	0	233	1,857	2,323	26	116	2,465	-24.66
Russet	314	0	0	314	356	0	0	356	-11.79
Honeycrisp	7,118	0	0	6,225	4,742	0	0	4,742	33.38
Idared	1,072	0	2,616	3,688	926	20	4,945	5,891	-37.39

Jonagold	2,125	0	26	2,151	2,403	0	0	2,403	-10.48
McIntosh	13,296	1	0	13,297	12,641	0	0	12,641	5.18
Red Del	2,834	2	0	2,836	2,520	3	0	2,523	12.40
Spartan	793	0	0	793	1,044	0	0	1,044	-24.04
Spy	368	2	10,786	11,154	337	0	12,163	12,490	-10.69
Unspecified	534	0	0	534	1,256	40	0	1,256	-57.48
Total	38,828	5	13,726	52,559	37,500	89	17,219	54,808	-4.10

Mouse Control

Hopefully growers are taking advantage of the fine weather to tidy up orchards for the year end. Not wishing for snow but it will be here before too long which may contribute to tree damage from mouse feeding. The trend for only minor mouse damage problems continues which I attribute to good management and populations of natural predators. If you haven't already done so these are the steps you should follow to address possible mouse damage: 1) Following the completion of harvest mow the orchard to reduce vegetation to less than 10 cm. This will reduce suitable habitat for mice and expose them to predators. In many cases it is mice that move into the orchard in the fall and winter that cause the problem particularly in those blocks where good season long vegetation control has been maintained. To help prevent the movement of rodents into the orchard it is recommended that the borders of the orchard be kept clean as possible. One should not assume that good vegetation control is all that is required. 2) Prior to snow the whole orchard should be checked for signs of rodent activity (mouse tunnels, droppings and chewed apples) because populations can vary from one part of the orchard to another. If rodent activity is observed, consider the use of poisonous bait to reduce the mouse population. When using poison bait, growers are strongly urged to use baiting stations. Broadcasting poison baits such as zinc phosphide and Ramik Brown can end up poisoning non-target species. Bait stations will reduce the risk of this happening, as well as providing a longer period of control. The inverted T bait station is an effective station and can be made from 1 ½ inch ABS pipe. The recommended number of stations is 25 per hectare. Where there is not a resident population of mice within the orchard, you may wish to place bait stations on the perimeter of the orchard where there is a risk of mice moving into the orchard from bordering fields, fence lines or ditches. Bait stations are the recommended means of using poison under IFP guidelines. 3) On young tree place a mouse guard on the tree. The guard should fit well enough that mice cannot get behind it or there should not be gaps in it that allows for feeding.

Contributions and consultations were made in the preparation of this newsletter with the Orchard Outlook Committee

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