

# Half Okanagan Fruit Lots Are 7.5 Acres or Less

One of the factors which seems to be coming under some dispute and a lot of discussion is that of the size of farming operations in British Columbia.

Right now, the royal commission investigating the fruit industry is hearing several arguments on the subject and no doubt some space will be devoted by Dean MacPhee to this subject when he hands down his final report on the fruit industry.

The B.C. Department of Agriculture horticultural branch compiled figures on acreages and the percentage of small orchards in the Okanagan Valley and main-line areas, finding that out of

3,521 growers from Lytton and Chase down to Oliver and Osoyoos and including Keremeos and Cawston, 1791, or 50.8 percent, had orchard holdings of not more than 7.5 acres each.

In the one acre to 2.5 acre group, there are 684 growers or 19.4 percent. From 2.5 to 5 acres there are 741, or 21 percent. From 5 to 7.5 acres, there are 366 growers, or 10.4 percent.

In that grouping up to 7.5 acres, Summerland leads the parade with 272 growers, out of a total of 442, or 61.5 percent.

Next comes Oliver - Osoyoos, with 255 or 45 percent. Penticton is next with 219 out of 345,

or 63.4 percent and Vernon is in fourth spot with 203 growers out of 362, or 56 percent.

There are only two orchards with more than 300 acres in the entire Okanagan, one being in Vernon and the other in the Kelowna area.

No orchard properties fall in the 200 to 300 acre class, but there are two in the 150 to 200 acre grouping, one at Vernon and the second at Okanagan Falls.

Half of the 10 growers who are in the 100 to 150 group are in Kelowna area, there are 13 who have orchards between 75 and 100 acres in extent and 21 in the 50 to 75 acres scale.

In the 40 to 50 acres, there are 18 and in the 30 to 40, there are 50 growers, or 1.4 percent of the total number of growers in the area. Again, half of these are in Vernon and Kelowna.

The complete table, showing figures up to the 20 to 30 acre class follows:

## Grower Acreages Based on Orchard Survey of 1955

District	1-2.5	%	Over 2.5-5.0	%	Over 5.0-7.5	%	Over 7.5-10.0	%	Over 10-15	%	Over 15-20	%	Over 20-30	%	Total Growers
Lytton-Chase	27	30.0	21	23.3	11	12.2	14	15.6	12	13.4	3	3.3			90
Salmon Arm-Sorrento	41	27.3	51	34.0	18	12.0	13	8.7	13	8.7	4	2.6	6	4.0	150
Armstrong	12	60.0	5	25.0					1	5.0					20
Vernon	106	29.2	67	18.5	30	8.3	50	13.8	47	12.8	27	7.4	20	5.5	363
Oyama	8	7.1	24	21.2	15	13.3	30	26.5	19	16.8	6	5.3	7	6.2	113
OK Centre & Winfield	26	13.6	36	18.8	16	8.4	67	35.1	21	11.0	12	6.3	6	3.2	191
Kelowna	65	11.2	99	17.0	50	8.6	95	16.3	111	19.1	75	12.9	51	8.8	582
Westbank	19	12.1	30	19.1	13	8.4	28	17.8	46	29.3	5	3.2	8	5.1	157
Peachland	16	17.4	29	31.5	13	14.0	16	17.4	8	8.7	3	3.3	6	6.6	92
Summerland	113	25.6	103	23.3	56	12.7	84	19.0	50	11.3	18	4.1	12	2.7	442
Naramata	6	5.3	28	24.8	20	17.7	30	26.6	19	16.8	4	3.5	4	3.5	113
Penticton	109	31.5	78	22.6	32	9.3	67	19.4	29	8.4	13	3.8	13	3.8	345
Kaleden & OK Falls	22	25.0	29	33.1	6	6.8	8	9.1	7	8.0	3	3.4	4	4.5	88
Oliver-Osoyoos	92	16.2	101	17.8	62	10.9	164	28.9	105	18.5	17	3.0	18	3.2	567
Keremeos-Cawston	22	10.6	40	19.2	24	11.5	56	26.8	39	18.8	12	5.8	6	2.9	208
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>684</b>	<b>19.4</b>	<b>741</b>	<b>21.0</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>722</b>	<b>20.5</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>15.0</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>3521</b>

# MARATHON

150 growers  
527  
204  
161

