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 mainline 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
TOTALS	684	19.4	741	21.0	366	10.4	722	20.5	527	15.0	204	5.8	161	4.6	3521

ALATHION

10 growers 3%
527
204
161

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Biggest in Canada . . .

Fumigation for Oriental Fruit Moth Takes in Two Canneries, Large Orchard

The biggest fumigation operation in the history of Canadian agriculture was undertaken in the southern Okanagan in the latter part of March. It represented combined effort on the part of the Canada and B.C. Departments of Agriculture to stop a potential infestation of Oriental Fruit Moth in its tracks and thus maintain the Okanagan as one of the few remaining fruit production areas in North America which is free of this scourge. It is estimated that the total cost of the operation, which included fumigation of nearly 9 acres of orchard and a considerable amount of spraying and fumigation at other points, will run into some $55,000. However, if the fruit moth became established in the Okanagan it had been conservatively estimated that the annual cost of additional sprays, plus fruit losses, would run to $200,000.

This all started last September when, owing to a short fruit crop, some peaches were imported from Washington for processing in Okanagan canneries. All peaches imported must be fumigated before crossing the border to kill the insects if they should be present. However, the fumigation failed for some reason and when they began to process this fruit, live worms were noted by some cannery workers. The affected fruit was discarded and the larvae were taken to appropriate officials for identification. Since the area is free of the Oriental Fruit Moth, it took some time to make positive identification of these worms. By this time the fruit had been processed and the refuse disposed of. Some from one cannery at Osoyoos had gone on the town dump, while at the Summerland cannery it had been spread on an adjoining orchard as humus.

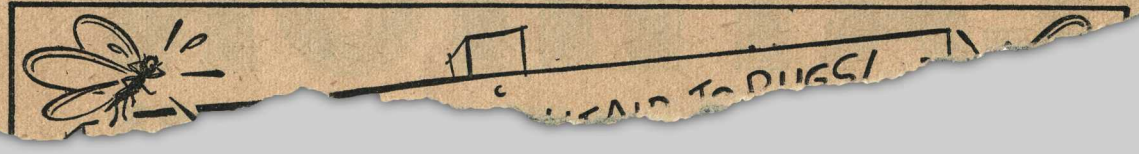
The only fortunate thing was the time of year. Adult moths from these worms would not emerge until spring. Indeed, the time of the first peach blossom is considered normal for their emergence and this gave the scientists time to study the situation and to plan for the destruction of the insect if this was possible. Their first job was to trace all locations where this infected fruit had touched and hence where fruit moth larvae might have gone to form their cocoons. This having been done, consultation with entomologists in both Canada and the United States suggested the best procedure would be to fumigate all such areas before any adult moths emerged to lay eggs and increase their kind.

This was a large order—to fumigate these canneries they had to be completely covered and sealed to hold in the concentration of Methyl Bromide gas necessary to assure killing of the fruit moth. Then the affected orchard had to be cut and burned, leaving 12-inch stumps on which sheets of material could be spread and the fumigation process carried out over this area as well.

THREE MEN WHO ARE TAKING a leading part in the attempt to prevent the spread of the Oriental Fruit Moth in British Columbia's tree fruit orchards are pictured here just turning on the fumigation equipment and gas from the cylinders is pouring into the plant of York Farms Ltd. at Osoyoos. From left to right they are On La

BIG JOB

No Canadian pest control operator was equipped to do the job and the successful bidder came from Ontario, California. The company, operated by Harper Brothers, brought with them well over two acres of plastic impregnated nylon tarpaulins which they used for the job. Most of this was in sheets 43 by 50 feet, though s as

SEVEN TONS

To fumigate neries at Su Osoyoos, mor pounds of was used, Le mercial Che plied the Country Li from the month.