

The majority of the cherry-trees are grown in Central Otago and Canterbury, the respective areas being 125 and 50 acres.

The total of stone-fruit trees at 31st March, 1949, was :—

				In Orchards Over 120 Trees.	In Orchards Under 120 Trees.	Total.
				Trees.	Trees.	Trees.
Peach	..	..	..	286,686	10,275	296,961
Nectarine	..	..	..	30,689	3,324	34,013
Apricot	..	..	..	95,828	4,013	99,841
Plum	..	..	..	141,916	13,773	155,689
Cherry	..	..	..	25,599	986	26,585

The total acreage in stone-fruits was :—

				Acres.					Acres.
Peach	..	..	..	2,474	Nectarine	..	..	..	283
Plum	..	..	..	1,297	Cherry	..	..	..	221
Apricot	..	..	..	832					

(1) The over-all increase in peach-trees during the year was 24,000, including 5,600 in Central Otago, 6,500 in Hawkes Bay, 5,100 in Auckland, 1,000 in Marlborough and 1,000 in Canterbury. The most favoured variety was Golden Queen.

(2) There was a marked increase of 14,000 plum-trees over 1948, the principal plantings being 4,700 in Auckland, 3,600 in Hawkes Bay, 2,700 in Central Otago, and 1,500 in Nelson.

(3) The Dominion total of apricot-trees increased by 7,500 trees, 7,200 being planted at Roxburgh and Alexandra and 1,500 in Hawkes Bay. In other districts there were slight decreases.

(4) An increase of 4,000 nectarine-trees was recorded, of which 1,000 were planted in orchards near Alexandra.

(5) There was little change in the cherry plantings.

An area of 75 acres is being developed at Katikati by a producer who intends to grow peaches and plums for canning.

The estimated production in thousands of bushels of other pip-fruits and all stone-fruits for the 1948-49 season at 31st March, 1949, was :—

				(1) Peaches.	(2) Plums.	(3) Apricots.	(4) Nectarines.	(5) Cherries.	Quinces.
Auckland	..	..	..	39	45	1	1	..	9
Gisborne	..	..	..	6	6	..	1	..	1
Hawkes Bay	..	..	..	250	43	2	20	1	9
Manawatu and Wanganui	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..
Wairarapa	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nelson	..	..	..	55	8	..	1	1	9
Marlborough	..	..	..	4	1	..	1	1	..
Canterbury and North Otago	..	..	..	7	6	8	2	2	..
Central Otago	..	..	..	87	23	118	18	8	1
Totals	..	..	..	449	133	129	44	13	29

Apart from apricots, which show an increase of 33,000 bushels, mainly because of better seasonal conditions in Central Otago, the 1948-49 production figures are about the same as those for 1947-48.