

The Extension and Horticulture Divisions undertook an economic survey of the commercial production of raspberries at Motueka, Tapawera, Canterbury, Otago, Hawkes Bay, Masterton, Palmerston North, and Utiku.

Sub-tropical fruits are grown in Auckland Province. They include Chinese gooseberries, tree tomatoes, passion-fruit, and feijoa.

Sub-tropical Fruits: The estimated production of these fruits during 1948 was :—

	Chinese Gooseberries.	Tree Tomatoes.	Passion-fruit.	Feijoa.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Kaikohe	8	17	26	1
Auckland	9	131	51	7½
Tauranga	15	94	29	11
Manawatu	..	..	..	..
Totals.. ..	32	242	106	19½

Tree-tomato plantations in the sub-tropical districts show infection from some virus diseases.

Brown-spot and grease-spot on passion-fruit continue to cause heavy losses of fruit in North Auckland.

VEGETABLES

Under the Commercial Gardens Registration Act, 1943, commercial market-gardeners register their gardens and pay fees on a prescribed scale. The fees collected by the Division, after deduction of costs of collection and administration, are paid to the Dominion Council of Commercial Gardeners to assist in the sound development of commercial market-gardening.

Last year 3,300 growers registered their gardens, covering a total area of 17,630 acres, divided into 16,670 not under glass and 960 under glass. Districts with more than 1,000 acres are :—

	Acres.		Acres.
Auckland	3,889	Palmerston North	1,330
Hawkes Bay	2,093	Timaru	1,263
Christchurch	1,878	Nelson	1,254
Pukekohe	1,731		

Market-gardening.—A Dominion summary of the area used in 1948 for the production of the principal vegetables shows the following acreages in each crop :—

	Acres.		Acres.
French beans	316	Lettuce	1,300
Runner beans	238	Parsnip	358
Beet-root	253	Peas	3,347
Carrot	933	Pumpkin	1,116
Cabbage	2,334	Indoor tomatoes	440
Cauliflower	2,174	Outdoor tomatoes	1,570

The major district for french-bean production is Hawkes Bay, with 140 acres. Other principal acreages of french beans' centres are :—

	Acres.
Auckland	70
Manawatu	33
Pukekohe	25