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2.0T SE shown

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SELLING PRICE: \$20,780* ELANTRA GT GL 6-SPEED MANUAL, DELIVERY, DESTINATION & FEES INCLUDED, PLUS HST.



SE with Tech shown

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Dry weather has hit crops hard

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His wife Heather agrees. "We have heard that some orchards have nothing," said Heather. "It seems some orchards were hit harder than others, perhaps with the lay of the land, or the orchard was more protected by surrounding trees—it could even be some varieties handled the frost better than others."

"We have one row of established trees that ordinarily would produce about three bushels a tree, but will be hard-pressed to get three bushels from the entire row," said Brad. "On the other hand, some trees look not too bad."

With the freak weather killing off the crop, the Frasers said there are a number of other related businesses that have also been impacted.

"Orchards use bees to pollinate their apple blossoms, but with the killing frost, many orchard owners didn't even hire beekeepers to bring in hives for pollination," said Brad. "Not only are the beekeepers out their annual pollination fees, but also have no honey collected as a result."

Brad said packers at the Ontario Food Terminal said they doubt there will be any Ontario apples in the grocery stores by January. They will all have to be brought in from other sources.

Both Brad and Heather suggest the best thing for people wanting to go out apple picking this fall is to check the orchards' web sites, to see what is available. Otherwise they may make a trip for nothing. The Frasers do have some varieties available and will be open weekends this fall.

Other crops like corn and soybeans in Halton have been impacted by the more recent dry summer, with six to eight weeks without rain.

Local Halton Hills cash cropper Bill Allison says at this point, the extent of the drought damage to soybeans and corn is an 'unknown'. With 350 acres of corn and 700 acres of soybeans, he's concerned about the yields this year.

"We know the corn crop (yield) is definitely going to be down for sure," said Allison, "It's just a matter of 'how much down' it is."

Allison said the drought damage isn't quite province-wide, but does include an area as far west as London, but seems better southwest of London. To the east, he said the Ottawa area was hit with a severe dry spell as well, and the crops out that way will certainly be impacted.

"With our soybeans, we're all still uncertain how bad they will be affected," said Allison. "We know the beans will probably do better than the corn, since they received a pretty good rain before it was too late. The other problem with dry weather and soybeans is the spider mites."

Spider mites are an insect that can wreak havoc on soybeans as they attack the leaves, turning them prematurely brown.

"In a normal year, the (spider) mites are washed off the leaves by rain, so they aren't much of a problem," explained Allison. "But when it's as dry as this year, and for such extended periods, they have been quite a problem."

Allison has had the fields sprayed to keep the spider mites in check, but they still came back, and the spraying costs money, taking away from the bottom line.

Hay yields in Halton Hills have also been disastrous, with some farmers seeing yields of half of last year's crop.

"The first crop was not great," said Allison, "and the second crop (yield) will likely be down as well."

As a result, hay prices have skyrocketed to unprecedented levels this summer.

In some areas, large round bales and small squares have nearly doubled in price, which is not good news to farmers raising livestock. As a result, many farmers have sent animals to the stock yards earlier than usual, rather than buying expensive hay to make it through the winter. With a glut of animals at the livestock auction, the prices have dropped.

Another area that is in question is the maple syrup crop for next year. Because of their sheer size, trees often take a year to react to extremes in their life cycle. Some wonder if this summer's dry spell will impact next spring's maple syrup production.



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