

# Overview of the Garlic and Onion Industry in Canada

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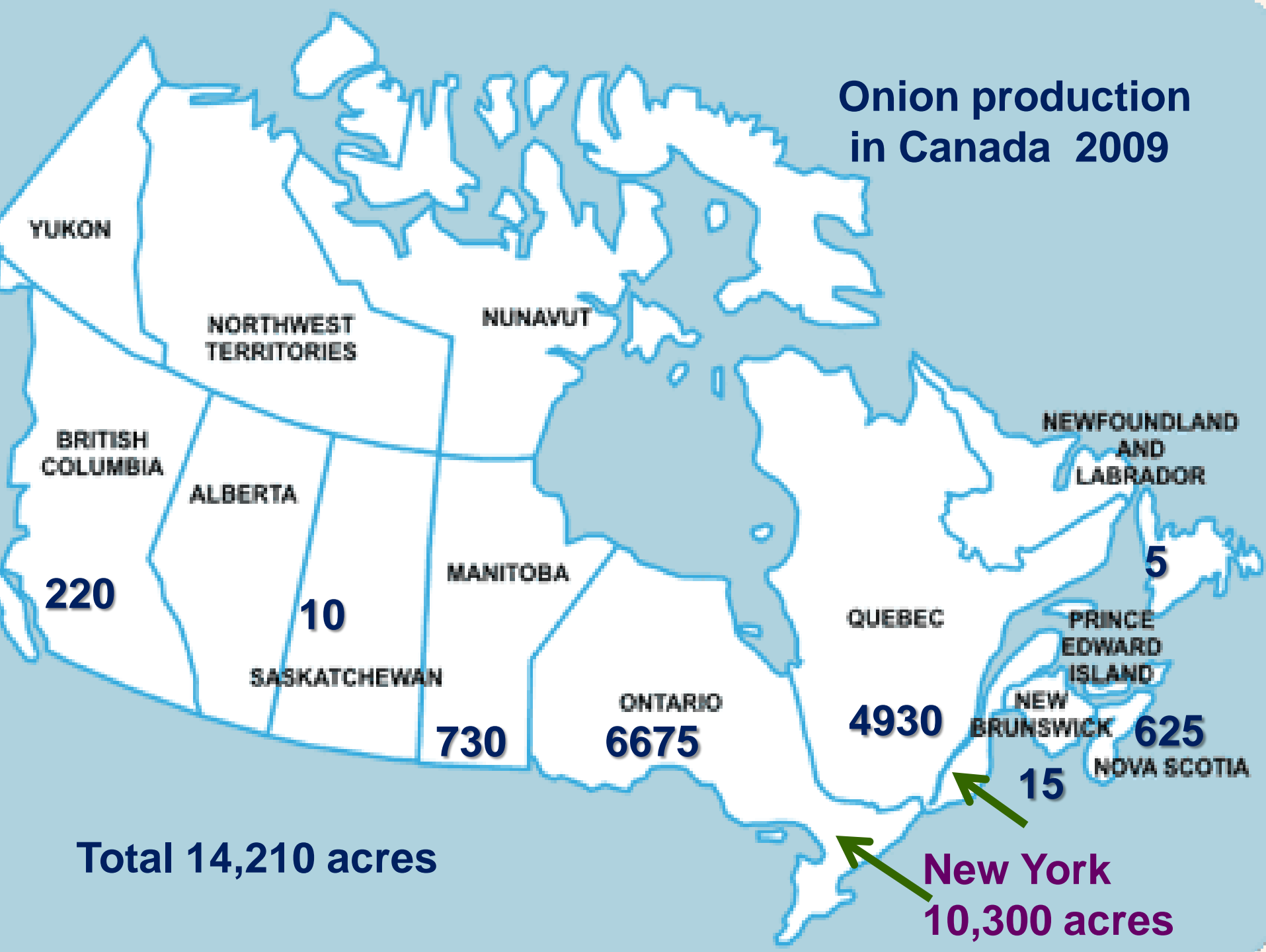
**Holland Marsh , Ontario, Canada:  $44^{\circ} 15' N$ ,  $79^{\circ} 35' W$**   
**Fresno:  $36^{\circ} 45' N$ ,  $119^{\circ} 45' W$**

# Onions in Canada

- In 2009 there were:
- 14,210 acres
- which produced 242,387 tons
- Worth \$57.9 million



## Onion production in Canada 2009





# Onions in Canada

- Long day, yellow bulb onions
- Most are onions grown on muck soils - in Quebec, Ontario and B.C.
- Seeded April – early May, harvested Aug. & September



# Onions in Canada

- About 10% of yellow bulb onions in Ontario are grown from plug transplants for the early market.
- There is a premium for early, large, cooking onions



**3-4 seeds  
per plug**



# Onions in Canada

- **Spanish onions are generally grown on mineral soil.**
  - These are usually grown from transplants
- Small acreage, but increasing interest in processing for onion rings**



**Cooking onions are  
sprayed with maleic  
hydrazide (MH 30) to  
prevent sprouting in  
storage**

**Pulled, and left in  
windrows to dry  
for 2 days- 3 weeks  
to field cure**





**Most are also put through artificial curing ( 80 90 °F for 1 – 3 days) then gradually cooled to 32 °F and stored at 65% relative humidity**

**These onions can store for 10 -12 months, usually sold within 8 months of harvest**

**80% of the crop goes into storage and is sold from November- April (seeding new crop, refrigeration costs)**



# Onion Challenges

- Production-
  - Weed control
  - Onion thrips
  - Downy mildew
  - Onion maggot
  - Onion smut
  - Allium white rot
  - Botrytis leaf blight
  - Bacterial diseases

**The Weather!**





# Iris yellow spot virus

- Found in Ontario in 2007 and 2008
- 2007: 7 of 8 fields in the Holland Marsh tested positive, also in set onions in other parts of the province
- 2008: 2 of 7 fields in the Holland Marsh
- 1 of 3 in Chatham/Kent and Thedford/Grand Bend
- 0 of 1 in Norfolk county
- Both years there was low incidence in the fields and no apparent yield loss resulting from the virus
- No more surveys for IYSV, but no problems have been identified



**Irrigation:  
Bradford usually  
receives 40 inches of  
rain a year**

**Before 1988, very little  
irrigation of onions,  
then sprinkler irrigation  
with solid set pipe**

**Now travelling low  
booms**

**Is irrigation needed on  
onions on muck soil?**



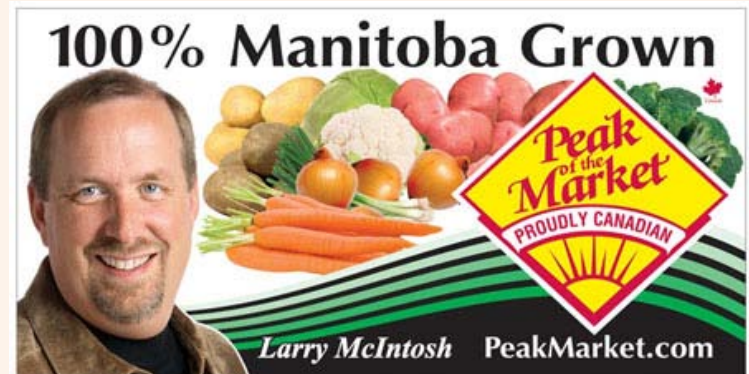




**Sometimes we get too much water!**

# Onion Challenges

- **Marketing-**
  - Peak of the Market-  
Manitoba
  - Other brands:
  - Holland Marsh Growers
- Canadian dollar compared to U.S. dollar
- Canadian onions are exported to the Caribbean islands, some to eastern U.S.
- 40 to 60% of Ontario onions are exported during the winter months





# Garlic in Canada

In 2009 there were:

- 640 acres
- which produced 755 tons
- Worth \$3.6 million

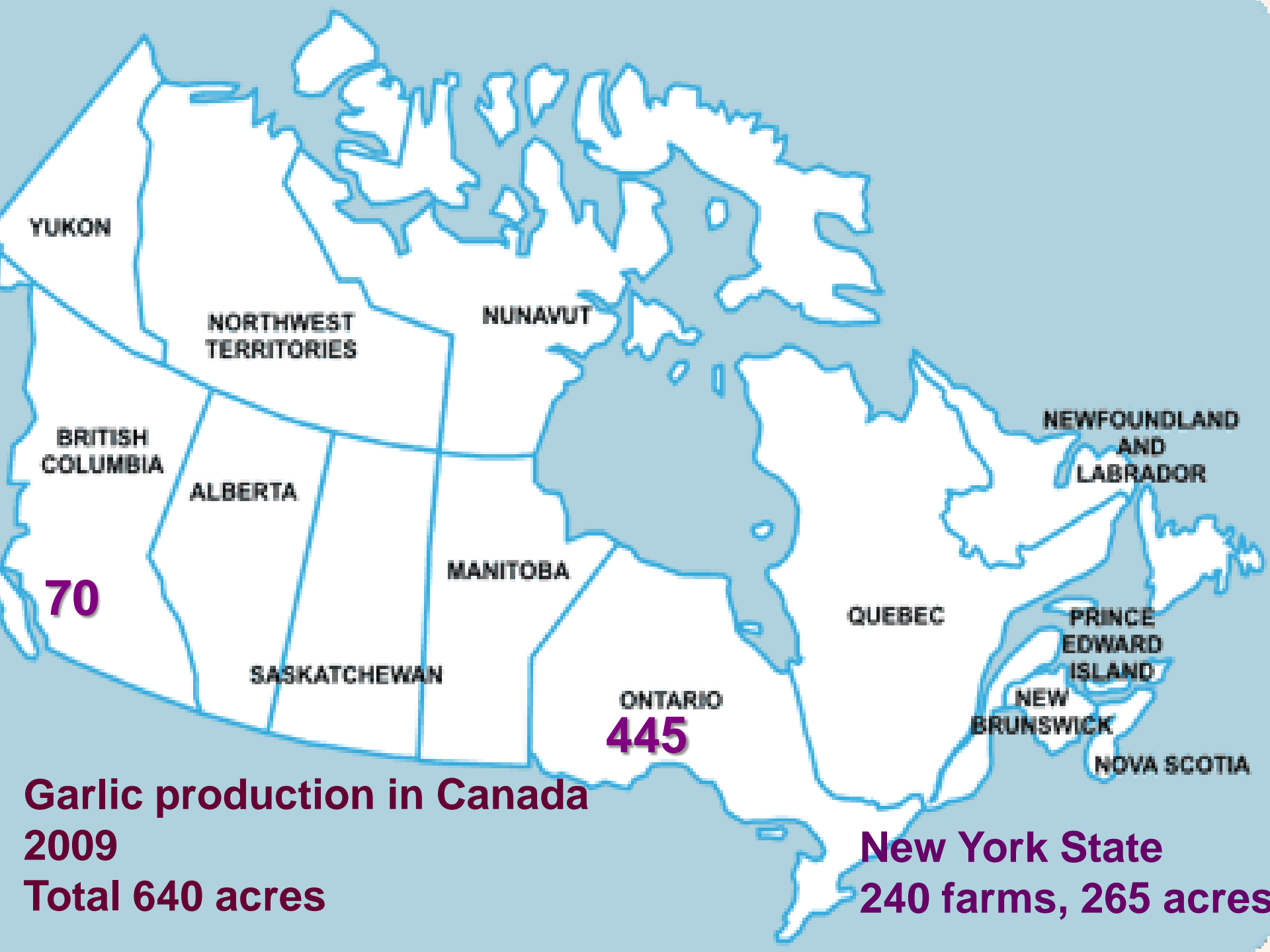


# Garlic in Canada

- Garlic production is mostly small scale. The largest producer in Ontario has 150 acres.
- Most is sold at farmers' markets and garlic festivals
- Recently, demand has been greater than supply.
- More acres planted in fall 2010







# Garlic in Canada

- **Garlic is planted in the fall**
  - Mid October in Ontario, mid September on the prairies
  - Overwinters under the snow
- **Harvested the following July or August**
- **Dried and can be stored for several months**





**Most is hard neck garlic,  
the scapes have to be  
removed, mostly by  
hand.**

**There are some markets  
for scapes “garlic  
asparagus” or “garlic  
flowers”**



# **Garlic Challenges:**

**Clean seed!!**

**Big problems with  
bulb and stem  
nematode**







Questions?