



Cherry Production

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Tart Cherry Production Up 40 Percent

United States tart cherry production is forecast at 266 million pounds, up 40 percent from the 2010 production.

Michigan, the largest producing State, expects a larger crop than last year. Development of the crop was behind normal due to below average spring temperatures. The bloom was reported to be excellent despite cool, wet conditions which hampered pollination in many locations.

Washington experienced cold weather and wet conditions in the spring. Frost was a problem during bloom and conditions were less than optimal for pollination.

Utah production is expected to be above last year despite reports of wind damage. Maturation of the cherries was reported to be uneven with some cherries turning yellow.

New York growers are expecting record low production. Lake Ontario growers reported that excessive rain and lack of pollination affected the production potential this year. The Finger Lakes area was impacted by heavy snowfall in the winter and cold temperatures in the spring.

Pennsylvania growers are anticipating an average crop of tart cherries.

Oregon's production was reported to be larger than the previous year, but not as large as two years ago due to cool, wet spring weather that limited bee activity and pollination.

In Wisconsin, cool spring conditions led to a later and longer bloom than normal. Despite the cool weather, little frost damage was reported.

Tart Cherry Production – States and United States: 2009, 2010, and Forecasted 2011

State	Total production		
	2009	2010	2011
	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)
Michigan	266.0	135.0	210.0
New York	11.2	7.8	6.5
Oregon	3.2	1.2	1.7
Pennsylvania	3.9	2.3	3.2
Utah	47.0	23.0	24.0
Washington	16.7	15.4	12.0
Wisconsin	10.9	5.7	8.7
United States	358.9	190.4	266.1

Sweet Cherry Production Up 4 Percent

United States sweet cherry production is forecast at 324,830 tons, up 4 percent from 2010.

The Washington crop was running approximately two weeks later than normal due to cool weather however growers are still expecting a larger crop than last year.

California experienced a relatively cool and moist growing season for cherries.

Oregon experienced an unusually cool spring that pushed the crop behind by two to three weeks.

A large number of flowering buds in Michigan indicated the potential for an above average production year. However, some growers reported low pollination problems due to a cool, wet spring.

Idaho growers are expecting the sweet cherry production to rebound significantly from last year's freeze damaged crop.

New York sweet cherry growers reported cold weather in the winter and a wet spring that brought record moisture before and after bloom.

In Utah, sweet cherries, which bloom earlier than tart cherries, were damaged significantly by freezing temperatures.

Sweet Cherry Production – States and United States: 2009, 2010, and Forecasted 2011

[Blank cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

State	Total production		
	2009	2010	2011
	(tons)	(tons)	(tons)
California ¹	92,000	97,000	85,000
Idaho	6,000	1,900	3,800
Michigan	28,700	15,100	19,000
Montana ²	2,390	2,470	
New York	1,240	1,000	930
Oregon	66,000	38,150	36,000
Utah	1,540	1,100	100
Washington	245,000	156,000	180,000
United States	442,870	312,720	324,830

¹ Forecast carried forward from *Crop Production* released June 2011.

² The first estimate for 2011 sweet cherries in Montana will be published in the January 2012 *Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts 2011 Preliminary Summary*.

Statistical Methodology

Survey Procedures: Grower surveys are conducted in 9 cherry estimating States during the growing season. Producers are contacted to obtain expected yield or production and their assessment of the current crop relative to a full crop. Telephone follow-up of mail survey non-respondents is used to ensure adequate coverage.

Estimating Procedures: Information obtained from the cherry grower surveys along with federal administrative data is used to establish forecasts of total production. These forecasts are reviewed for errors, reasonableness, and consistency with historical estimates.

Revision Policy: Cherry production forecasts will not be revised. End-of-season estimates of production are made following harvest and are subject to revision the following year based on a thorough review of all available data.

Reliability: Survey indications are subject to sampling variability because all operations growing cherries are not included in the sample. Survey results are also subject to non-sampling errors such as omission, duplication, imputation for missing data, and mistakes in reporting, recording, and processing the data. These errors cannot be measured directly, but they are minimized through rigid quality controls in the data collection process and a careful review of all reported data for consistency and reasonableness.

Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity statisticians in the Crops Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information. E-mail inquiries may be sent to nass@nass.usda.gov

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