

Cherry Production



United States
Department of
Agriculture

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Tart Cherry Production Down 2 Percent

U.S. tart cherry production is forecast at 330 million pounds, down 2 percent from last year but 74 percent more than 1991.

The largest producing State, Michigan, expects a crop of 275 million pounds, up 12 percent from last year and more than double the 1991 crop. The sets of tart cherries were fair in the southwest, very good in the west central, and excellent in the northwest. Development was below the normal schedule due to cool spring weather. Virtually no frost damage has occurred. Disease infestations have been held in check in most orchards.

Production in New York is forecast at 14.8 million pounds, 52 percent less than last year. The average date of full bloom was May 10, slightly ahead of the May 14 date a year ago. Harvest is expected to get underway on July 16. Cherries are light this year due to winter injury and frost damage in April.

The Pennsylvania crop, at 11.0 million pounds, is 83 percent more than last year's crop. There were a few scattered reports of frost damage. Harvest is indicated to begin July 4 and end July 18.

Wisconsin's forecast of 9.30 million pounds is 2 percent more than the 1992 crop. Pollination was hurt by cool weather. Some orchards were touched with frost but had little damage compared to last year's frost. Overall, the majority of growers suggest a good crop.

Tart Cherries: Total Production by State
and United States, 1991-92 and Forecasted June 15, 1993

State	Total Production ^{1/}		
	1991	1992	1993
	Million Pounds		
CO ^{2/}	1.6	1.5	1.6
MI	110.0	245.0	275.0
NY	25.5	31.0	14.8
OR ^{2/}	7.5	9.5	2.0
PA	11.5	6.0	11.0
UT ^{2/}	26.0	33.0	16.0
WI	7.8	9.1	9.3
US	189.9	335.1	329.7

^{1/} Includes unharvested production and harvested not sold (million pounds):
1991 - 0.2, 1992 - 22.1.

^{2/} Estimates for current year carried forward from earlier forecast.

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8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET.

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Sweet Cherry Production Down 15 Percent

U.S. sweet cherry production is forecast at 178,100 tons, down 15 percent from last year but 18 percent more than 1991.

The Michigan crop, at 28,000 tons, is 56 percent more than last year. Pollination occurred in May and resulted in a heavy set. The June drop was large but that has not diminished the prospects for an excellent crop. There has been concern the past week over cracking from the late June deluges. Insect pest counts have been low.

New York expects 45 percent less than last year, at 600 tons. Winter injury and frost damage in April limited crop potential. A late frost and prolonged wet conditions discouraged blossoms and buds. Harvest is expected to begin about July 4.

Production of 1,200 tons is expected in Pennsylvania, 9 percent more than 1992. June drop was heavy. The crop looks good and fruit size should be large. Bird damage has been minimal so far. Harvest began about June 22.

Sweet Cherries: Total Production by State and United States, 1991-92 and Forecasted June 15, 1993

State	Total Production <u>1/</u>		
	1991	1992	1993
	Tons		
CA <u>2/</u>	36,000	31,000	20,000
ID <u>2/</u>	400	1,200	1,500
MI	21,000	18,000	28,000
MT <u>2/ 3/</u>		800	1,600
NY	1,250	1,100	600
OR <u>2/</u>	40,000	55,000	38,000
PA	1,100	1,100	1,200
UT <u>2/</u>	800	3,200	1,200
WA <u>2/ 4/</u>	50,000	97,000	86,000
US	150,550	208,400	178,100

1/ Includes unharvested production and harvested not sold (tons): 1991 - 8,150; 1992 - 13,350.

2/ Estimates for current year carried forward from earlier forecast.

3/ No commercial production due to frost in 1991.

4/ 1992 revised.

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The next "Cherry Production" report will be released in June 1994.