

Cherry Production



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Agriculture

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Tart Cherry Production Highest in Many Years

U.S. tart cherry production for 1995 is forecast at 391 million pounds. This level is the highest since 1964 when 547 million pounds were grown and surpasses the modern day high of 359 million pounds produced in 1987 by 9 percent. The 1995 output exceeds the 1994 level of 288 million pounds by 36 percent.

Michigan, the largest producing state, expects a 320 million pound crop, 52 percent greater than the previous year. That total is the second largest ever and the record high is 380 million pounds produced in 1964. The season began slowly due to cool spring temperatures but without any frost damage. The favorable weather resulted in excellent fruit set in almost all orchards. Moisture was adequate and record high June temperatures pushed crop development. Harvest should start in the Southwest by early July.

Oregon and Utah crops were hurt by cool, wet weather at pollination time. Late season rains in Oregon caused splitting to further reduce their crop. The remaining tart cherry producing states reported no major problems and generally favorable crops. Growers in many states expressed concern over low prices and how much to pick or where to sell their fruit.

Tart Cherries: Total Production by State and United States
1993-94 and Forecasted 1995

State	Total Production		
	1993	1994	1995
	Million Pounds		
CO	1.6	1.5	1.2
MI	270.0	210.0	320.0
NY	15.7	26.0	30.0
OR	3.0	8.0	4.0
PA	11.5	9.0	10.0
UT	15.0	26.5	20.0
WI	6.6	6.8	5.8
Total	323.4	287.8	391.0

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Sweet Cherry Production Down Sharply

U.S. sweet cherry production is off 35 percent from a year ago, at 135,700 tons. This level is the lowest since 1985. West Coast states are off a combined 42 percent from 1994. The California forecast of 15,000 tons was carried forward from early June. California was hurt severely by early season rains and cool temperatures at pollination time and then again by rain in mid-May causing heavy splitting. Oregon growers also experienced poor pollination and set due to a cool, wet spring. It appears the Dalles/Hood River area in Oregon may harvest a smaller crop than initially expected. Both the Hood River area and Willamette Valley received rain in mid-June which caused splitting. Washington cherries were set back by wet and cool weather causing poor pollination. The Wenatchee area is expected to be hurt the most but supplies are light also from the Yakima district. Rains and cool weather in that area have slowed harvest. Trading for the light crop is active.

The Mountain states were hurt by cold, wet weather during the bloom. Several hard freezes also cut into production. New York is the only state expecting a larger crop this year. Conditions in that state are considered excellent for sweet cherries. Final crop size, however, is dependant upon getting rain, soon.

Sweet Cherries: Total Production by State and United States, 1993-94 and Forecasted 1995

State	Total Production		
	1993	1994	1995
	Tons		
CA 1/	19,000	52,000	15,000
ID	1,500	1,300	500
MI	30,000	25,000	29,000
MT	900	750	600
NY	700	900	1,000
OR	34,000	42,000	27,000
PA	1,200	950	900
UT	1,250	2,300	1,700
WA	80,000	82,000	60,000
Total	168,550	207,200	135,700

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

The next "Cherry Production" report will be released in June 1996.

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