

Cherry Production



United States
Department of
Agriculture

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Tart Cherry Production Up 37 Percent

U.S. tart cherry production is forecast at 261 million pounds, up 37 percent from last year and 25 percent more than 1990.

The largest producing State, Michigan, expects a crop of 185 million pounds, up 68 percent from last year and 16 percent more than 1990. Even though production is approaching normal levels, weather conditions have reduced crop potential. Some frost damage occurred throughout the State May 25 to May 28. High winds, on June 17, also caused damage to developing fruit. Cool spring temperatures slowed crop development.

Production in New York is forecast at 24.0 million pounds, down 6 percent from the 1991 crop. The bloom was good this year. Some brown rot has been observed. Harvest is expected to peak around July 17.

The Pennsylvania crop is expected to be less than half the size of last year's crop. Last summer's drought and spring frost damage appear to be the main contributors to the reduction. The average date of full bloom was May 1, a week later than last year. Harvest is expected to be 9 days later than last year, beginning about July 4. The most active harvest dates should be July 5 through July 15. Harvest is expected to be complete by July 17, 11 days behind last year.

Wisconsin's forecast at 7.30 million pounds, is 6 percent less than the 1991 crop. A spring freeze, hail, and high winds have combined to reduce the crop.

Tart Cherries: Total Production by State,
and United States, 1990-91 and Forecasted 1992

State	Total Production ^{1/}		
	1990	1991	1992
	Million Pounds		
CO ^{2/}	1.0	1.6	1.5
MI	160.0	110.0	185.0
NY	16.5	25.5	24.0
OR ^{2/}	7.5	7.5	8.0
PA	3.5	11.5	5.0
UT ^{2/}	15.5	26.0	30.0
WI	4.8	7.8	7.3
US	208.8	189.9	260.8

^{1/} Includes unharvested production and harvested not sold (million pounds): 1990 - 5.9, 1991 - 0.2. ^{2/} Estimates for current year carried forward from earlier forecast.

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Sweet Cherry Production Up 27 Percent

Increased production in the Western States, except California, offset reduced production in the Great Lakes States. The result is a forecast of 192,900 tons, up 27 percent from last year and 23 percent more than 1990. Production in the Great Lakes States fell 18 percent, while production in the Western States rose 36 percent.

The Michigan crop, at 18,000 tons, is 18 percent less than last year's crop. Freezing temperatures May 25 to May 28, caused some crop damage. High winds on June 17th caused additional damage. Crop development has been slowed by the cool weather.

New York expects a crop 12 percent less than last year, at 1,100 tons. Bloom was the best in several years and showed good crop potential at the start. Production potential was reduced by frost which occurred in late May. Harvest is expected to center around July 5.

Production of 800 tons is expected in Pennsylvania. This level is 27 percent less than 1991 production. Adverse weather conditions last summer and this spring weakened the trees and lowered bloom. The average date of full bloom was April 29, 9 days behind last year. Harvest is 11 days later than last season, beginning about June 24. Growers anticipate June 25 through July 4 to be their most active harvesting period. The crop is expected to be harvested by July 6, 13 days behind last year.

Sweet Cherries: Total Production by State,
and United States, 1990-91 and Forecasted 1992

State	Total Production ^{1/}		
	1990	1991	1992
	Tons		
CA ^{2/}	22,000	36,000	27,000
ID ^{2/}	2,000	400	1,200
MI	16,000	22,000	18,000
MT ^{2/ 3/}	280		800
NY	1,000	1,250	1,100
OR ^{2/}	48,000	40,000	53,000
PA	50	1,100	800
UT ^{2/}	1,400	800	4,000
WA ^{2/}	66,000	50,000	87,000
US	156,730	151,550	192,900

^{1/} Includes unharvested production and harvested not sold (tons): 1990 - 24,380, 1991 - 8,150. ^{2/} Estimates for current year carried forward from earlier forecast. ^{3/} No commercial production due to frost in 1991.

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The next "Cherry Production" report will be released in 1993.