

Cherry Production



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Tart Cherry Production Down 24 Percent

The U.S. Tart cherry forecast, at 159 million pounds, is down 24 percent from last year and down 40 percent from 1989.

The leading producing State, Michigan, expects a crop of 95.0 million pounds, off 41 percent from last year and 47 percent less than the 1989 crop. A severe freeze on April 10 and 11 caused extensive damage to the crop in the southwestern area of the State. The northwest escaped severe damage by this cold snap because of less crop development. The freeze of May 3 however, did cause damage in the northwest. The freezes were followed by poor pollination weather statewide and ragged bloom. As a result, yields are expected to be down.

Production in New York is forecast at 21.0 million pounds, up 27 percent from a year ago. A March ice storm caused major tree damage. The tree damage will limit production even though the set was good and yields are expected to be above last year's. The crop potential fell even further due to a June 12 hail storm.

The Pennsylvania crop is expected to be almost three times larger than last year, at 10.0 million pounds. Bloom and set were good and there have been no major weather problems, although the crop needs a good rain. Harvest should begin about June 25, eight days earlier than last year.

Wisconsin's forecast at 7.80 million pounds, is 63 percent above last year. Weather has been generally good this spring and the crop escaped freeze damage.

Tart Cherries, Production 1989-91

State	Production		
	Total ^{1/}		Indicated 1991
	1989	1990	
Million Pounds			
CO ^{2/}	0.5	1.0	1.3
MI	180.0	160.0	95.0
NY	31.0	16.5	21.0
OR ^{2/}	15.0	7.5	5.0
PA	6.0	3.5	10.0
UT ^{2/}	24.0	15.5	19.0
WI	7.6	4.8	7.8
Total	264.1	208.8	159.1

^{1/} Includes unharvested production and harvested not sold (million pounds): 1989 - 21.9, 1990 - 5.9. ^{2/} Estimates for current year carried forward earlier forecast. ^{3/} No commercial production due to frost.

For additional information, call Jim Brewster (202) 447-7688. Office hours are 8:00 to 4:30 ET.

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Sweet Cherry Production Down 12 Percent

Increased production in California, New York, and Pennsylvania this year could not offset lower production in the other States. The result is a forecast of 137,500 tons, 12 percent less than last year and 29 percent less than 1989. Production in the Great Lakes States rose 1 percent, while production in the western States fell 14 percent.

The Michigan crop, at 15,000 tons, is 6 percent less than last year. A severe freeze in April damaged the crop in the southwest and a May freeze damaged the crop in the northwest.

New York expects a crop 30 percent larger than last year, at 1,300 tons. Harvest began in mid-June on early varieties in the Hudson River Valley. Harvesting should peak about June 28.

Pennsylvania expects production of 900 tons, much larger than last year's freeze damaged crop. Harvest began June 13 and should be complete by June 23. Peak harvest will be June 15-20.

Sweet Cherries, Production 1989-91

State	Production		
	Total ^{1/}		Indicated 1991
	1989	1990	
	Tons		
CA ^{2/}	26,000	22,000	36,000
ID ^{2/}	2,700	2,000	500
MI	25,000	16,000	15,000
MT ^{2/}	^{3/}	280	^{3/}
NY	1,350	1,000	1,300
OR ^{2/}	52,000	48,000	33,000
PA	700	50	900
UT ^{2/}	1,700	1,400	800
WA ^{2/}	84,000	66,000	50,000
US	193,450	156,730	137,500

^{1/} Includes unharvested production and harvested not sold (tons): 1989 - 2,520; 1990 - 24,380. ^{2/} Estimates for current year carried forward from earlier forecast. ^{3/} No commercial production due to frost.

The next Cherry Production report will be released on June 1992 at 3:00 p.m. ET.

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