

Cherry Production



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Tart Cherry Production Down 35 Percent

U.S. tart cherry production is forecast at 248 million pounds, down 35 percent from 1995 and down 15 percent from 1994. If realized, this would be the lowest production since 1991 when 189.9 million pounds were produced.

Michigan, the largest producing state, expects a crop of 180 million pounds, down 42 percent from last year's near-record crop and 14 percent below the 1994 crop. Unseasonably cool weather during spring got the crop off to a slow start. A prolonged bloom hindered proper fruit development. Poor pollination weather and a shortage of bees will limit potential statewide. Growers reported frost damage in the Southwest and West Central areas. In the Northwest, the crop escaped severe frost damage and is in good condition. Harvest will begin around mid-July, about one week behind schedule.

Production in New York is forecast at 25 million pounds, 22 percent less than last year. The crop is light as a result of poor pollination weather and a reduction in acreage. An increase in production was shown for Utah, while all other States registered decreases.

Tart Cherries: Total Production by State and United States,
1994-95 and Forecasted 1996

State	Total Production		
	1994	1995	1996
	Million Pounds		
CO	1.5	1.2	1.0
MI	210.0	310.0	180.0
NY	26.0	32.0	25.0
OR	8.0	1.6	1.5
PA	9.0	9.5	8.5
UT	26.5	22.0	25.0
WI	9.2	7.7	6.9
Total	290.2	384.0	247.9

Sweet Cherry Production Down 19 Percent

U.S. sweet cherry production is forecast at 133,200 tons, down 19 percent from 1995 and down 36 percent from 1994. Increased production in California could not offset lower production in the other states. If realized, this would be the lowest production since 1985 when 132,500 tons were produced.

The Michigan crop, at 22,000 tons, is 19 percent less than last year. Poor pollination conditions hurt crop prospects and a May frost damaged fruit buds. Spraying schedules were interrupted by continual rains. Harvest is expected to begin one-to-two weeks behind normal.

Oregon and Washington growers expect light crops in 1996. A cold snap in February followed by cool, wet weather during pollination limited these Western States' crop potential. Poor pollination conditions and reports of frost damage made for reduced prospects in New York and Pennsylvania.

Sweet Cherries: Total Production by State and United States,
1994-95 and Forecasted 1996

State	Total Production		
	1994	1995	1996
	Tons		
CA 1/	52,000	19,800	25,000
ID	1,400	700	1,800
MI	25,000	27,000	22,000
MT	750	650	900
NY	900	1,100	700
OR	42,000	38,000	30,000
PA	950	1,000	800
UT	2,300	2,000	2,000
WA	82,000	75,000	50,000
Total	207,300	165,250	133,200

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

The next "Cherry Production" report will be released in June 1997.

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