

Cherry Production



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Tart Cherry Production Down 10 Percent

U.S. tart cherry production is forecast at 242.2 million pounds, down 10 percent from 1996 and down 39 percent from 1995. This level is the lowest since 1991 when 189.9 million pounds were produced.

Michigan, the largest producing state, expects a crop of 180 million pounds, a decline of 8 percent from last year and 42 percent below the 1995 crop. The season progressed slowly due to unseasonably cool weather during the spring. A prolonged bloom in the Southwest caused above normal disparity in maturity, therefore lowering yield potential. The expected yield in the Northwest is average. The crop looks very good in the West Central region, and harvest will begin about July 20.

Production in New York is forecast at 14.5 million pounds, down 24 percent from 1996, and down 55 percent from two years ago. Some areas along Lake Ontario suffered frost damage. New York experienced below average temperatures statewide, which hampered fruit development. Utah and Washington both forecast 14 million pounds. Both states expect a decline from last year.

Tart Cherries: Total Production by State and United States,
1995-96 and Forecasted 1997

State	Total Production		
	1995	1996	1997
Million Pounds			
CO	1.2	1.0	.7
MI	310.0	195.0	180.0
NY	32.0	19.0	14.5
OR	1.6	2.5	3.2
PA	9.5	7.5	5.0
UT	22.0	25.0	14.0
WA	11.6	14.2	14.0
WI	7.7	6.1	10.8
Total	395.6	270.3	242.2

Sweet Cherry Production Up 24 Percent

U.S. sweet cherry production is forecast at 191,250 tons, up 24 percent from 1996 and 16 percent above 1995. The three largest states, California, Oregon, and Washington expect an increase in production from last year.

The Washington crop, at 85,000 tons, is 23 percent more than last year. All major areas forecasted an increase from last year, and a good quality crop is expected. Weather was favorable for growing conditions in Washington and Oregon. Production in Oregon is forecast at 43,000 tons, up 34 percent from last year.

The sweet cherry crop in California is forecast at 35,000 tons, up 42 percent from 1996. Good weather throughout the growing season resulted in better yields.

The Michigan sweet cherry crop is forecast at 24,000 tons, up 9 percent from 1996, but down 11 percent from 1995. Bloom population was adequate, but cold weather hampered pollination. Cooler than normal temperatures also affected crop development in New York and Pennsylvania. Both states expect slight declines from a year ago.

Sweet Cherries: Total Production by State and United States, 1995-96 and Forecasted 1997

State	Total Production 1/		
	1995	1996	1997
	Tons		
CA	19,800	24,600	35,000
ID	700	2,200	1,300
MI	27,000	22,000	24,000
MT	900	700	1,000
NY	1,100	700	650
OR	38,000	32,000	43,000
PA	1,000	800	700
UT	2,000	2,300	600
WA	75,000	69,000	85,000
Total	165,500	154,300	191,250

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

The next "Cherry Production" report will be in 1998.

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