

# Cherry Production



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## Tart Cherry Production Down 21 Percent

U.S. tart cherry production is forecast at 257 million pounds, down 21 percent from 1993 and down 23 percent from 1992.

Michigan, the largest producing State, expects a crop of 185 million pounds, down 31 percent from last year and down 24 percent from 1992. Some Michigan trees were severely damaged or killed by hard winter freezes. Below normal temperatures in April and early May also slowed growth. Warm weather in late May and June brought the crop close to average development. There have been no severe storms and very dry soils have forced irrigation of young trees. The crop was rated very good in the southwest and west central regions but only fair in the northwest, where about half the trees are located. Harvest will start about July 1 in the southwest.

New York tart cherry sites west of Rochester, in the Lake Ontario growing region, show good crop potential. Commercial production in the Hudson River Valley was wiped out by severe winter injury. Harvest is expected to be active around July 16.

Tart Cherries: Total Production by State and United States  
1992-93 and Forecasted 1994

State	Total Production <sup>1/</sup>		
	1992	1993	1994
	Million Pounds		
CO	1.5	1.6	1.3
MI	245.0	270.0	185.0
NY	31.0	15.7	23.0
OR	9.5	3.0	7.5
PA	6.0	11.5	8.0
UT	33.0	15.0	25.0
WI	9.1	6.6	7.0
Total	335.1	323.4	256.8

<sup>1/</sup> Includes unharvested production and harvested not sold (million pounds):  
1992 - 22.1, 1993 - 61.8.

For information call James E. Brewster at (202) 720-7688. Office hours are  
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET.

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### Sweet Cherry Production Down Fractionally

U.S. sweet cherry production is forecast at 168,200 tons, down fractionally from last year and 18 percent less than 1992. Production increases in California and Oregon offset decreases in Michigan and Washington.

The set of Michigan sweet cherries was not as heavy as in 1993. There was substantial freeze damage to buds, and pollination was only fair. Hot, dry conditions stressed many young trees. The widespread cracking and fungal disease problems that caused the loss of 10 percent of the 1993 production are not likely to occur this year.

Rains in early June caused fruit to split in the major growing areas of Oregon. Harvest began about June 15.

Idaho growers experienced pollination problems and some frost damage. Frost caught some of the Montana cherry orchards this year. The cool weather also hit at pollination time, limiting bee activity. New York producers west of Rochester in the Ontario region report good potential. Virtually all sweet cherries in the Hudson River Valley were wiped out by severe winter injury. Harvest is expected to begin July 6. Wisconsin cherry trees suffered some winterkill and a spring frost. Frost occurred at blossom in several areas of Door County.

Sweet Cherries: Total Production by State and United States, 1992-93 and Forecasted 1994

State	Total Production <sup>1/</sup>		
	1992	1993	1994
	Tons		
CA <sup>2/</sup>	31,000	19,000	32,000
ID	1,200	1,500	1,200
MI	18,000	30,000	25,000
MT	800	900	750
NY	1,100	700	900
OR	52,000	34,000	38,000
PA	1,100	1,200	950
UT	3,200	1,250	2,400
WA	97,000	80,000	67,000
Total	205,400	168,550	168,200

<sup>1/</sup> Includes unharvested production and harvested not sold (tons): 1992 - 13,350  
1993 - 7,975.

<sup>2/</sup> Estimates for current year carried forward from earlier forecast.

The next "Cherry Production" report will be released at 3 p.m. ET in 1995.

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