

TART CHERRY REPORT
June 15, 1970

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The 1970 crop of tart cherries in the five Great Lakes States is forecast at 147,200 tons, up 8 percent from last year and 14 percent more than the 1968 crop. Four of the five States--New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Wisconsin--expect 1970 production to exceed last season. Michigan production prospects are down from a year earlier because cool, wet weather during bloom in the northern producing areas resulted in poor pollination.

Tart cherry production for the Nation is forecast at 156,850 tons, 3 percent above last season and 14 percent above 1968.

Michigan's crop, at 105,000 tons, is down 1 percent from the previous season but 5 percent above the 1968 production. Cool, wet weather during bloom caused poor pollination and limited the crop in the Northwest and the northern part of the Central area. Losses from spring freezes and winter kill were generally light. Bud set was limited or weak on many trees that were defoliated early last year by shot-hole. The younger vigorous trees are carrying the best set. The thin set of cherries on older trees could size more and increase total tonnage but rainfall has been light north of Traverse City and surface moisture is short.

New York's crop is forecast at 24,000 tons, 57 percent above last season and two-thirds larger than in 1968. The unusually severe winter had very little effect on the tart cherry crop and the frost on May 7 was of very short duration. Soil moisture is adequate and cherries are sizing normally.

Pennsylvania's tart cherry crop at 12,000 tons is 9 percent above a year earlier. An early May frost during bloom caused spotty damage, but strong breezes with the cold temperatures limited losses in the important producing counties. Pollination and set are good. Picking is expected to get underway two weeks later than normal as cool June weather has delayed maturity.

Wisconsin production is forecast at 4,500 tons, nearly two-thirds above last year's crop but one-fourth below the 1968 crop. Excessive and continuous rainfall at bloom time reduced effective pollination considerably. The June drop is also considered excessive.

Ohio tart cherry production at 1,700 tons is expected to be more than double the 1969 crop and nearly one-third larger than the 1968 crop in spite of freezing temperatures on May 7.

TART CHERRIES

State	Production		
	1968	1969	Indicated 1970
	----- Tons -----		
New York	14,300	15,300	24,000
Pennsylvania	7,500	11,000	12,000
Ohio	1,300	800	1,700
Michigan	100,000	106,000	105,000
Wisconsin	6,000	2,740	4,500
5 States	129,100	135,840	147,200
5 Western States <u>1/ 2/</u>	8,304	15,790	9,650
10 States	137,404	151,630	156,850

1/ Idaho, Colorado, Utah, Washington, and Oregon.

2/ June 1 forecast.

TART CHERRIES: Production and Utilization, 1968 and 1969 Crops

State	Production	Farm disposition		Utilization of sales			
		Home use	Sold	Fresh sales	Canned	Frozen	Brined
	----- Tons -----						
	1968 Crop						
Michigan	100,000	200	99,800	1,700	35,100	63,000	<u>1/</u>
Other Great Lakes States <u>2/</u>	29,100	266	28,834	2,389	11,805	14,640	<u>1/</u>
5 Western States <u>3/</u>	8,304	215	8,089	714	1,506	5,869	<u>1/</u>
10 States	137,404	681	136,723	4,803	48,411	83,509	<u>1/</u>
	1969 Crop						
Michigan	106,000	200	105,800	1,400	45,900	58,500	<u>1/</u>
Other Great Lakes States <u>2/</u>	29,840	264	29,576	2,061	11,525	15,990	---
5 Western States <u>3/</u>	15,790	372	15,418	944	5,796	8,678	<u>1/</u>
10 States	151,630	836	150,794	4,405	63,221	83,168	<u>1/</u>

1/ Small quantities used for juice, jam, jelly, brining, are included with canning to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

2/ New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

3/ Idaho, Colorado, Utah, Washington, and Oregon.