

CHERRIES • JUNE 15



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TART CHERRY CROP HITS 30-YEAR LOW

TART CHERRIES: Prospective production of tart cherries in the U. S. is forecast at 71,100 tons for 1976. This is down 42 percent from last year's utilized tonnage, 46 percent below the 1974 level, and is the smallest crop since 1945. Production in the Great Lakes States is expected to total 59,600 tons as of June 15, compared with the 114,370 tons utilized in 1975 and the 1974 crop of 123,150 tons.

In Michigan, which accounts for 63 percent of the 8-State total this year, the 1976 crop is forecast at 45,000 tons. This is less than half last year's tonnage and is the shortest crop in nearly 10 years. Trees broke dormancy abnormally early due to unseasonably warm early spring temperatures. Freezes during April and May damaged blooms in all areas, but were most damaging in the southwest. Fruit set in all areas was generally very light.

New York's tart cherry crop at 7,000 tons is 44 percent below last year's utilized tonnage and 14 percent under the 1974 crop. Although the crop escaped any significant winter injury, poor weather during time of pollination and later development has reduced the crop's potential.

In Pennsylvania, the 1976 production is expected to total 4,100 tons, compared with 5,770 tons utilized a year ago. The Wisconsin crop is forecast at 3,400 tons, off 30 percent from last year. May freezes and recent high winds have reduced prospects.

TART CHERRIES

STATE	PRODUCTION		
	UTILIZED 2/		INDICATED
	1974	1975	1976
		TONS	
COLO 1/	1,250	1,600	1,500
MICH	103,000	91,000	45,000
N Y	8,100	12,500	7,000
OHIO	300	250	100
OREG 1/	2,100	3,100	3,000
PA	6,550	5,770	4,100
UTAH 1/	5,800	4,000	7,000
WIS	5,200	4,850	3,400
TOTAL 8 STATES	132,300	123,070	71,100

1/ ESTIMATES FOR CURRENT YEAR CARRIED FORWARD FROM EARLIER FORECAST. 2/ EXCLUDES UNHARVESTED PRODUCTION AND EXCESS CULLAGE, (TONS): TOTAL 8 STATES, 1974 - 150; 1975 - 22,180.

SWEET CHERRY CROP DOWN SLIGHTLY

SWEET CHERRIES: This year's U.S. sweet cherry production is forecast at 147,950 tons, 4 percent below 1975's utilized tonnage, but 3 percent higher than the 1974 production. In the Great Lakes States the first 1976 production forecast, as of June 15, is set at 14,100 tons. This is less than half last year's output and the lowest since the 1963 crop.

In Michigan, the sweet cherry crop is expected to total only 12,000 tons compared with 27,000 tons utilized in 1975 and the 25,500 ton crop of 1974. Freezes during bud and bloom stages, as well as poor pollination conditions, severely diminished crop prospects.

New York's crop, forecast at 1,600 tons, is only one-fourth the size of last year's and is equal to the small tonnage utilized in 1974. Winter injury to trees was minimal, but cool, wet bloom and pollination weather reduced the crop potential. Blossoms and fruit continued to be water-logged, and harvest is expected to be unusually short in duration.

Pennsylvania production is set at 500 tons, compared with 860 tons utilized last year and 800 tons in 1974.

SWEET CHERRIES

STATE	PRODUCTION		
	UTILIZED		INDICATED
	1974	1975	1976
TONS			
CALIF <u>1/</u>	28,000	33,000	45,000
COLO <u>1/</u>	250	400	450
IDAHO <u>1/</u>	2,250	1,550	2,200
MICH	25,500	27,000	12,000
MONT <u>1/</u>	1,650	2,400	2,200
N Y	1,600	6,800	1,600
OREG <u>1/</u>	33,500	36,500	35,000
PA	800	860	500
UTAH <u>1/</u>	5,000	2,800	5,000
WASH <u>1/</u>	45,000	42,300	44,000
TOTAL 10 STATES	143,550	153,610	147,950

1/ ESTIMATES FOR CURRENT YEAR CARRIED FORWARD FROM EARLIER FORECAST.