

# CHERRIES • JUNE 15

Released: June 23, 1977  
3:00 P.M. ET



Statistical Reporting  
Service

U.S. Department  
of Agriculture

Washington, D.C.  
20250

## TART CHERRY PROSPECTS BELOW AVERAGE

**TART CHERRIES:** The 1977 U.S. tart cherry crop is forecast at 211.1 million pounds, 46 percent above last year's short crop but 27 percent below the 1975 total. Prospective production in the Great Lakes States is estimated at 189.4 million pounds, 60 percent larger than last year's freeze-damaged crop but 31 percent less than the 1975 total output.

Michigan, accounting for three-fourths of the U.S. total, expects a 165.0 million pound crop this year, compared with 90.0 million last year and 222.0 million pounds in 1975. Mild early spring weather caused trees to break dormancy two weeks ahead of normal. Bloom was also early, leaving the crop vulnerable to frosts which occurred in late April and early May. As a result, fruit set was light in many orchards.

In New York, the 1977 crop is forecast at 11.0 million pounds, well below last year's total and less than half the 1975 output. The crop was plagued by adverse weather at every stage of development and fruit set is spotty in nearly all orchards. Untimely freezes also reduced Pennsylvania prospects to 3.2 million pounds, less than half of a year ago and only a fourth as large as the 1975 total. The Wisconsin crop, at 10.0 million pounds was affected by localized spring freezes in lower elevation orchards, though bloom and pollination weather was excellent.

Beginning with the Crop Production report released June 8, 1977, tart cherry production is reported in millions of pounds rather than tons.

## TART CHERRIES

STATE	PRODUCTION		
	TOTAL 2/		INDICATED
	1975	1976	
MILLION POUNDS			
COLO 1/	3.3	3.3	3.3
MICH	222.0	90.0	165.0
N Y	27.4	14.3	11.0
OHIO	.6	.3	.2
OREG 1/	6.2	6.6	6.4
PA	12.6	7.6	3.2
UTAH 1/	8.0	17.0	12.0
WIS	10.4	5.9	10.0
U S	290.5	145.0	211.1

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

2/ INCLUDES UNHARVESTED PRODUCTION AND EXCESS CULLAGE (MILLION POUNDS): U.S., 1975 - 44.4 MILLION POUNDS.

SWEET CHERRY OUTPUT REDUCED

SWEET CHERRIES: Prospective production of sweet cherries in the U.S. this year is placed at 127,000 tons, off 25 percent from the 1976 total and the smallest crop in five years. Reductions from last year are expected in every major producing State except Michigan. In the Pacific Coast States, accounting for three fourths of the U.S. output, the 1977 crop is down 33 percent from last year, as reported in the June 8, 1977 Crop Production report.

In the Great Lakes States, the first 1977 forecast, as of June 15, is set at 18,850 tons compared with 12,560 tons last year and 34,660 in 1975. Michigan's crop, dominating the region, is forecast at 17,500 tons, above last year's short crop but well below their 10-year average output. Freezing temperatures in late April damaged cherries in the north and central producing areas of Michigan. Fruit cracking further reduced crop potential on early varieties which are nearing harvest. Adverse spring weather also reduced crop prospects in New York and Pennsylvania this year.

SWEET CHERRIES

STATE	PRODUCTION		
	TOTAL 2/		INDICATED
	1975	1976	1977
TONS			
CALIF 1/	30,500	51,000	25,000
COLO 1/	400	500	550
IDAHO 1/	1,550	3,000	3,000
MICH	27,000	10,500	17,500
MONT 1/	2,400	2,650	2,600
N Y	6,800	1,600	1,000
OREG 1/	36,500	39,000	34,000
PA	860	460	350
UTAH 1/	2,800	6,000	5,000
WASH 1/	43,100	54,300	38,000
U S	151,910	169,010	127,000

1/ ESTIMATES FOR CURRENT YEAR CARRIED FORWARD FROM EARLIER FORECAST. 2/ INCLUDES UNHARVESTED PRODUCTION AND EXCESS CULLAGE (TONS): U.S., 1976 - 5,030