

# CHERRIES • JUNE 15



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## SMALLER TART CHERRY CROP

Prospective production of tart cherries in the U S is forecast at 176 million pounds (79.8 thousand metric tons) for 1978. This is off 18 percent from last season's total but 20 percent greater than the short crop of 1976. As of June 15, output in the Great Lakes States is expected to total 161 million pounds. This is 16 percent below 1977 but 36 percent above the freeze-damaged 1976 total.

In Michigan, which accounts for nearly three-fourths of the U S total, the first forecast of the 1978 crop is placed at 125 million pounds. This is 23 percent less than last year, but 39 percent over the small 1976 crop. Some winter damage coupled with spring freezes reduced prospects this year. Fruit set was light in the southern producing area and winds damaged the crop in the north. Harvest is expected to begin in early July.

New York's production, at 19.5 million pounds, is 65 percent above 1977 and 36 percent greater than the 1976 total. The damage from excessive fall moisture and winter freezes was more than offset by good weather during bloom. Harvest should be underway after mid-July. The Pennsylvania crop is forecast at 6.70 million pounds, compared with the 6.40 and 7.60 million pounds in 1977 and 1976, respectively. Despite a late bloom, frosts damaged the crop in many orchards. Harvest is expected to begin in early July. In Wisconsin, the crop forecast is off 22 percent to 9.50 million pounds. Trees overwintered in good condition and bloom was good, although cherry sizes are small.

### TART CHERRIES

STATE	PRODUCTION		
	TOTAL		INDICATED
	1976	1977	1978
	MILLION POUNDS		
COLO 1/	3.3	2.3	1.5
MICH	90.0	162.0	125.0
N Y	14.3	11.8	19.5
OHIO	.3	.2	.2
OREG 1/	8.2	8.0	4.5
PA	7.6	6.4	6.7
UTAH 1/	17.0	11.2	9.0
WIS	5.9	12.2	9.5
U S	146.6	214.1	175.9

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

SWEET CHERRY PROSPECTS AT SIX-YEAR LOW

The Nation's 1978 sweet cherry crop is expected to total 133 thousand tons (120 thousand metric tons), off 10 percent from last season, 23 percent under the 1976 total and the lowest since 1972. Production in the Great Lakes States is well above the last two seasons, but the western States (accounting for nearly three-fourths of the U S total) registered severe declines, as reported in the June 9 Crop Production report.

The first forecast of Michigan's crop, at a record 35.0 thousand tons, is up 52 percent from last year and 2½ times the 1976 output. Although development was late this year, sweet cherries were sufficiently advanced to escape spring frost damage. Bloom and set were excellent, and harvest should begin in the south in late June. The crops in New York and Pennsylvania are likewise well above year-ago levels. Harvest is expected to get underway in Pennsylvania in late June and in New York by early July.

SWEET CHERRIES

STATE	PRODUCTION <sup>1/</sup>		
	TOTAL		INDICATED
	1976	1977	1978
	TONS		
CALIF <sup>2/</sup>	51,000	27,000	13,000
COLO <sup>2/</sup>	500	550	100
IDAHO <sup>2/</sup>	3,000	2,200	2,400
MICH	13,500	23,000	35,000
MONT <sup>2/</sup>	2,650	2,600	2,400
N Y	2,500	1,800	3,000
OREG <sup>2/</sup>	39,000	37,500	33,000
PA	460	350	430
UTAH <sup>2/</sup>	6,000	5,800	3,400
WASH <sup>2/</sup>	54,300	47,000	40,000
U S	172,910	147,800	132,730

<sup>1/</sup> INCLUDES UNHARVESTED PRODUCTION AND EXCESS CULLAGE (TONS): 1976-5,230; 1977-1,300.

<sup>2/</sup> ESTIMATES FOR CURRENT YEAR CARRIED FORWARD FROM EARLIER FORECAST.