

CHERRIES • JUNE 15

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SMALLEST TART CHERRY CROP SINCE 1945

Tart cherry production in the U.S. for 1981 is forecast at 142 million pounds (64.4 thousand metric tons), a 35 percent decrease from 1980 and 17 percent below the 1979 crop. As of June 15, the Great Lakes States expect to harvest nearly 123 million pounds, 38 percent less than last year and 17 percent less than the 1979 total.

In Michigan, which normally accounts for about two-thirds of the U.S. total, the first forecast for the 1981 crop is placed at 95.0 million pounds, 37 percent below last year and 5 percent less than the 1979 crop. Freezing temperatures in April damaged blossom buds and trees resulting in below average yields, especially in the central and northwestern areas. Michigan is expected to have the smallest crop since 1976.

Production in New York is forecast at a record low 9.50 million pounds, 69 percent below last year and 65 percent less than the crop produced in 1979. The crop was reduced by a severe winter kill of buds during a week of freezing temperatures at the end of December. Potential for the crop was further diminished by a series of frosts during April. Pennsylvania tart cherry production is estimated at 8.00 million pounds, 43 percent above last year. There was a good bloom but low night temperatures resulted in locally light to heavy freeze damage. Wisconsin's tart cherry crop is forecast at 10.0 million pounds, 17 percent below a year ago and 32 percent below 1979. Poor pollination and frost damage lowered production prospects.

TART CHERRIES

STATE	PRODUCTION		
	TOTAL 1/		INDICATED 1981
	1979	1980	
	MILLION POUNDS		
COLO 2/	1.7	2.0	1.9
MICH	100.0	150.0	95.0
N Y	27.3	30.4	9.5
OREG 2/	3.5	5.0	4.5
PA	6.3	5.6	8.0
UTAH 2/	17.0	13.0	13.0
WIS	14.6	12.1	10.0
U S	170.4	218.1	141.9

1/ INCLUDES UNHARVESTED PRODUCTION AND EXCESS CULLAGE (MILLION POUNDS):
1980 - 1.9. 2/ ESTIMATES FOR CURRENT YEAR CARRIED FORWARD FROM EARLIER
FORECAST.

SMALLEST SWEET CHERRY CROP SINCE 1972

A sweet cherry crop of 139 thousand tons (126 thousand metric tons) is forecast for the U.S. This is 19 percent less than last year's production and is 24 percent less than the record 1979 crop. The production forecast for the Great Lakes States is 26 percent lower than last year, while the Western States expect a decrease of 17 percent in production.

The first forecast of Michigan's crop, at 23.0 thousand tons, is down 21 percent from 1980 and 15 percent below the 1979 crop. The smaller crop this year is the result of poor pollination and freeze damage during April. New York expects a crop 57 percent smaller than last year with many areas expecting no crop this year. The Pennsylvania forecast is down 43 percent from 1980.

SWEET CHERRIES

STATE	PRODUCTION		
	TOTAL 1/		INDICATED
	1979	1980	1981
	TONS		
CALIF 2/	34,300	44,000	34,000
IDAHO 2/	3,000	3,100	2,500
MICH	27,000	29,000	23,000
MONT 2/	2,950	700	1,800
N Y	4,200	5,100	2,200
OREG 2/	38,000	33,000	36,000
PA	730	700	400
UTAH 2/	4,200	4,100	4,000
WASH 2/	67,600	52,000	35,000
U S	181,980	171,700	138,900

1/ INCLUDES UNHARVESTED PRODUCTION AND EXCESS CULLAGE (TONS): 1979 - 150, 1980 - 5,400.

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