

CHERRIES • JUNE 15



Released:

June 24, 1980
3:00 P.M. ET

Economics, Statistics, &
Cooperatives Service

U.S. Department
of Agriculture

Washington, D.C.
20250

TART CHERRY CROP INCREASES

Tart cherry production in the U.S. for 1980 is forecast at 247 million pounds (112 thousand metric tons), a 45 percent increase over 1979 and 36 percent above the 1978 crop. As of June 15, the Great Lakes States expect to harvest nearly 224 million pounds, 51 percent more than last year and 36 percent greater than the 1978 total.

In Michigan, which normally accounts for about three-fourths of the U.S. total, the first forecast for the 1980 crop is placed at 175 million pounds, 75 percent above last year and 37 percent better than the 1978 crop. Due to a mild winter and heavy fruit sets, especially in the southwest, Michigan is expected to have the largest crop since 1975. Harvest should start the second week of July.

Production in New York is forecast at 30.4 million pounds, 11 percent above last year and 61 percent greater than the poor crop produced in 1978. Condition is good to excellent with recent rains helping to size the crop. Pennsylvania tart cherry production is estimated at 5.6 million pounds. This is 11 percent below last year because of poor weather at pollination and some scattered freeze damage. Wisconsin's tart cherry crop is forecast at 12.5 million pounds, 14 percent below a year ago but 9 percent above 1978. While prospects vary from poor to excellent, adverse weather conditions and removal of old trees have reduced the total crop from last year.

TART CHERRIES

STATE	PRODUCTION		
	TOTAL		INDICATED
	1978	1979	
	MILLION POUNDS		
COLO 1/	1.3	1.7	2.8
MICH	128.0	100.0	175.0
N Y	18.9	27.3	30.4
OHIO 2/	.2		
OREG 1/	3.8	3.5	6.0
PA	6.2	6.3	5.6
UTAH 1/	11.3	17.0	15.0
WIS	11.5	14.6	12.5
U S	181.2	170.4	247.3

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

2/ ESTIMATES DISCONTINUED AFTER 1978 CROP.

