

SOUR CHERRY REPORT

June 15, 1964

June 22, 1964

Sour cherry production in the 5 Great Lakes States--New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan and Wisconsin is forecast at a record high 188,000 tons, two and one-half times the short 1963 crop, 16 percent above the previous record of 162,000 tons produced in 1962 and 46 percent above average. There was virtually no freeze and frost damage in this region this year and all States expect larger than average crops. Last year near average size crops of sour cherries were harvested in New York and Pennsylvania but winter freezes and late spring frosts sharply curtailed production in other Great Lakes States. The June 1 forecast of sour cherry production in six Western States was 11,500 tons, up 43 percent from last year's short crop and 5 percent above average.

The total forecast for the United States is a record high 199,500 tons--about two and one-half times as large as the short 1963 crop, 13 percent above the previous record high set in 1962 and 43 percent above average.

The Michigan crop is expected to be 130,000 tons--three and one-half times the very short crop harvested last year, 11 percent above the previous record high of 117,000 tons produced in 1962 and 54 percent above average. The Michigan forecast accounts for 65 percent of the Nation's 1964 sour cherry estimate. All major producing areas of the State expect record or near record size crops. Spring weather was virtually frost free and moisture has been adequate. Harvest is expected to begin in Southwestern counties the last week of June. Northern areas bloomed early in relation to Central and Southwestern areas and the harvest will overlap more than usual. Wisconsin expects to harvest 15,000 tons of sour cherries, more than double the 1963 crop and 28 percent above average. Harvest is expected to begin in mid-July.

The New York sour cherry crop is forecast at 29,000 tons, 43 percent above last year and 40 percent above average. The bloom was heavy in most orchards but pollination varied due to high winds on May 8 and 9. Trees in full bloom on those dates have a lighter set than those blooming earlier or later. There was very little winter injury or spring frost damage in the Lake Ontario area. More than usual amounts of wind this growing season has caused wind whip damage to some fruit. Moisture supplies have been adequate and all areas expect a good crop.

Prospects in Pennsylvania are for a crop of 12,000 tons, 45 percent above last year and 13 percent above average. There was little damage from winter freeze or spring frosts and there is generally a good set in all areas. There is some concern about size due to dry soils but rains on June 6 and 7 were beneficial. The Ohio crop is expected to be 2,000 tons--far exceeding the short 1963 crop of 250 tons and 23 percent above average. Harvest in the main producing areas of North Central Ohio is expected to begin in early July.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Statistical Reporting Service
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Crop Reporting Board
Washington, D. C.

SOUR CHERRIES

STATE	Production				Percent Processed		
	5-year	1962	1963	Ind.	5-year	1962	1963
	average:				average:		
	1958-62:	Tons	Tons	Tons	1958-62:	Pct.	Pct.
New York	20,680	19,700	20,300	29,000	92	89	96
Pennsylvania	10,600	11,000	8,300	12,000	82	79	84
Ohio	1,620	1,500	250	2,000			
Michigan	84,400	117,000	37,000	130,000	97	93	96
Wisconsin	11,680	13,000	7,200	15,000	92	85	95
5 States	128,980	162,200	73,050	188,000	94	91	95
6 Western States 1/	10,964	14,540	8,060	211,500	82	84	83
11 States	139,944	176,740	81,110	199,500	93	90	94

1/ Montana, Idaho, Colorado, Utah, Washington, and Oregon.
 2/ June 1 forecast.

SOUR CHERRIES: Production and Utilization, 1962 and 1963 Crops

STATE	Production		Farm disposition		Utilization of sales			
	Total 1/	Having	Home	Sold	Fresh	Canned	Frozen	Brined
		value 1/	use		sales	2/		
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
1962 Crop								
New York	19,700	18,600	200	18,400	900	5,180	11,650	670
Pennsylvania & Ohio	12,500	11,800	270	11,530	1,640	6,755	3,135	2/
Michigan	117,000	110,700	200	110,500	1,500	60,200	47,800	1,000
Wisconsin	13,000	11,650	150	11,500	500	6,250	4,750	---
6 Western States 3/	14,540	14,395	650	13,745	1,496	5,908	6,341	---
11 States	176,740	167,145	1,470	165,675	6,036	84,293	73,676	21,670
1963 Crop								
New York	20,300	20,300	200	20,100	600	5,740	13,410	350
Pennsylvania & Ohio	8,550	8,550	170	8,380	1,165	4,115	3,100	2/
Michigan	37,000	37,000	180	36,820	1,120	16,100	19,250	350
Wisconsin	7,200	7,200	120	7,080	240	2,540	4,300	---
6 Western States 3/	8,060	8,040	418	7,622	967	2,365	4,290	---
11 States	81,110	81,090	1,088	80,002	4,092	30,860	44,350	2/700

1/ Differences between production and production having value are economic abandonment.

2/ Small quantities used for juice, jam, jelly, brining, etc. are included with canned to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

3/ Montana, Idaho, Colorado, Utah, Washington, and Oregon.