

# Maple Syrup 2012

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United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service  
New England Field Office



NEW ENGLAND  
Agricultural  
Statistics



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*A special "Thank you" goes to New England producers and agri-businesses who have helped us by completing the annual Maple Syrup survey during April and May.*

## 2012 MAPLE SEASON TOO WARM

**New England (excluding Rhode Island):** New England's maple syrup production in 2012 totaled 1.24 million gallons, down 27 percent from 2011's near record production of 1.70 million gallons. Vermont remained the top maple State in New England and the Nation, producing 39 percent of the United States' maple syrup. Taps in New England totaled 5.76 million, up 5 percent from last year and accounted for 59 percent of the Nation's maple taps.

The 2012 maple syrup season in New England was considered too warm. A series of heat waves in March ended the season for many, and resulted in a significant drop in maple syrup production. An exception was Maine, where temperatures were cool enough in top-producing Somerset County to prolong the season until the middle of April. Respondents across New England reported weather conditions at 90 percent too warm, 8 percent favorable, and 2 percent too cold. Mild winter temperatures got the 2012 season off to an unusually early start and many maple producers were caught off guard for the first sap runs in January and February. March temperatures were highly volatile with a historic heat wave that brought summer-like temperatures in the 70s and 80s across New England. The heat wave forced early budding of maple trees, marking the end of the maple syrup season.

Average start dates for sap collection for each State were as follows: Connecticut - February 9, Massachusetts - February 19, New Hampshire - February 24, Vermont - February 25, and Maine - February 28. Average closing dates for sap collection for each State were as follows: Connecticut - March 12, Massachusetts - March 14, New Hampshire - March 20, Vermont - March 22, and Maine - March 28. The sugar content of the sap was significantly below average in New England, requiring approximately 48 gallons of sap to produce 1 gallon of syrup. The majority of the syrup produced was in the medium amber category. Less than 25 percent of the syrup was reported in the light amber category.

**2011 PRICES AND SALES:** The average equivalent price

per gallon for maple syrup varies widely across New England depending on the percentage sold retail, wholesale, or bulk. The 2011 all sales equivalent price per gallon in Connecticut averaged \$73.00, up \$3.00; Maine averaged \$34.00, up \$0.50; Massachusetts averaged \$57.00, up \$0.50; New Hampshire averaged \$49.00, down \$6.40; and Vermont averaged \$35.00, up \$1.00. The high percentage of bulk sales in Vermont and Maine keep average prices below the other States. New Hampshire's 2011 price fell below the previous year due to an increase in bulk sales. New England's 2011 gallon equivalent price across all types of sales averaged \$36.96, an increase of \$0.94 from the 2010 price of \$36.02.

**UNITED STATES:** United States maple syrup production in 2012 totaled 1.91 million gallons, down 32 percent from 2011, and the lowest production since 2007. The number of taps was estimated at 9.77 million, 2 percent above the 2011 total of 9.58 million. Yield per tap was estimated at 0.195 gallons per tap, down 33 percent from the previous season's yield.

All States, with the exception of Maine, showed a reduction in production from the previous year. Most producers reported that temperatures were too warm for optimal sap flow. The season started sooner than last year in all States and lasted 24 days on average, compared with 32 days in 2011.

Vermont led all States in production with 750,000 gallons, a decrease of 34 percent from 2011. Maine and New York were tied in production at 360,000 gallons each. Wisconsin was estimated at 50,000 gallons, tied with 2005 as the lowest production year on record. Maple production in New Hampshire and Michigan was the lowest since 2007.

The 2011 United States price per gallon was \$37.90, up \$0.40 from the 2010 price of \$37.50. The United States value of production, at \$106 million for 2011, was up 44 percent from the previous season. Value of production was up in all States.

## MAPLE SYRUP: Taps, Yield, and Production, 2010 – 2012

State	Taps			Yield per Tap			Production		
	2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012
	1,000 Taps			Gallons			1,000 Gallons		
Connecticut	75	71	70	0.120	0.239	0.157	9	17	11
Maine	1,470	1,470	1,500	0.214	0.245	0.240	315	360	360
Massachusetts	250	245	250	0.116	0.253	0.160	29	62	40
New Hampshire	420	420	440	0.207	0.286	0.173	87	120	76
Vermont	3,150	3,300	3,500	0.283	0.345	0.214	890	1,140	750
<b>NEW ENGLAND<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>5,365</b>	<b>5,506</b>	<b>5,760</b>	<b>0.248</b>	<b>0.309</b>	<b>0.215</b>	<b>1,330</b>	<b>1,699</b>	<b>1,237</b>
Michigan	490	495	430	0.167	0.248	0.151	82	123	65
New York	1,903	2,011	2,070	0.164	0.280	0.174	312	564	360
Ohio	385	405	410	0.169	0.309	0.244	65	125	100
Pennsylvania	465	503	501	0.116	0.254	0.192	54	128	96
Wisconsin	650	660	600	0.180	0.235	0.083	117	155	50
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	<b>9,258</b>	<b>9,580</b>	<b>9,771</b>	<b>0.212</b>	<b>0.292</b>	<b>0.195</b>	<b>1,960</b>	<b>2,794</b>	<b>1,908</b>
New Brunswick <sup>2</sup>							371	410	
Nova Scotia <sup>2</sup>							34	37	
Ontario <sup>2</sup>							346	587	
Quebec <sup>2</sup>							*7,993	9,245	
<b>CANADA<sup>2 3</sup></b>							<b>*8,745</b>	<b>10,281</b>	

\* Revised.

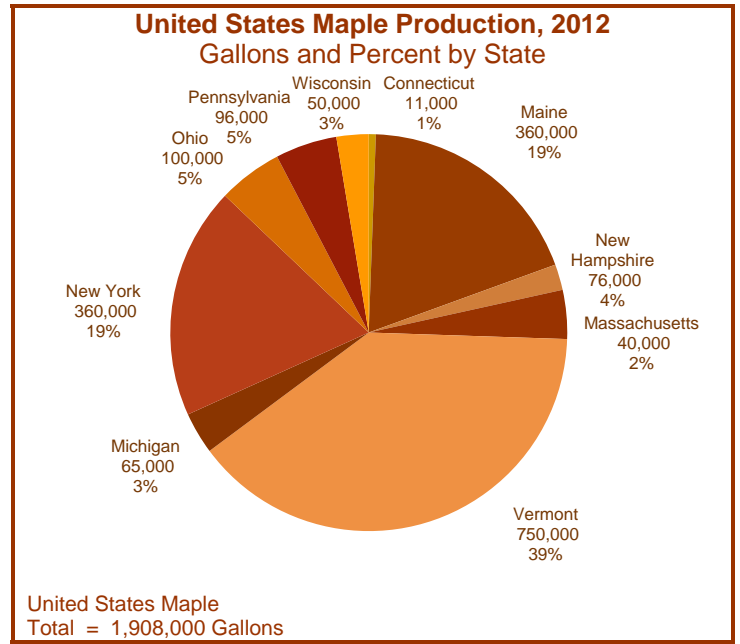
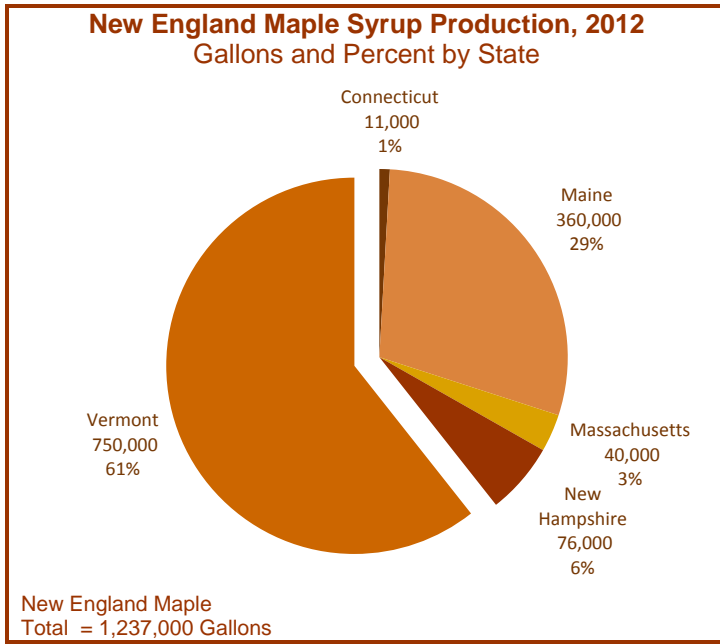
<sup>1</sup> New England includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont.<sup>2</sup> Canadian data incomplete; current figures were unavailable at the time of publication. Canadian imperial gallons were converted to United States gallons (1 imperial gallon equals 1.2021778 United States gallons).<sup>3</sup> Data may not add due to rounding.SOURCE: United States – *Crop Production*, June 12, 2012, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.Canada, Production – *2011 Production and Value of Honey and Maple Products*, Statistics Canada.

## MAPLE SYRUP: Production, Price, and Value, 2009 – 2011

State	Production			Average Gallon Equivalent Price of All Sales <sup>1</sup>			Value of Production		
	2009	2010	2011	2009	2010	2011	2009	2010	2011
	1,000 Gallons			United States Dollars			United States 1,000 Dollars		
Connecticut	13	9	17	64.00	70.00	73.00	832	630	1,241
Maine	395	315	360	32.90	33.50	34.00	12,996	10,553	12,240
Massachusetts	46	29	62	53.60	56.50	57.00	2,466	1,639	3,534
New Hampshire	94	87	120	53.50	55.40	49.00	5,029	4,820	5,880
Vermont	920	890	1,140	35.10	34.00	35.00	32,292	30,260	39,900
<b>NEW ENGLAND<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>1,468</b>	<b>1,330</b>	<b>1,699</b>	<b>36.52</b>	<b>36.02</b>	<b>36.96</b>	<b>53,615</b>	<b>47,902</b>	<b>62,795</b>
Michigan	115	82	123	45.00	45.00	43.80	5,175	3,690	5,387
New York	439	312	564	40.60	39.40	39.10	17,823	12,293	22,052
Ohio	90	65	125	40.30	42.70	40.30	3,627	2,776	5,038
Pennsylvania	92	54	128	38.10	42.00	40.00	3,505	2,268	5,120
Wisconsin	200	117	155	36.70	39.50	36.30	7,340	4,622	5,627
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	<b>2,404</b>	<b>1,960</b>	<b>2,794</b>	<b>37.90</b>	<b>37.50</b>	<b>37.90</b>	<b>91,085</b>	<b>73,551</b>	<b>106,019</b>
New Brunswick <sup>3</sup>	464	371	410	41.42	47.42	55.29	19,220	17,594	22,667
Nova Scotia <sup>3</sup>	23	34	37	39.09	45.44	47.00	899	*1,449	1,739
Ontario <sup>3</sup>	501	346	587	44.26	52.50	57.86	22,172	18,166	33,966
Quebec <sup>3</sup>	9,787	*7,993	9,245	26.93	28.94	33.12	*263,599	237,831	306,179
<b>CANADA<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>10,775</b>	<b>*8,745</b>	<b>10,281</b>	<b>28.39</b>	<b>30.74</b>	<b>35.46</b>	<b>*305,891</b>	<b>275,041</b>	<b>364,549</b>

\* Revised

<sup>1</sup> Average gallon equivalent price in United States dollars is a weighted average across retail, wholesale, and bulk sales. This price is lower for States, such as Maine and Vermont, with more bulk sales. The average gallon equivalent price is not the average retail price paid for a gallon of syrup. See page 4 for retail gallon average prices.<sup>2</sup> New England includes CT, ME, MA, NH, and VT.<sup>3</sup> Canadian dollars to United States dollars exchange rates were valued at or near the closest date to July 1 for each year. Exchange rates 0.8646 for 2009, 0.9449 for 2010, and 1.0432 for 2011. Canadian imperial gallons were converted to United States gallons (1 imperial gallon equals 1.2021778 United States gallons).SOURCE: United States – *Crop Production*, June 12, 2012, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.Canada, Production – *2011 Production and Value of Honey and Maple Products*, Statistics Canada.



SOURCE: *Crop Production*, June 12, 2012, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

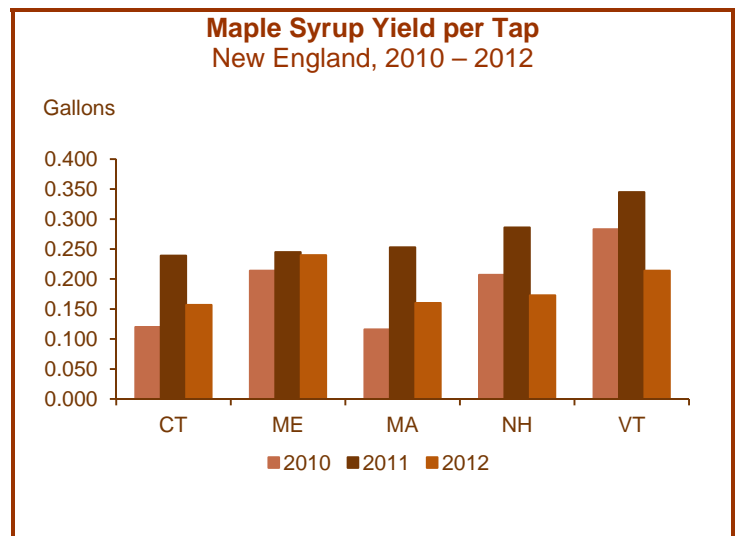
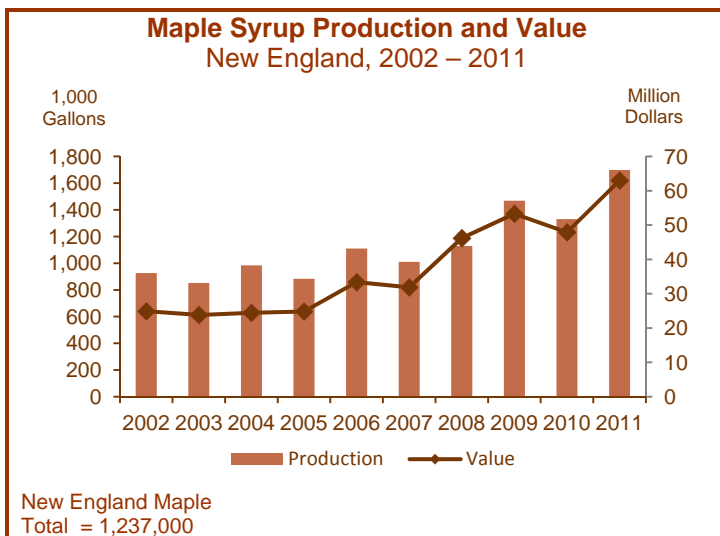
#### MAPLE SYRUP: Sales Percentages, New England, 2010 – 2011

Type of Sale	Connecticut		Maine		Massachusetts		New Hampshire		Vermont	
	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011
	Percent									
Retail	65	70	1	4	55	55	45	50	15	15
Wholesale	20	15	1	4	35	30	40	10	5	5
Bulk	15	15	98	92	10	15	15	40	80	80

#### MAPLE SYRUP: Sales Percentages, Other States, 2010 – 2011

Type of Sale	Michigan		New York		Ohio		Pennsylvania		Wisconsin	
	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011
	Percent									
Retail	49	45	28	29	55	42	69	43	39	30
Wholesale	24	15	15	11	20	17	9	27	13	13
Bulk	27	40	57	60	25	41	22	30	48	57

SOURCE: *Crop Production*, June 12, 2012, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.



## MAPLE SYRUP: Retail and Wholesale Prices by Size of Containers, 2009 – 2011

State and Year	Retail								Wholesale							
	Gallon	Half Gallon	Quart	Pint	Half Pint	3.4 oz. (100 ml)	8.5 oz. (250 ml)	12 oz. (355 ml)	Gallon	Half Gallon	Quart	Pint	Half Pint	3.4 oz. (100 ml)	8.5 oz. (250 ml)	12 oz. (355 ml)
	Dollars															
<b>Connecticut</b>																
2009	57.00	31.70	18.30	11.50	7.55	4.85	10.00	(D)	46.30	23.60	13.20	8.65	5.55	(D)	(D)	(D)
2010	62.00	31.70	19.60	11.80	7.70	4.50	9.20	(D)	59.00	29.50	14.40	10.70	4.90	4.10	(D)	(D)
2011	57.00	38.40	19.00	13.10	8.70	4.20	10.50	(D)	(D)	25.00	14.00	8.00	5.10	3.40	9.20	(D)
<b>Maine</b>																
2009	52.50	28.10	15.10	9.45	7.20	3.50	7.25	9.85	40.50	25.00	13.00	7.00	4.50	(D)	(D)	(D)
2010	50.10	28.40	15.40	9.55	5.90	*4.00	9.40	(D)	42.30	26.70	13.80	7.00	4.15	(D)	6.90	(D)
2011	53.10	30.80	16.60	10.00	5.90	4.15	9.00	10.30	42.70	24.00	12.10	7.00	4.30	(D)	7.50	(D)
<b>Massachusetts</b>																
2009	42.50	27.80	16.60	11.40	7.75	4.70	9.30	10.10	41.90	25.20	14.00	7.45	4.90	2.35	(D)	(D)
2010	53.00	26.80	17.20	10.00	6.50	3.40	(D)	9.50	44.00	24.70	14.30	8.00	5.10	2.30	(D)	7.60
2011	50.80	30.00	18.50	11.30	8.40	4.80	(D)	(D)	45.70	24.40	13.70	8.30	5.20	3.50	(D)	(D)
<b>New Hampshire</b>																
2009	49.30	28.00	16.40	9.85	6.35	3.50	9.25	8.80	40.60	21.60	11.40	6.65	3.95	2.85	(D)	(D)
2010	49.00	28.10	17.10	9.80	6.50	3.80	9.10	(D)	45.70	25.30	13.00	7.10	3.80	2.30	3.60	(D)
2011	51.30	27.30	17.20	10.10	5.80	3.40	8.50	8.80	38.70	23.30	13.20	8.20	4.60	(D)	(D)	(D)
<b>Vermont</b>																
2009	43.90	25.50	15.50	9.20	6.00	3.85	8.60	12.60	38.50	23.20	13.40	7.80	4.80	2.25	6.45	6.15
2010	43.30	25.50	15.70	9.70	6.20	3.80	7.50	12.00	37.00	23.10	12.80	7.60	4.60	3.50	6.20	(D)
2011	44.70	26.20	15.70	9.70	5.90	3.40	8.30	(D)	39.40	23.90	13.70	8.10	5.00	3.00	7.40	(D)
<b>Michigan<sup>1</sup></b>																
2009	42.70	21.80	12.70	7.80	5.60				35.40	21.00	11.20	6.30	4.20			
2010	42.00	22.60	12.90	7.80	5.10				34.10	21.90	12.40	7.60	4.50			
2011	45.50	24.60	13.70	8.40	5.20				33.80	23.00	12.60	7.30	4.50			
<b>New York<sup>1</sup></b>																
2009	40.10	24.10	14.90	9.40	6.25				38.30	22.30	12.30	7.00	4.25			
2010	42.80	24.00	15.00	8.90	5.35				40.70	22.20	12.20	7.30	4.20			
2011	44.70	25.00	15.60	9.40	6.05				37.50	22.70	12.50	6.90	4.75			
<b>Ohio<sup>1</sup></b>																
2009	37.70	22.10	13.40	8.35	5.55				35.90	21.20	12.60	7.55	5.25			
2010	40.50	23.00	13.90	8.50	5.95				34.30	21.20	11.30	7.55	4.05			
2011	41.70	24.90	15.10	8.90	6.80				36.00	22.70	13.10	7.90	5.00			
<b>Pennsylvania<sup>1</sup></b>																
2009	38.00	21.70	12.70	7.90	4.90				32.20	17.90	10.20	6.20	4.10			
2010	39.70	22.70	13.70	8.25	5.45				40.30	19.20	11.60	6.55	4.05			
2011	41.00	23.20	13.90	8.00	5.00				35.90	21.90	12.70	6.90	4.00			
<b>Wisconsin<sup>1</sup></b>																
2009	37.30	21.10	11.30	7.30	4.70				37.30	23.80	11.80	7.20	4.00			
2010	38.10	21.50	11.80	7.50	5.70				37.30	21.60	12.00	7.20	4.60			
2011	39.00	23.50	12.30	7.40	5.30				40.30	23.50	11.90	6.70	4.10			

\* Revised.

(D) Data not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

<sup>1</sup> Retail and wholesale price for 3.4 oz. (100 ml), 8.5 oz. (250 ml), and 12 oz. (355 ml) container sizes are only available in New England States.SOURCE: *Crop Production*, June 12, 2012, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

## MAPLE SYRUP: Bulk Prices by Grade, 2009 – 2011

State and Year	Grade A			Grades B and C	All Grades
	Light Amber	Medium Amber	Dark Amber		
	Dollars per Pound <sup>1</sup>				
<b>Connecticut</b>					
2009	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
2010	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
2011	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
<b>Maine</b>					
2009	2.85	2.85	2.85	2.65	2.85
2010	3.00	3.00	2.90	2.70	3.00
2011	2.90	2.90	2.85	2.60	2.90
<b>Massachusetts</b>					
2009	2.85	2.80	2.70	2.50	2.65
2010	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	2.55
2011	2.85	2.70	2.55	2.30	2.50
<b>New Hampshire</b>					
2009	2.80	2.95	2.80	2.50	2.75
2010	2.90	2.90	2.75	2.40	2.65
2011	(D)	2.80	2.60	2.30	2.65
<b>Vermont</b>					
2009	3.00	2.95	2.90	2.65	2.90
2010	2.75	2.75	2.65	2.35	2.65
2011	2.80	2.80	2.70	2.35	2.75
<b>Michigan <sup>2</sup></b>					
2009					2.80
2010					2.80
2011					2.60
<b>New York <sup>2</sup></b>					
2009					2.73
2010					2.71
2011					2.64
<b>Ohio <sup>2</sup></b>					
2009					2.70
2010					2.55
2011					2.70
<b>Pennsylvania <sup>3</sup></b>					
2009					2.70
2010					2.45
2011					2.57
<b>Wisconsin <sup>2</sup></b>					
2009					2.60
2010					2.60
2011					2.70

(D) Data not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

<sup>1</sup> For dollars per gallon: multiply dollars per pound by 11.02 pounds per gallon.<sup>2</sup> Grades A, B, and C price per pound is only available in the New England States.SOURCE: *Crop Production*, June 12, 2012, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

### Sugar Maker Comments by State

**CONNECTICUT** - Should have tapped in early February. Temperatures in February were better for sap flow than the warm/hot spell we had in March. No sugar content on trees farther uphill. Good season that just ended 2 weeks too soon. Too warm at night. If we didn't start sugaring a month early this season would have been a total loss. Very strange weather. Syrup quality good but turned dark quickly. Short season with no frost and limited few runs. Should have tapped beginning of January. It was a warm winter here in Connecticut and I am glad I did not tap. Too warm weather in February. The winter that wasn't – not enough frost in the ground and not enough sugar in the sap. Bad year as sap did not run. Temperatures were warm enough in mid-January for sap, so we lost approximately 2 weeks of potential sap flow. No real periods of cold temperatures in February. We experienced dry holes early and re-tapped new trees. Short season and low production. Warm very early. Best season ever attributed to tapping early and good vacuum. Never had frost in ground. Never had clear sap and got extra dark syrup.

**MAINE** - Weather was extremely variable in my area, but generally too warm. The third week of March was way too warm. Week of 80 degree weather ended our season. March too warm, sap color off, and very few tanks of sap were clean. No good runs all season. Week in the 80s ended it. Good early start but a very early end. This year used only one tap per tree regardless of size. Very rare to get the right temperature conditions. No snow and no frost. I wish I had tapped in January. The best weather happened in January but no trees were tapped. The season looked promising, then record temperatures in mid-March brought it to an end. Good weather returned but too late. Worst season ever. Too warm at first but ended a good season. First part of sugaring was too warm. Last part was too cold. Started with 2.5 feet of snow in the woods and melted away fast. Started too warm and didn't make any light syrup. Ended good on crop total. At first it was too warm but turned cold and had a good crop. Five 80+ degree days stopped sap flow. Two good weeks to follow with no production. Warmed up too quickly and nights not nearly cold enough. Extremely warm weather brought trees to bud very early, then had better weather after pulled taps. Sap ran early and light with high sugar content at first. Due to the mild winter, our season started 2 weeks earlier and ended 3 weeks earlier than last year. The trees in our area, southern Maine, began to bud in the middle of March. Too hot in middle of season. The season unfortunately was much too short. Three weeks in March had 70+ degree temperatures which ended the season. Weather was too cold early in season, followed by two good weeks, then too warm at the end. Strangest year in 23 years, weather-wise. Trees budded out earliest ever with two very nice weeks for sap after our trees quit. Too warm alternating with too cold. One spell of hot weather spurred bud growth early. Season started early but sap flowed slowly. It became very warm in mid-March which ended the season. Low sugar content. Not good with five days of 70 and 80 degree weather.

**MASSACHUSETTS** - Having good season until second week in March, then warmed up and didn't get any more sap. I still set buckets and that seemed to be a benefit this year. It seemed it was warm enough to run in the buckets when the tubing was still frozen. We started one week earlier than ever before and should have started even earlier. Season started real early and stopped after a week of 70 degree weather. Sugar content very low. Season about one month early - February was March – and conditions were good. Started three weeks early. There was no frost in ground and a warm spell in middle of season. The

weather turned too warm during the third week of March. Started early but slow and had good sugar content but ended very early. Sap flow started and ended early. Started two weeks early. Ended three weeks early with 70 degree temperatures in mid-March. Perfect conditions for sap flow prevailed in early to mid-March: warm days and cold nights. Lack of snow cover made it easier to tap trees and collect sap. Then after mid-March came a prolonged warm spell with temperatures near 80 degrees and not going below 32 degrees for several nights. It was warm very early – unexpectedly – so the season was short. Got warm very quickly and stayed warm. Too warm in March. Not a very cold winter. Should have set taps by February 1. Winter was a lot warmer than usual with little snow cover. Warmed up earlier than usual but temperatures were favorable. If we started two weeks earlier, we probably would have made the usual amount of syrup. Set taps early but it was too cold at night and when it warmed up it got too warm. This year started three weeks early, went good for four weeks and stopped. The season started early, then it warmed up with no frost or rain for about two weeks. High elevations were too warm. Tapped two weeks early on 6 inches of packed snow, very little snow during season which ended 2-3 weeks earlier than normal. We really made all of our syrup between March 15-30 but pulled taps on March 16. One for record book but what syrup we made was excellent quality. Shortest season in 35 years in this bush. The syrup this year was excellent flavor, very clear and smooth taste.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE** - Good runs while it lasted. Almost half of syrup made was done by end of February. Snow left too quick, very warm. Hot spell in mid-March stopped the season short. If not for the spell, the season would've lasted until April 1 as usual. Five days in the 80s in mid-March shut it down even with check-valve spouts. Perfect weather after heat wave, but didn't bring back anything worth boiling. Worst year ever. Season started about right, within a week it warmed up way too much and the season was over. Worst season on record. Missed early runs in February. Third week of March at 80 degrees. Trees budded at 1,200 feet elevation and future sap was commercial. Fast and furious for over two weeks while some lots did not produce much at all. Low sugar content left us little choice to not boil with high oil prices. Season started early this year and went very fast. Earliest ending in memory, 2011 season was one month longer than 2012. Shortest season in my 40 years at this. Basically a two week season. Season started early and ended early. We had good quality syrup from what we gathered, but it was a less than average season overall. Sap never really ran – dark color of syrup. Stayed too warm, causing bacteria to grow in spouts, contaminating tap hole. Season was very early for us. Not cold enough at night. Started out good then warmed up far too hot and when the weather straightened out, the buds were out. The five days of summer in mid-March did us in. Only had two good sap runs. Toughest season in over 55 years of sugaring in New Hampshire. Record high temperatures in mid-March. No snow for tapping, extremely warm temperatures mid-season that killed the season. Ninety degree temperatures ended season. Started out good, but had a sad ending. The only good news is I saved a lot of wood. Got two good runs but a week of very unseasonably warm weather stopped our sap flow. Fourth week in March and first week in April were almost perfect sugar weather. Very possibly if we had retapped we might have had an above average season. Sap ran off and on at winter.

**VERMONT** - The long warm spell of 10 days in March induced early budding. The temperature was initially too cold for the sap to run, then just way too hot and this forced the trees to bud.

Temperatures were warm without freezing nights, but sap flow was high and ran continuous even with temperatures in the 70's. Bacteria levels preventing filtering & boiling issues meant dumping sap. Early budding led to stoppage of season even with continued sap flow. Sap quality improved as weather cooled, but too late. Season started early and we tapped as early as we should have. I made the worst flavored syrup I have ever made this season. Sap that flowed after March 21 was rancid. Season ended abruptly with two weeks of 60+ degree temperatures. The hot week in March ended our season. Sap flow after that was good but syrup produced from it was unmarketable. The weather warmed up too much in mid-March for sap to run. The worst year I ever had. Flow was normal until a stretch of 80 degree days when sap flow stopped. Excellent quality and flavor. Syrup was generally darker from start to finish. In 2011, I didn't make syrup until March 11, this year I was all done on March 13. Little snow cover and poor sugar content. Warm weather in mid-March brought season to an abrupt stop. Color went from medium straight to grade B. Because of weather, I did not sugar. Worst year ever. Grade dropped rapidly from fancy to dark. Sap kept running but the trees had buds. A week of 70+ degree weather

accelerated budding of maples, affecting sap flow and quality. By the end of warm week in March, sap kept running but dropped to 0.5 to 0.75 percent sugar content. March heat waves ruined the season. Early season had excellent weather, color, and taste. Stayed warm many days in a row. Without vacuum, production would be little or none. Record breaking heat wave in mid-March ruined the sugar season. Too warm to make good syrup of any quantity. Exceptionally warm weather in March killed our season just as it was getting started. Sugar content and flavor dropped like a rock when warm weather persisted. After the heat wave, although the weather became seasonable and conditions were right for sugaring, the sap was cloudy and we couldn't filter it. Mother Nature didn't cooperate. Never seen it so hot in mid-March. The very beginning was good, then it just got too warm. If you didn't tap in the middle of January, you missed half of your crop. Good quality syrup but warm weather allowed only five good runs. No freezing in mid-March for two weeks. During the very warm weather we lost all the snow that we had. Short season but with good quality. The season was short, but sap flow was plentiful during that brief window thanks to high vacuum.

# Coming This December 2012 Census of Agriculture



**THANK YOU**  
FOR MAKING 2007 SUCH A HUGE SUCCESS.  
**WITH YOUR HELP**  
WE CAN MAKE 2012 EVEN BETTER.

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This is a summary of New England agricultural statistics taken from national Crop Production release nationwide reports issued by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, June 12, 2012. The New England Field Office can be reached at 1-800-642-9571 or through e-mail at [nass-nh@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-nh@nass.usda.gov)

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