



Cherry Production

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Tart Cherry Production Down 23 Percent

United States tart cherry production is forecast at 223 million pounds, down 23 percent from the 2014 production.

In Michigan, the largest producing State, a hard freeze during late May reduced yields significantly.

In Wisconsin, growers reported damage to trees from harsh winter weather. Several growers no longer have production due to tree mortality.

Oregon and Utah growers expect a smaller than average crop this year. A freeze event led to loss of some trees that were not yet dormant.

Pennsylvania growers reported a crop that will result in a relatively good production. Favorable conditions contributed to good yields. In Washington, rains and above average temperatures during Spring, pushed maturity ahead of the normal pace. Harvest started three weeks ahead of normal.

Tart Cherry Production – States and United States: 2013, 2014, and Forecasted 2015

State	Total production		
	2013	2014	2015
	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)
Michigan	218.7	203.0	134.0
New York	12.0	10.0	8.2
Oregon	4.3	2.2	2.8
Pennsylvania	2.2	1.2	3.2
Utah	26.8	36.1	40.0
Washington	17.9	24.3	25.0
Wisconsin	12.3	12.0	9.4
United States	294.2	288.8	222.6

Sweet Cherry Production Down 11 Percent

United States sweet cherry production is forecast at 338,485 tons, down 11 percent from 2014.

Growers in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington reported a warm and relatively dry winter. A freeze event in November 2014 led to loss of trees that were not yet dormant. In the spring, rain events and above average temperature pushed maturity ahead of the normal pace and harvest started three weeks earlier than normal.

Utah growers reported a hard freeze that had a severe negative effect on production in much of the State.

In Michigan, a hard freeze in late May had a detrimental effect on production as well. Overall, yield for the State is expected to be less than the previous year.

In California, harvest ended in early June. Growers reported an unusually light crop for the second consecutive year.

Sweet Cherry Production – States and United States: 2013, 2014, and Forecasted 2015

[Blank cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

State	Total production		
	2013	2014	2015
	(tons)	(tons)	(tons)
California	82,000	40,000	68,000
Idaho	2,300	2,800	2,600
Michigan	22,900	29,860	15,900
Montana ¹	2,015	2,010	
New York	1,045	630	900
Oregon	52,000	53,700	41,000
Utah	830	900	85
Washington	169,000	252,000	210,000
United States	332,090	381,900	338,485

¹ The first estimate for 2015 sweet cherries in Montana will be published in the January 2016 *Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts 2015 Preliminary Summary*.

Statistical Methodology

Survey Procedures: Grower surveys were conducted in 9 cherry estimating States. Producers were contacted to obtain expected yield or production and their assessment of the current crop relative to a full crop. Telephone follow-up of mail survey non-respondents was used to ensure adequate coverage.

Estimating Procedures: Information obtained from the cherry grower surveys were used to establish estimates of sweet and tart cherries. These estimates were reviewed for errors, reasonableness, and consistency with historical estimates and industry check data.

Revision Policy: All sweet and tart cherry estimates are subject to revision the following year based on a thorough review of all available data.

Reliability: Survey results are subject to non-sampling errors such as omission, duplication, imputation for missing data, and mistakes in reporting, recording, and processing the data. These errors cannot be measured directly, but are minimized through rigid quality controls in the data collection process and a careful review of all reported data for consistency and reasonableness.

Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity statisticians in the Crops Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information. E-mail inquiries may be sent to nass@nass.usda.gov

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