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# FIELD CROPS



## POTATO ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND STOCKS

May 17, 2004

### FLORIDA

**SPRING:** Potato production to be harvested during the spring is forecast at 5,605,000 hundredweight, down 30 percent from a year ago. Hastings producers hope to dig 16,000 acres this spring, down 4,300 acres from the 20,300 acres dug in 2003. The spring crop yield for Hastings is expected to average 265 hundredweight per acre, down 15 hundredweight from the 280 hundredweight per acre averaged last year. Producers in other areas expect to dig 1,365,000 hundredweight from 6,500 acres, down 959,000 hundredweight from 2003. Oldest plantings reached full flower around Hastings by the first of April with most fields at the full flower stage by mid-month. Digging of chippers in the Hastings area and other central Peninsula localities got underway during the last two weeks of April as the harvesting of table types continued in the central and southern Peninsula. Mostly dry weather during April allowed proper development of the crop. Significant showers shortly after both mid-April and mid-May caused no significant damage to the crop.

### UNITED STATES

**SPRING:** Spring production in 2004 is forecast at 19.1 million cwt, down 3 percent from the April forecast and 22 percent below last year. Area for harvest is estimated at 71,700 acres, down 1 percent from the April estimate and 15 percent below last year. The average yield is forecast at 266 cwt per acre, down 5 cwt from last month and 22 cwt below a year ago. North Carolina's potato crop, forecasted at 2.85 million cwt, is also unchanged from the April 1 forecast but 4 percent below last year. Texas spring production is forecast at 2.21 million cwt, 9 percent below last month's forecast and down 26 percent from a year ago. Heavy rains and some hail received in late April damaged the crop in the Winter Garden area. Water damage was also evident in the Rio Grande Valley. Production in California is forecast at 6.65 million cwt, down 3 percent from the April forecast and 20 percent below 2003. Many growers anticipate an earlier than usual harvest. Arizona growers now report 6,200 acres for harvest, down 11 percent from last month, contributing to a production forecast of 1.77 million cwt, down 10 percent from the April forecast.

### POTATOES

Seasonal group and State	Area				Yield per acre		Production		
	Planted		Harvested		2003	2004	2002	2003	2004
	2003	2004	2003	2004					
	1,000 Acres				Cwt		1,000 cwt		
<b>SPRING</b>									
Arizona	7.6	6.2	7.6	6.2	275	285	2,106	2,090	1,767
California	19.0	17.5	19.0	17.5	440	380	7,695	8,360	6,650
Florida	30.0	22.8	28.6	22.5	280	249	7,381	8,008	5,605
Hastings	21.5	16.2	20.3	16.0	280	265	5,775	5,684	4,240
Other	8.5	6.6	8.3	6.5	280	210	1,606	2,324	1,365
North Carolina	19.0	16.0	17.0	15.0	175	190	3,230	2,975	2,850
Texas	13.0	11.0	12.5	10.5	240	210	2,040	3,000	2,205
<b>Total</b>	<b>88.6</b>	<b>73.5</b>	<b>84.7</b>	<b>71.7</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>22,452</b>	<b>24,433</b>	<b>19,077</b>

### MAY POTATO STOCKS UP 2 PERCENT

The 15 major potato States held 84.8 million cwt of potatoes in storage May 1, 2004, up 2 percent from last year and 4 percent above 2002. Potatoes in storage account for 21 percent of the 2003 fall storage States' production, up 1 percentage point from last year.

Disappearance of 319 million cwt of potatoes is down 2 percent from last year but 4 percent above two years ago. Shrink and loss, at 27.0 million cwt so far this season, is up 5 percent from last year and 8 percent above two years ago. This disappearance and loss includes unmarketable Maine potatoes disposed of through the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Environmental Quality Incentives Program.

Processors used 154 million cwt of 2003 crop potatoes so far this season, down 3 percent from a year ago but 4 percent above two years ago. April usage of 16.7 million cwt is 2 percent above last year and up 1 percent from two years ago. Dehydrators used 34.6 million cwt to date, down 4 percent from last year.

Western States held 59.3 million cwt of potatoes in storage on May 1, down 6 percent from last year and 5 percent below two years ago. Idaho's potato stocks are down 3 percent from last year, Washington decreased 9 percent, and Colorado's storages held 38 percent less. Potato sheds in Oregon stored 10 percent more than last year, California increased 20 percent, and Montana's storages gained 25 percent.

Central States accounted for 20.9 million cwt of potato stocks on May 1, up 35 percent from last year and 38 percent above two years ago. North Dakota potato sheds stored 51 percent more than last year, Minnesota stocks increased 28 percent, Wisconsin went up 3 percent, and Michigan gained 60 percent. Nebraska and Ohio together are up 65 percent.

Eastern States stored 4.65 million cwt of potatoes on May 1, up 10 percent from last year and 34 percent above two years ago. Maine's stocks are up 5 percent from last year, while New York and Pennsylvania combined increased 62 percent.

**POTATOES: Quantity used for processing, nine States, 2001-2003 <sup>1/</sup>**

State	Crop year	To Dec 1	To Jan 1	To Feb 1	To Mar 1	To Apr 1	To May 1	To Jun 1	Entire season
<i>1,000 cwt</i>									
Idaho & Malheur County, Oregon	2001	20,940	27,330	33,620	40,860	47,710	54,150	61,200	73,390
	2002	28,380	34,860	41,200	48,600	56,240	63,840	71,280	85,390
	2003	24,310	30,730	36,260	43,640	49,570	56,380		
Maine <sup>2/</sup>	2001	1,975	2,440	3,110	3,700	4,285	4,775	5,515	7,195
	2002	2,230	2,715	3,345	3,905	4,505	5,225	5,905	7,835
	2003	1,590	2,095	2,725	3,415	4,105	4,760		
Washington and Other areas, Oregon	2001	29,320	35,310	40,540	47,910	54,970	61,360	69,400	77,180
	2002	33,680	39,490	44,190	51,920	58,710	64,300	71,480	79,110
	2003 <sup>3/</sup>	32,670	38,520	43,610	51,210	58,500	64,160		
Other States <sup>4/</sup>	2001	13,170	14,925	19,000	22,115	24,655	27,815	30,460	37,740
	2002	12,190	14,865	17,865	20,740	23,580	26,000	29,075	36,705
	2003	12,570	15,410	18,760	21,885	25,055	28,585		
Total	2001	65,405	80,005	96,270	114,585	131,620	148,100	166,575	195,505
	2002	76,480	91,930	106,600	125,165	143,035	159,365	177,740	209,040
	2003 <sup>3/</sup>	71,140	86,755	101,355	120,150	137,230	153,885		
Dehydrated <sup>5/</sup>	2001 <sup>6/</sup>								38,581
	2002	15,670	19,660	23,710	27,950	31,910	36,105	40,455	48,943
	2003	14,250	18,370	22,050	26,090	30,290	34,630		

<sup>1/</sup> Total quantity received and used for processing regardless of the State in which the potatoes were produced. Amount excludes quantities used for potato chips in ME, CO, MI, and WI.

<sup>2/</sup> Includes Maine grown potatoes only.

<sup>3/</sup> April revised.

<sup>4/</sup> MN, NV, ND, SD, and WI in 2001. CO, MN, NV, ND, and WI in 2002 and 2003.

<sup>5/</sup> Dehydrated products except starch and flour. Included in above totals. Includes CO, ID, NV, ND, OR, WA, and WI.

<sup>6/</sup> No monthly data available.

**FALL POTATOES: Production and Stocks, 15 Major States, 1994 through 2003**

Crop Year	Production	Dec 1	Jan 1	Feb 1	Mar 1	Apr 1	May 1	Jun 1 <sup>1/</sup>
<i>1,000 Cwt</i>								
1994	410,839	273,290	238,560	202,470	169,570	129,825	87,600	
1995	394,785	256,710	223,550	189,360	156,020	115,855	75,870	
1996	443,704	295,100	261,320	226,080	189,210	147,635	103,210	
1997	413,513	278,830	246,550	212,562	175,870	134,190	92,840	
1998	423,170	280,910	246,230	209,640	173,650	131,220	87,895	50,270
1999	420,567	275,100	239,910	207,150	169,620	128,410	86,915	47,220
2000	458,827	310,300	275,270	234,260	197,670	153,520	109,160	61,240
2001 <sup>2/</sup>	387,033	258,750	224,680	192,190	158,590	119,950	81,200	42,990
2002 <sup>2/</sup>	407,085	264,585	231,690	199,320	165,310	125,870	82,940	45,980
2003	403,946	267,860	233,880	200,530	166,690	126,410	84,800	

<sup>1/</sup> Data not available prior to 1998.

<sup>2/</sup> Production revised in Field Crops, Final Estimates 1997 - 2002 publication released March 17, 2004. Stocks will be revised in Potatoes and Sweet Potatoes, Final Estimates 1997 - 2002 publication tentatively scheduled for release August 20, 2004.