



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service

## Press Release

Cooperating with the Idaho State Department of Agriculture  
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### **Idaho Sweet Cherry Production Expected at 2,100 Tons**

Idaho is expecting a sweet cherry crop of 2,100 tons in 2008, up 40 percent from last year but 45 percent lower than 2006, according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service. Despite a mid-April frost, the sweet cherry crop is expected to be higher than last year.

U.S. sweet cherry production is forecast at 249,580 tons, down 23 percent from 2007 and 15 percent below 2006. The Washington crop forecast of 100,000 tons is unchanged from the June forecast. The forecast is 41 percent below the 2007 production and 40 percent below the production in 2006. Cool temperatures during bloom inhibited bee activity and pollination, then a mid-April frost severely damaged a large portion of the sweet cherry crop. Production in California is forecast at 86,000 tons, 1 percent higher than the 2007 production and 104 percent above 2006. The California forecast is carried forward from June. Cool temperatures and light rain were beneficial to fruit growth. Oregon production is forecast at 35,000 tons, unchanged from the previous forecast and 2007 production but 36 percent below the production in 2006. Projected production levels varied considerably among growers in different regions. The Michigan crop is forecast at 25,000 tons, 8 percent below the 2007 production but 25 percent higher than the 2006 crop. Multiple spring frosts damaged some cherry orchards, resulting in reduced yields. New York production is forecast at 1,030 tons, 13 percent below the 2007 crop but 7 percent higher than 2006. A cold start to the season and dry conditions in some areas reduced yields. Utah production is expected to total 450 tons, down 64 percent from 2007 and down 75 percent from 2006. Frosts and cold summer temperatures decimated flower buds.

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