



IDAHO POTATOES

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IDAHO: Potato growers in the Gem State are expected to harvest 328,000 acres in 2006, an increase of 5,000 acres from 2005. Planted acres, of 330,000, are up 1.5 percent from a year ago. In the 10 Southwest counties, planted and harvested acres are estimated at 19,000 acres, down 2,000 acres from 2005. Acres for harvest in the State's other counties are expected to total 309,000 acres from 311,000 planted acres. This represents a 2.3 percent increase from last year's 302,000 acres harvested.

The 2006 crop is developing well. There were few planting delays due to rain, a stark contrast to last year when wet weather during May 2005 interrupted planting.

United States: All Potatoes: Potato growers across the United States have planted an estimated 1.14 million acres of potatoes in all four seasons this year, up 3 percent from last year but 5 percent below 2004. Area for harvest, forecasted at 1.12 million acres, is also up 3 percent from a year ago but is 4 percent below 2 years ago. Fall potato planted acreage is up 2 percent from the 2005 crop year. The summer potato production forecast is up 7 percent from last season. Winter and spring production forecasts are being carried forward from earlier estimates. Winter production is down 6 percent but spring production is up 10 percent from last year.

Fall Potatoes: Area planted to fall potatoes for 2006 is estimated at 990,500 acres, up 2 percent from last year but 5 percent below 2004. Harvested acres are forecast at 974,400, up 3 percent from 2005 but 5 percent below 2 years ago. This increase is due in part to low ending stocks and higher prices.

Eastern States growers have planted an estimated 94,000 acres of fall potatoes this year, up 2 percent from last year but 5 percent below the 2004 acreage. Maine's planted acreage is estimated at 59,000 acres, up 3 percent from last year. Growers in Massachusetts planted 16 percent more acres than 2005, while acreage in Pennsylvania decreased 4 percent. New York planted area is up less than 1 percent, while Rhode Island's planted acreage is unchanged from 2005. In the New England States, warm dry weather early in the season allowed most of the crop to be planted before heavy rains arrived in mid May. The rest of the crop was planted late May to early June.

Central States planted an estimated 285,800 acres of fall potatoes this year, up 5 percent from last year but 2 percent below two years ago. Planting progressed normally in most central States with the crop in good condition. North Dakota's planted acreage increased 9 percent. Plant development is ahead of average due in part to favorable temperatures. Planted acres increased 13 percent in Minnesota from a year ago. Michigan and Nebraska growers planted the same amount of acres as last year. Wisconsin producers decreased acres 1 percent from last year and Ohio's planted acres are down 11 percent.

Western States potato area is estimated at 610,700 acres planted this year, up 1 percent from last year but 5 percent below 2004. Crop condition in the western States is mostly good to excellent. Idaho growers increased their planted acreage 2 percent from last year. The crop progress in Idaho is ahead of the 5-year average. Washington producers planted 1 percent more than a year ago. Colorado growers increased acreage 3 percent this year. California's fall potato acres are up 8 percent, Nevada's acres increased 18 percent, and New Mexico growers planted 6 percent more acres. Planted acres in Oregon dropped 6 percent and Montana producers decreased acreage 5 percent.

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Potatoes: Area Planted and Harvested, by Seasonal Group, Fall Potatoes by State, and United States, 2005 -2006

Seasonal Group and State	Area Planted		Area Harvested	
	2005	2006	2005	2006
<i>1,000 Acres</i>				
Winter	20.0	17.7	19.8	17.5
Spring	68.0	71.1	66.7	69.7
Summer	53.4	58.7	51.4	56.8
Fall				
California	7.2	7.8	7.2	7.8
Colorado	58.2	59.9	57.9	59.7
IDAHO	325.0	330.0	323.0	328.0
SW (10 Counties)	21.0	19.0	21.0	19.0
Other Counties	304.0	311.0	302.0	309.0
Maine	57.5	59.0	56.2	56.0
Massachusetts	2.5	2.9	2.4	2.8
Michigan	44.0	44.0	43.5	43.5
Minnesota	46.0	52.0	43.0	49.0
Montana	11.0	10.5	10.9	10.4
Nebraska	19.5	19.5	19.4	19.2
Nevada	5.5	6.5	5.5	6.5
New Mexico	4.7	5.0	4.2	5.0
New York	20.5	20.6	20.1	20.1
North Dakota	92.0	100.0	82.0	95.0
Ohio	3.7	3.3	3.6	3.1
Oregon	37.3	35.0	37.1	35.0
Malheur County	3.8	3.0	3.8	3.0
Other Counties	33.5	32.0	33.3	32.0
Pennsylvania	11.5	11.0	11.0	10.8
Rhode Island	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Washington	154.0	156.0	154.0	156.0
Wisconsin	68.0	67.0	68.0	66.0
Total Fall	968.6	990.5	949.5	974.4
United States	1,110.0	1,138.0	1,087.4	1,118.4

Fall Potatoes: Acres Planted for Certified Seed Potatoes, by States ^{1/}

State	2005 Crop			2006	State	2005 Crop			2006
	Entered for	Certified	Percent Certified			Entered for Certification	Entered for Certification	Certified	
	<i>Acres</i>		<i>Percent</i>	<i>Acres</i>		<i>Acres</i>		<i>Percent</i>	<i>Acres</i>
Alaska	205	195	95	200	Nebraska	6,007	5,985	100	5,487
California	525	446	85	570	New York	807	806	100	830
Colorado	15,289	12,813	84	14,400	North Dakota	12,849	12,610	98	16,389
IDAHO	31,626	30,969	98	31,229	Oregon	2,251	2,251	100	2,500
Maine	11,599	11,466	99	11,500	Pennsylvania	260	259	100	250
Michigan	2,300	2,167	94	2,300	Washington	2,360	2,360	100	2,422
Minnesota	9,683	9,094	94	9,256	Wisconsin	8,489	8,173	96	8,625
Montana	9,900	9,675	98	9,565	TOTAL	114,150	109,269	96	115,523

1/ Data supplied by State seed Certification officials.