



PRESS RELEASE

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WASHINGTON SWEET CHERRY PRODUCTION DOWN 41 PERCENT

OLYMPIA, Wash., June 10, 2008--**Sweet Cherries:** The combined 2008 sweet cherry production for California, Oregon, and Washington is forecast at 221,000 tons, down 24 percent from 2007 and 17 percent below 2006. Washington's production is forecast at 100,000 tons, down 41 percent from the previous year. A mid-April frost and poor pollination during bloom impacted a large portion of the crop, especially the earlier varieties. Oregon fared somewhat better, where production is forecast at 35,000 tons, unchanged from 2007. The frost affected some growers in Wasco and Hood River Counties, however, the loss was partially offset by new bearing acres this year. Growers in the Willamette Valley region expect a smaller crop. California production is forecast at 86,000 tons, up 1 percent from 2007. Temperate weather, along with reports of good fruit size, led to the increase in expected production.

Bartlett Pears: Production of Bartlett Pears in California, Oregon, and Washington is forecast at 382,000 tons, down 12 percent from last year and 11 percent below 2006. Washington's Bartlett crop is forecast at 150,000 tons, down 13 percent from 2007 and 9 percent below 2 years ago. Producers reported frost damage and unfavorable conditions during the pollination period. Temperatures during April, particularly during the period of April 18-22, dropped into the upper teens and low twenties in some areas. Areas to the north and south of Yakima experienced some of the lowest temperatures. Production in California is forecast at 175,000 tons, down 13 percent from last season and 12 percent below 2 years ago. Freezing temperatures in April negatively impacted the crop in the Mendocino County area. Growers reported that it was the worst freeze in nearly a half century. The Sacramento River district was not impacted as much by the freeze and was expected to produce a normal crop. Oregon growers expect to harvest 57,000 tons, down 8 percent from last year and 10 percent below the 2006 Bartlett crop. A cold, wet spring has reduced production expectations.



FRUIT PRODUCTION, JUNE 1, 2008

Crop & Year	Total Production		
	2006	2007	2008 1/
SWEET CHERRIES:	Tons		
California	42,100	85,000	86,000
Oregon	55,100	35,000	35,000
Washington	168,000	170,000	100,000
Total	265,200	290,000	221,000
BARTLETT PEARS:			
California	199,000	201,000	175,000
Oregon	63,000	62,000	57,000
Washington	165,000	172,000	150,000
Total	427,000	435,000	382,000
APRICOTS:			
California	39,000	81,000	87,000
PRUNES (Dried):			
California	198,000	83,000	120,000
PEACHES:			
California			
All	712,000	933,000	810,000
Clingstone 2/	359,000	503,000	380,000
Freestone	353,000	430,000	430,000
Georgia	41,000	13,000	35,000
South Carolina	60,000	12,500	65,000
TOTAL	813,000	958,500	910,000

1/ The first production forecast for sweet cherries in ID, MI, NY, and UT and tart cherries in MI, NY, OR, PA, UT, WA, and WI will be published in the "Cherry Production" report released on June 19, 2008. The first estimate for 2008 sweet cherries in MT will be released in January 2009.

2/ California Clingstone peaches are over-the-scale tonnage and include culls and cannery diversions.

To access the entire release, including the complete narrative and tables point to
http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Washington/Current_News_Release/cherpear.pdf

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