



PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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Washington's 2008 Potato Acreage Down from 2007

OLYMPIA, Wash., July 11, 2008 – In a report issued today by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service's (NASS) Washington Field Office, Washington growers planted an estimated 155,000 acres of potatoes in 2008, 10,000 acres less than in 2007 and 1,000 acres below the acreage planted in 2006. The entire 2008 crop is expected to be harvested. Eighty-six percent of the Washington crop is planted to russet type varieties, 7 percent to white varieties and the remainder is reportedly yellow, red, and blue types.

Idaho growers planted 300,000 acres to potatoes this year, 50,000 acres less than the 350,000 acres planted for the 2007 crop. Oregon's planted acreage for 2008 is estimated at 35,500 acres compared with 36,500 acres in 2007. Russet type varieties will dominate in Idaho and Oregon with 94 and 77 percent, respectively. With 489,500 acres planted to fall potatoes for 2008, the Pacific Northwest accounted for 46 percent of the Nation's acres planted to fall potatoes compared with 48 percent last year.

Area planted to fall potatoes in the U.S. for 2008 is estimated at 1.06 million acres, down 8 percent from last year but 7 percent above 2006. Harvested acres are forecast at 1.04 million, down 8 percent from 2007 but up 7 percent from 2006.

David Knopf, NASS Director of the Washington Field Office stated, "This is the first estimate for the 2008 potato crop in Washington. The first production estimate for the 2008 crop will be released on November 10. Final estimates of acreage, production and disposition for the 2007 crop will be published on September 25."

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

Find agricultural statistics for your county, State, and the Nation at:
www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Washington/

Fall Potatoes, 11 Major States, July 1, 2008

STATE	PLANTED			HARVESTED			YIELD 1/		PRODUCTION 1/	
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	1,000 Acres						Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.	
Idaho	330.0	350.0	300.0	328.0	349.0	299.0	377		131,650	
Oregon	35.0	36.5	35.5	35.0	36.5	35.5	554		20,238	
Washington	156.0	165.0	155.0	155.0	165.0	155.0	620		102,300	
Pacific NW	521.0	551.5	490.5	518.0	550.5	489.5	462.6		254,188	
Colorado	59.9	59.2	57.0	59.7	59.1	56.7	355		20,981	
Maine	58.5	55.0	55.0	58.0	57.0	54.5	290		16,530	
Michigan	43.5	42.5	44.5	43.0	42.0	44.0	350		14,700	
Minnesota	51.0	50.0	48.0	48.0	47.0	45.0	440		20,680	
New York	20.6	19.0	18.0	19.0	18.3	17.3	285		5,216	
North Dakota	100.0	97.0	83.0	98.0	91.0	79.0	260		23,660	
Pennsylvania	11.0	10.5	11.0	10.5	10.0	10.5	220		2,200	
Wisconsin	66.0	64.5	64.5	66.0	64.0	63.0	440		28,160	
Total 11 States	931.5	949.2	871.5	920.2	938.9	859.5	411		386,315	
U.S. Fall Total	987.9	1,148.6	1,057.3	976.2	1,129.7	1,040.4	397		448,407	

1/ The forecast of fall potato production will be released November 2008.

Fall Potatoes: Percentage of Acreage Planted by Type, 11 Major States, 2007-2008 1/

STATE	POTATO TYPES 2/							
	REDS		WHITES		YELLOWS		RUSSETS	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	Percent							
Colorado	4	3	3	1	11	11	82	85
Idaho	2	2	3	3	1	1	94	94
Maine	4	4	46	40	5	3	45	53
Michigan	1	2	85	86	2	1	12	11
Minnesota	23	21	11	7	1	1	65	71
New York	12	6	77	86	10	7	1	1
North Dakota	20	19	30	28	1	1	49	52
Oregon	2	3	20	17	3	3	75	77
Pennsylvania	3	3	79	83	15	13	3	1
Washington	3	6	11	7	1	1	85	86
Wisconsin	10	11	33	28	1	2	56	59
11 State Average	6	6	19	18	2	2	73	74

1/ 2007 revised.

2/ Predominant type shown may include small portion of other type(s) constituting less than 1 percent of the State's total. Blue types are reported under red types.