



PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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WASHINGTON AND U.S. SWEET CHERRY PRODUCTION DOWN

OLYMPIA, Wash., June 19, 2008--U.S. sweet cherry production is forecast at 249,580 tons, down 23 percent from 2007 and 15 percent below 2006. **Washington's** production is forecast at 100,000 tons, unchanged from the June forecast, but down 41 percent from 2007 and 40 percent lower than 2006. April frosts were damaging to a large portion of the crop this year and cold temperatures during bloom inhibited bee activity and pollination. Overall fruit quality and size are expected to be very good. The **California** crop, at 86,000 tons, is up 1 percent from 2007 and 104 percent above 2006. The California forecast is carried forward from the June 1 forecast. 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 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. **Idaho** is expecting a sweet cherry crop of 2,100 tons, up 40 percent from last year but 45 percent lower than 2006. Despite a mid-April frost, the sweet cherry crop is expected to be higher than last year.

U.S. TART CHERRY PRODUCTION DOWN 30 PERCENT

U.S. tart cherry production is forecast at 177 million pounds, 30 percent below the 2007 production and 33 percent below the production of 2006. **Michigan**, the largest producing State, expects a crop of 135 million pounds, down 30 percent from the 2007 crop and 29 percent below 2006. Multiple spring freezes and wet weather during pollination hampered fruit set in the northwest and west central regions. However, growers in the southwest region were more optimistic about the crop potential. **Washington** expects to produce 16.5 million pounds of tart cherries in 2008, up 43 percent from 2007 but 26 percent lower than 2006. April frosts reduced the potential for a larger crop. **Utah** production is forecast at 12.0 million pounds, 40 percent below 2007 and 57 percent below 2006 production. A late freeze, cold spring, and a cooler than normal summer resulted in reduced yields. **New York** is expected to produce 9.20 million pounds of tart cherries, 29 percent lower than the 2007 crop and 12 percent below 2006. Frost in Lake Ontario and Hudson Valley regions, along with a hailstorm in the Lake Ontario region, reduced yields. **Pennsylvania** expects to produce 3.00 million pounds of tart cherries, 14 percent below 2007 and down 42 percent from 2006. Freezing temperatures in spring reduced the potential for a larger crop. **Oregon's** production is forecast at 1.40 million pounds, up 180 percent from 2007 but 59 percent below the production in 2006. Cool weather extended the bloom period, therefore increasing pollination. **Wisconsin** production is forecast at 200,000 pounds, 98 percent below 2007 production and 96 percent below 2006. Stress from last year's high production and dry summer, along with an early January warm spell and sudden freeze, severely reduced fruit production.

Sweet Cherries: Total Production by State & United States 2006-2007 & Forecasted 2008

STATE	TOTAL PRODUCTION		
	2006	2007	2008
	TONS		
California 1/	42,100	85,000	86,000
Idaho	3,800	1,500	2,100
Michigan	20,000	27,300	25,000
Montana 2/	2,400	2,430	
New York	960	1,190	1,030
Oregon	55,100	35,000	35,000
Utah	1,800	1,250	450
Washington	168,000	170,000	100,000
TOTAL	294,160	323,670	249,580

1/ Forecast carried forward from "Crop Production" released June 10, 2008.

2/ The first estimate for 2008 sweet cherries in Montana will be published in the January 2008 "Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts 2008 Preliminary Summary."



Tart Cherries: Total Production by State & United States 2006-2007 & Forecasted 2008

STATE	TOTAL PRODUCTION		
	2006	2007	2008
	Million Pounds		
Michigan	190.0	193.0	135.0
New York	10.4	13.0	9.2
Oregon	3.4	0.5	1.4
Pennsylvania	5.2	3.5	3.0
Utah	28.0	20.0	12.0
Washington	22.3	11.5	16.5
Wisconsin	4.5	10.4	0.2
TOTAL	263.8	251.9	177.3

To access the entire release, including the complete narrative and tables, point to <http://www.nass.usda.gov/wa/press/swtchery.pdf>

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Find agricultural statistics for Washington State at www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Washington