

Wisconsin Apple Forecast Up

The forecast for Wisconsin's 2009 apple crop is 58.5 million pounds. If realized, this would be 3 percent above last year. There have been dry conditions across much of the state this growing season, particularly in the northern two-thirds of the state. Some growers reported that more moisture would be needed to help apple size. Despite overall dry conditions, many growers stated that they are expecting a better crop than last year. There were several reports of scab becoming a problem, particularly in organic orchards.

U.S. apple production is forecast at 10.1 billion pounds, up 4 percent from 2008 and 11 percent from 2007. The largest-producing state, Washington, is forecast to produce 5.80 billion pounds, the same as last year's production. New York is anticipating an apple crop of 1.27 billion pounds, up 2 percent from 2008. Michigan is anticipating 1.05 billion pounds, up 75 percent from 2008.