

Tart Cherry Growers Expect More Fruitful Year

Wisconsin's tart cherry production for 2009 is forecast at 8.3 million pounds which is a tremendous increase from last year's 600,000 pounds. This forecast is 20 percent below the 10.4 million pounds produced in 2007. Some producers reported a late season due to periods of cold, wet weather, but the crop is much improved from the previous year.

National tart cherry production for 2009 is forecast at 284 million pounds. This is 32 percent above production in 2008 and 12 percent above 2007 production.

Michigan, the largest tart cherry producing state, is expecting a crop of 220 million pounds, 33 percent more than last year and 12 percent above 2007. Although the cool spring delayed crop development slightly in the northwest region, the crop was reported as excellent. Pollination was hampered by cool, wet conditions in the southwest and west central regions. Washington is expecting a tart cherry crop of 17.5 million pounds, which would be 5.0 million pounds higher than 2008. A very cold winter and cooler than normal spring did not have a negative impact on cherry production this year. Utah production is forecast at 23.0 million pounds, up 15 percent from both 2008 and 2007. There were no reports of freeze damage this year and growers were expecting high yields. New York expects to produce 8.40 million pounds of tart cherries, 13 percent less than last year and 26 percent below 2007. Frost damage and cool weather reduced tart cherry yields in parts of the Lake Ontario and Lake Erie regions. The cherry crop in the Hudson Valley was reported as good.

Tart Cherry Production

State	2007	2008	2009*
	Million pounds		
WI	10.4	0.6	8.3
MI	196.0	165.0	220.0
NY	11.3	9.6	8.4
OR	0.5	2.8	2.7
PA	3.5	3.9	3.7
UT	20.0	20.0	23.0
WA	11.5	12.5	17.5
US	253.2	214.4	283.6

*Forecasted. Source: USDA, NASS, WI FO