

CROP REPORT



OREGON
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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PRESS RELEASE

1220 SW 3rd Ave., Room 1735
Portland, OR 97204

Potato production down nearly 16 percent

Potato production in Oregon is forecast at 21.0 million cwt., nearly 16 percent below the 2002 crop, according to the Oregon Agricultural Statistics Service. The 2003 yield is forecast at 493 cwt. per acre, down 8 cwt. from the 2002 yield. Planted potato acreage decreased by 14 percent to 42,800 acres, the lowest total since 1972. Harvested acreage also decreased by 14 percent to 42,600 acres. This decrease in acreage is responsible in part for the decline in potato production in 2003. Malheur County expects 5,800 acres harvested with a yield of 415 cwt. per acre. This yield is up 15 cwt. from last year. For other counties in Oregon, harvested acreage is expected at 36,800 acres with a yield of 505 cwt. per acre., down 15 cwt. from the 2002 yield.

Production of fall potatoes for 2003 is forecast at 414 million cwt., virtually unchanged from last year but 5 percent greater than the 2001 crop. Area harvested, at 1.09 million acres, is virtually unchanged from the July estimate but down 1 percent from last year. The average yield is forecast at 378 cwt., per acre, 5 cwt., above last year and 11 cwt., greater than the 2001 season. Western States production is forecast at 276 million cwt., down 5 percent from last year but 4 percent above 2001. Acreage harvested, at 663,300 acres, decreased 4 percent from last year, and the average yield of 416 cwt., per acre is down 5 cwt., from 2002. California's production is down 19 percent due to hot weather and poor seed quality which also reduced yields. Colorado's production decreased 15 percent as farmers reduced planted acreage to conserve underground water supplies following drought conditions during the past two years. Idaho's production decreased 8 percent from last year due to above normal summer temperatures which adversely affected tuber development. Higher yields in Washington, due to excellent growing conditions, increased production 4 percent from last season. Washington harvest was 100 percent complete by the first week of November. Production in Nevada rose 26 percent from last year, while New Mexico went down 2 percent. Montana and Utah production went up 5 percent and 37 percent, respectively, from last year.

Sugarbeet yields show 8 percent increase

Sugarbeet production Oregon is forecast at 278,000 tons, nearly 8 percent below the 2002 crop. Yields increased by 8 percent to 29.6 tons per acre in 2003. Harvested acreage was estimated at 9,400 acres and reflects a decrease of 1,600 acres from the previous year.

Crop Summary: Acres Harvested, Yield, Production; 2002-2003

Crop	Oregon						United States					
	Harvested		Yield		Production		Harvested		Yield		Production	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	1,000 Acres				1,000 Units		1,000 Acres				1,000 Units	
Fall Potatoes (Cwt.,..)	49.8	42.6	501	493	24,936	20,991	1,109.4	1,094.8	373	378	414,317	413,549
Sugarbeets (Tons)	11.0	9.4	27.4	29.6	301	278	1,361.1	1,345.6	20.4	22.8	27,718	30,624

For more details or data on all potatoes, please call Janice Goodwin or see <http://www.nass.usda.gov/or>.