

WASHINGTON AGRI-FACTS

June 15, 2004



U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
P.O. Box 609, Olympia, WA 98507

MAY REVIEW

Warm temperatures, below normal precipitation, and damaging wind and hail storms were experienced during May. High winds damaged asparagus harvests, while an end of month hail storm plagued tree fruit growers. Strawberry harvest started a couple of weeks earlier than normal and much needed rainfall, at the end of the month, caused sweet corn and other vegetables to emerge rapidly. Winter wheat and spring cereals remained in fair to good condition. Dairymen continued to apply liquid manure to forage fields.

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FRUIT PRODUCTION

Production of sweet cherries in California, Oregon and Washington is forecast at 243,000 tons, up 13 percent from 2003 and 40 percent above 2002. Washington's 2004 production is forecast at a record high 135,000 tons, up 16 percent from last year. Washington's sweet cherry crop experienced unusually warm conditions during the spring for a good bloom. Most growers are reporting crop sizes equal to or greater than last year. Some increase in production can be attributed to the increasing potential of young plantings. Sweet cherry production in Oregon is forecast at 43,000 tons, up 13 percent from 2003. A warm spring advanced crop development in Oregon, with most 7 to 10 days ahead of average. The California crop, at 65,000 tons, is up 5 percent from 2003. Adequate chilling hours and ideal weather conditions during bloom and the growing season have contributed to this production increase. Harvest began in late April and will continue through the second week of June. Fruit quality is reported to be excellent.

Production of Bartlett pears in California, Oregon and Washington is forecast at 452,000 tons, down 1 percent from last year but 1 percent above 2002. Washington's Bartlett crop is forecast at 175,000 tons, down 11 percent from 2003 but 11 percent above two years ago. Washington growers experienced a very early spring beginning in February. The warm weather brought trees to full bloom one to two weeks ahead of schedule. Freezing in April and hail in May caused some minimal damage. In Oregon, growers expect to harvest 62,000 tons, up 2 percent from 2003 and 7 percent above 2002. Growing conditions have been ideal this year. Temperatures in May and June have been well above normal while still receiving adequate precipitation. Production in California is forecast at 215,000 tons, up 7 percent from 2003 but 7 percent below two years ago. Ideal growing conditions have helped Bartlett pears to progress normally this season. Harvesting is expected to begin during late June.

FRUIT PRODUCTION, JUNE 1, 2004

Crop & Year	Total Production		
	2001	2002	Indicated 2003
SWEET CHERRIES 1/:	Tons		
California	55,500	62,000	65,000
Oregon	31,000	38,000	43,000
Washington	87,000	116,000	135,000
Total	173,500	216,000	243,000
BARTLETT PEARS:			
California	232,000	201,000	215,000
Oregon	58,000	61,000	62,000
Washington	158,000	196,000	175,000
Total	448,000	458,000	452,000
APRICOTS:			
California	85,000	92,500	90,000
PRUNES (Dried):			
California	172,000	181,000	70,000
PEACHES:			
California:		Million Pounds	
All	1,920	1,870	1,950
Clingstone 2/	1,124	1,072	1,150
Freestone	796	798	800
Georgia	90	120	100
South Carolina	160	100	140
TOTAL	2,170	2,090	2,190

1/ The first production forecast for sweet cherries in ID, MI, MT, NY, PA, and UT and tart cherries in CO, MI, NY, OR, PA, UT, WA, and WI will be published in the "Cherry Production" release on June 24, 2004.

2/ CA Clingstone is over-the-scale tonnage and includes culls and cannery diversions.

HOP VARIETIES

Hops: Area strung for harvest in 2004 for Washington, Oregon, and Idaho is forecast at 27,946 acres, 3 percent less than the 2003 crop of 28,669 acres, and 5 percent less than the 2002 crop of 29,309 acres. Washington, with 19,334 acres for harvest, accounts for 69 percent of the U.S. total acreage, 158 acres less than a year ago. Oregon hop growers plan to string 5,107 acres or 18 percent of the U.S. total for 2004, with Idaho hop growers accounting for the remaining 13 percent, or 3,505 acres strung for harvest. Idaho growers increased their hop acreage over last year by 2 percent, while Oregon and Washington acreage declined by 11 percent and 1 percent, respectively.

Nationally, water supplies are expected to be adequate this year. In Washington, the winter was relatively mild. However, crop progress is a little slower than normal due to cool spring temperatures and occasional rain. Vines are mostly half way to the wire except for some late-developing varieties which are slightly shorter. Hop powdery mildew and downy mildew have been prevalent in nearly every growing area this year. Oregon's crop is showing average growth. In Idaho, plants are growing slightly slower due to colder weather this year.

Hops: 2003 Acres Harvested and 2004 Acres Strung for Harvest by Variety

Variety	Oregon		Washington	
	2003	2004	2003	2004
	Acres			
Cascade	*	91	2,120	1,460
Chelan	-	-	180	201
Chinook	-	-	453	490
Cluster	-	-	430	467
Columbus/Tomahawk	-	-	2,738	2,988
Galena	-	-	2,856	3,412
Glacier	245	243	-	-
Golding	95	105	22	36
Hallertauer	-	-	53	46
Horizon	-	-	135	35
Liberty	*	*	-	-
Millenium	*	264	1,386	1,126
Mt. Hood	217	215	32	39
Northern Brewer	-	-	65	65
Nugget	1,529	1,286	918	719
Perle	450	259	104	47
Sterling	84	222	-	-
Tettnanger	-	-	*	*
Tillicum	-	-	194	*
Willamette	2,224	2,175	3,645	3,543
YCR-5 (WarriorTM)	-	-	1,242	811
Zeus	-	-	2,333	2,899
Other Varieties	904	247	586	950
Total	5,748	5,107	19,492	19,334
U.S TOTAL 1/			28,669	27,946

* Included in "Other Varieties" to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

- Unknown or none.

1/ Idaho acreage strung for harvest was 3,429 acres in 2003 and 3,505 acres in 2004. Individual varieties were not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

PRICES RECEIVED
AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS FOR FARM PRODUCTS (DOLLARS/UNIT)

Commodity	Unit	Entire Month		Prelim. May 2004	Entire Month		Prelim. May 2004	U.S. Parity Price
		May 2003	Apr. 2004		May 2003	Apr. 2004		
		Washington			United States			
Wheat, All	Bu.	3.27	4.24	3.93	3.33	3.89	3.73	10.10
Wheat, Spring	Bu.	3.60	4.40	4.09	3.55	3.94	3.90	-
Wheat, Winter	Bu.	3.17	4.20	3.89	3.19	3.79	3.64	-
Barley	Bu.	2.81	2.57	2.52	2.91	2.78	2.79	6.72
Corn	Bu.	-	-	-	2.38	2.89	2.78	6.78
Oats	Bu.	-	-	-	1.95	1.62	1.64	3.95
Dry Edible Beans	Cwt.	-	-	-	19.10	19.60	21.80	52.20
Hops	Lbs.	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.58
Potatoes, All	Cwt.	5.55	6.30	5.75	6.96	6.84	6.75	15.30
Potatoes, Processing	Cwt.	5.60	5.65	-	5.66	5.59	-	-
All Hay (baled) 1/	Tons	123.00	88.00	89.00	98.00	89.60	101.00	-
Alfalfa (baled) 1/	Tons	105.00	80.00	82.00	100.00	92.70	109.00	-
Hay, Other (baled)	Tons	135.00	115.00	115.00	88.40	76.00	74.90	-
Apples, Fresh 2/	Lbs.	0.212	0.325	0.311	0.218	0.299	0.294	0.529
Beef Cattle	Cwt.	-	-	-	75.50	84.80	88.40	171.00
Steers and Heifers	Cwt.	-	-	-	79.60	88.90	92.60	-
Calves	Cwt.	-	-	-	100.00	117.00	122.00	229.00
Milk Cows 3/	Head	-	1,720.00	-	-	1,580.00	-	-
Broilers, Live 4/	Lbs.	-	-	-	0.340	0.480	0.500	-
Eggs, Table 1/	Doz.	0.500	0.900	0.753	0.397	0.614	0.468	1.70
Milk, All 5/	Cwt.	11.00	17.50	19.50	11.00	18.20	20.30	35.20
Hogs	Cwt.	-	-	-	41.30	47.40	57.80	106.00
Sheep	Cwt.	-	-	-	31.30	37.10	-	84.00
Lambs	Cwt.	-	-	-	97.60	100.00	-	202.00

1/ All prices are mid-month estimates.

2/ Equivalent packinghouse door return for apples for WA, OR, NY, and CA, and price at point of the first sale for other states.

3/ Animals sold for dairy herd replacement only. Prices available for Jan., Apr, Jul, and Oct.

4/ Equivalent liveweight returns to producers. Includes growers and contractors.

5/ Before deductions for hauling. Includes quality, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

WINTER WHEAT: HARVESTED ACREAGE, YIELD, & PRODUCTION

State & Area	Harvested Acres		Yield			Production	
	2003	Indicated 2004	2003	May 2004	Jun 2004	2003	Indicated 2004
	Thousand Acres		Bushels			Thousand Bushels	
Washington	1,800	1,700	65	63	64	117,000	108,800
Oregon	940	840	51	53	59	47,940	49,560
Idaho	720	680	80	81	81	57,600	55,080
PNW 1/	3,460	3,220	64.3		66.3	222,540	213,440
U. S. Total	36,541	35,082	46.7	44.2	43.6	1,707,069	1,530,742

1/ Washington, Idaho, and Oregon.

Wheat: Production by Class, United States, 2000-2004 1/

Year	Winter			Spring 2/			Total
	Hard Red	Soft Red	White	Hard Red	White	Durum	
	1,000 Bushels						
2000	846,324	471,356	248,343	502,318	54,314	109,805	2,232,460
2001	766,795	399,670	195,014	475,515	36,493	83,556	1,957,043
2002	620,328	320,968	195,705	351,439	37,478	79,960	1,605,878
2003	1,062,889	379,196	264,984	499,926	32,894	96,637	2,336,526
2004	886,897	396,768	247,077				

1/ Wheat class estimates are based on varietal acreage survey data. The previous end-of-season class percentages are used throughout the forecast season.

2/ Spring wheat production by class and total production will be published in "Crop Production" released July 12, 2004.