

Washington's 2004 Sweet Cherry Production a Record High

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 regions 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		
	2002	2003	Indicated 2004
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:	Million Pounds		
California:			
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.