

Tart Cherry Production Expected to Decrease

Wet and cold conditions during most of the spring caused pollination problems in Wisconsin's major cherry producing areas. The 2004 tart cherry production in Wisconsin is expected to be 8.00 million pounds. This is down 40 percent from the 2003 crop of 13.3 million, but double the 2002 crop of 4.00 million pounds.

U.S. tart cherry production is expected to be 215 million pounds in 2004, down 5 percent from 2003 production. The largest producer, Michigan, is forecasted to produce 145 million pounds, which is down 6 percent from last year. Michigan's production is expected to be lower, due to a May freeze that damaged buds and cold temperatures throughout the spring. Utah, the second largest producer, is forecasted to produce 23.0 million pounds of tart cherries. This is down 12 percent from 2003. The third largest producer, Washington, should produce 22.5 million pounds, a 12 percent jump from last year. The expected increase results from a warm spring that allowed for a good bloom. New York is expected to produce 8.00 million pounds of tart cherries, a 11 percent rise from the 2003 crop. Part of this increase can be attributed to orchards recovering from harsh weather over the past two winters.

Tart Cherry Production

State	2002	2003	2004*
	Million pounds		
Wisconsin	4.0	13.3	8.0
Colorado	0.3	0.6	0.5
Michigan	15.0	154.0	145.0
New York	12.7	7.2	8.0
Oregon	3.2	1.4	3.9
Pennsylvania	3.8	3.9	4.2
Utah	3.0	26.0	23.0
Washington	20.5	20.1	22.5
United States	62.5	226.5	215.1

*Forecasted. Source: Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service