



# FIELD CROPS

## Potato Acreage, Production, and Stocks

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### 2012 Spring Production

#### Florida

**Weather:** Potato growers began field preparations in mid-December. Hastings and Other Area growers began planting potatoes in January. Warm, humid temperatures caused some blight damage in potato fields. In mid-February, there were reports of frost in the Hastings area. Temperatures in the low twenties for several hours were reported for a couple of days. Also, irrigation efforts in potato fields were utilized due to extreme drought conditions in the Hastings area. Growers in Other Areas had some leaf damage due to freeze damage in January and early February. By mid-February, reports of damage were reported in potato fields in Flagler County. Prior cold temperatures have delayed the harvesting period. In Suwannee County, potato planting was underway by early March. Planting of potatoes remained active throughout the Hastings area.

**Production Forecast:** Producers planted 36,900 acres, up 500 acres from the 36,400 winter and spring acres planted last year. Acreage for harvest was set at 36,300 acres, up 700 acres from the combined winter and spring acres harvested a year ago. Yield is expected to average 260 cwt per acre, up 4 cwt from the previous year. The combined winter and spring production is anticipated to total 9.44 million cwt, up four percent or 326,000 cwt from the 2011 combined production.

Growers in the Hastings area planted 23,600 acres compared to the 23,400 acres last year. Producers hope to dig 23,300 acres, up 200 acres from last season's 23,100 acres. The Hastings area yield is expected to average 260 cwt per acre, down 10 cwt from a year ago. The Hastings production is set at 6.06 million cwt or 3 percent less than the 6.24 million cwt dug last year. Potato growers in Other Areas planted 13,300 acres, up 2 percent from last year. Acreage for harvest is forecast at 13,000, up 500 acres from last season. The yield in Other Areas is expected to average 260 cwt, up 30 cwt from the previous year. The combined winter and spring production from Other Areas is expected to total 3.38 million cwt, up 505,000 cwt or 18 percent from the 2.87 million cwt dug a year ago.

#### United States

**Spring potatoes:** Production for 2012 is forecast at 27.2 million cwt, up 6 percent from 2011. Planted acreage is forecast at 98,200 acres, a 5 percent increase from 2011. Area for harvest is forecast at 95,600 acres, up 4 percent from the previous year. The average yield forecast, at 285 cwt per acre, is up 6 cwt from the previous year. In California, planting was underway and growers were reporting expectations of an average crop year. In North Carolina and Texas, growers reported good crop conditions, although Texas growers indicated high insect pressure.

**Summer potatoes:** Production in 2011 totaled 13.0 million cwt, unchanged from the previous estimate but fractionally below the previous year's production. Harvested area covered 46,000 acres, unchanged from the previous estimate but 14 percent more than in 2010. Average yield, at 282 cwt per acre, was 39 cwt below the previous season.

### Potato Area Planted, Harvested, Yield, and Production for Spring Season

Seasonal Group and State	Area				Yield per acre		Production	
	Planted		Harvested		2011	2012	2011	2012
	2011	2012	2011	2012				
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(cwt)	(cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)
Spring								
Arizona.....	3.8	3.5	3.8	3.5	280	300	1,064	1,050
California .....	28.1	30.0	28.0	30.0	390	385	10,920	11,550
Florida.....	36.4	36.9	35.6	36.3	256	260	9,112	9,438
Hastings.....	23.4	23.6	23.1	23.3	270	260	6,237	6,058
Other areas.....	13.0	13.3	12.5	13.0	230	260	2,875	3,380
North Carolina.....	17.0	18.0	16.5	17.0	170	190	2,805	3,230
Texas.....	8.0	9.8	7.6	8.8	220	220	1,672	1,936
United States.....	93.3	98.2	91.5	95.6	279	285	25,573	27,204

**Potatoes: Quantity used for Processing, Nine States: 2009-2011**

[Total quantity received and used for processing regardless of the State in which the potatoes were produced.]

State & Crop year	To December 1	To January 1	To February 1	To March 1	To April 1	To May 1	To June 1	Entire season
	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)
Idaho and Oregon, Malheur								
2009.....	23,110	29,180	35,170	42,050	49,200	56,100	62,930	79,400
2010.....	21,040	26,840	32,700	39,240	46,180	52,830	59,440	70,050
2011.....	28,060	34,800	41,800	49,460	56,680			
Maine <sup>1</sup>								
2009.....	1,575	2,060	2,680	3,265	3,915	4,550	5,260	7,160
2010.....	1,860	2,390	3,000	3,620	4,320	4,980	5,645	7,490
2011.....	1,860	2,365	3,070	3,665	4,320			
Washington and Oregon, Other								
2009.....	25,395	31,245	36,530	43,780	50,130	56,700	64,805	75,690
2010.....	27,670	33,570	38,815	46,700	53,660	60,145	67,655	77,940
2011.....	31,745	38,160	44,465	51,620	58,505			
Other States <sup>2</sup>								
2009.....	10,865	13,565	16,305	18,995	21,600	24,355	27,375	34,240
2010.....	11,820	14,785	17,435	20,370	23,215	25,775	28,690	35,430
2011.....	11,215	14,180	16,915	19,305	22,260			
Total								
2009.....	60,945	76,050	90,685	108,090	124,845	141,705	160,370	196,490
2010.....	62,390	77,585	91,950	109,930	127,375	143,730	161,430	190,910
2011.....	72,880	89,505	106,250	124,050	141,765			
Dehydrated <sup>3</sup>								
2009.....	10,985	14,035	17,150	19,895	23,155	26,630	30,045	38,915
2010.....	7,960	10,795	13,645	16,485	19,415	22,740	25,855	32,700
2011.....	13,375	16,845	20,875	24,410	28,065			

<sup>1</sup> Includes Maine grown potatoes only. Amounts exclude quantities used for potato chips.

<sup>2</sup> Colorado, Minnesota, Nevada, North Dakota, and Wisconsin. Monthly amounts exclude quantities used for potato chips in Wisconsin.

<sup>3</sup> Dehydrated products except starch and flour. Includes Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington.

**Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks, 13 Major States, 2002 through 2011**

[For 2000-2004, data accounts for 15 major producing States. Beginning in 2005 data accounts for 13 major producing States.]

Crop Year	Production	December 1	January 1	February 1	March 1	April 1	May 1	June 1
	(1,000 cwt)							
2002 .....	407,085	264,485	231,490	199,020	165,210	125,770	83,040	45,880
2003 .....	403,566	267,900	233,590	200,230	166,280	126,110	85,000	46,020
2004 .....	404,017	271,100	236,700	203,490	168,020	128,900	88,550	51,700
2005 .....	378,732	253,800	220,500	189,100	155,500	115,700	75,900	41,560
2006 .....	389,527	258,900	225,800	192,200	159,500	120,900	79,050	44,460
2007 .....	397,753	265,500	232,300	199,300	163,400	125,500	83,960	50,420
2008 .....	369,866	243,700	213,200	183,900	152,700	115,800	78,100	45,300
2009 .....	383,962	265,800	234,300	203,500	169,700	128,700	89,610	55,120
2010 .....	357,191	240,200	209,400	180,300	148,500	111,000	72,000	41,320
2011 .....	379,916	250,000	(NA)	186,500	(NA)	115,850		

(NA) Not available.