



News Release

Michigan Fruit Production 2015

Fruit production in 2015 was down from the previous year for all fruits except grapes, according to Marlo Johnson, Director of the USDA, NASS, Great Lakes Regional Office. Michigan apple production was 995 million pounds, down from 1.03 billion pounds in 2014. The preliminary farm level value of production was \$222 million. Apple crop development started out behind schedule due to a cool wet spring, but warmer temperatures throughout the summer helped the crop get caught up; harvest was complete by the end of October.

Michigan tart cherry production was 158 million pounds, down from 203 million pounds in 2014. The preliminary farm level value was \$53.5 million. While tart cherry yields declined from last year, the quality was very good. A severe frost in late May heavily diminished the crop in some orchards. Most of the crop was harvested by the beginning of August. Sweet cherry production was 13,570 tons in 2015. This is a 55% decrease from 2014, in part due to the frost that affected tart cherries. The preliminary farm level value was \$25.8 million. Harvest was largely finished by August, with the quality of remaining cherries being high.

Blueberry production in Michigan was 73.2 million pounds. Michigan growers harvested 19,400 acres in 2015. The farm level value was \$95.6 million. The overall quality of berries was reported to be good. Strawberry production in Michigan was 2.8 million pounds. The farm level value was \$4.38 million.

Michigan grape production was 80,600 tons. The farm level value was \$25.2 million. There were 54,500 tons of Concord and 23,800 tons of Niagara grapes processed. Michigan saw extensive winter damage to wine grapes for the second year in a row, as sub-zero temperatures through February killed buds above the snow line. Cool temperatures late into the spring delayed fruit crop development and kept growers behind schedule. Warmer weather across the region finally arrived by mid-June and moved the season back towards normal.

Michigan peach production was 7,080 tons, down from the previous year. Bearing acres were 2,400, and the farm level value was \$5.91 million. Heavy frost damage was reported on peaches this year. Two very cold years back to back have killed a major portion of peach trees. Pear production in Michigan was 2,070 tons on 640 acres. The farm level value was \$1.24 million. Michigan plum production was 760 tons on 320 acres. The farm level value was \$439,000.

Fruit production: Michigan and U.S., 2014-2015

Fruit	Michigan				United States			
	Bearing acres		Total production		Bearing acres		Total production	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>
Apples	33,000	33,000	1,025.0	995.0	318,180	315,880	11,814.0	10,003.9
Tart cherries	27,900	28,400	203.0	158.0	37,850	38,050	304.2	252.5
Blueberries ¹	20,200	19,400	99.0	73.2	84,750	89,820	578.7	560.0
Strawberries ¹	750	650	4.5	2.8	59,895	58,010	151.2	154.3
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Thousand tons</i>	<i>Thousand tons</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Thousand tons</i>	<i>Thousand tons</i>
Sweet cherries	6,700	6,500	29.9	13.4	89,700	89,830	363.6	338.4
Grapes	13,200	13,000	63.3	80.6	1,034,400	1,022,700	7,883.8	7,677.2
Peaches	2,800	2,400	8.9	7.2	102,540	99,790	852.9	847.2
Pears	700	640	2.7	2.1	49,300	48,940	831.6	820.5
Plums and prunes ²	400	320	1.7	0.8	2,500	2,420	14.8	9.7

¹ Harvested acres.

² Excludes California plums and prunes.