FALL POTATOES

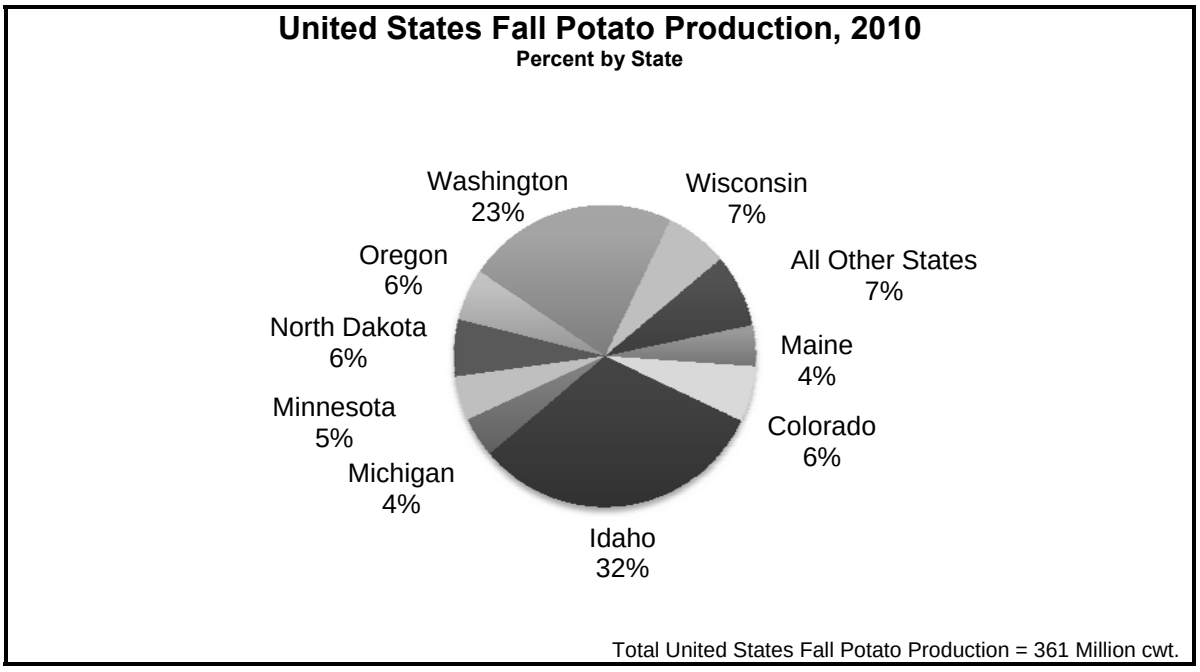
December 1, 2010 assessments placed 2010 fall potato production in Maine at 15.9 million cwt (hundredweight), 4 percent above 2009, and 8 percent above 2008 output. Improved yields in 2010 offset reductions in acreage harvested from a year earlier. Growers dug potatoes from 54,800 acres, 700 fewer acres than the previous year. Yields averaged 290 cwt per acre, a 15 cwt per acre improvement over 2009.

Mild spring conditions got potato planting off to an early start in Maine. Potato development was a good 1-2 weeks ahead of schedule by mid-June, with 90 percent emerged compared with 30 percent in 2009 and normal of 40 percent. A mix of rain and sun through the end of June had promoted rapid crop growth, but mostly dry conditions set in for the remainder of the growing season. Low disease and insect pressure promoted excellent quality, but size was off earliest harvested varieties. Excellent harvest conditions prevailed early on, with many growers beginning to dig in early September. By the end of that month, 50 percent of the crop was dug, ahead of 20 percent a year earlier and normal of 35 percent. Rains slowed the harvest pace back to normal in October, and the crop was 100 percent dug by month's end.

High quality and a strong market translated into favorable prices for Maine potato growers for the 2010 - 2011 marketing season. The preliminary price received for 2010 crop Maine potatoes for all uses was estimated at $10.00 per cwt, compared with the 2009 average price of $10.10 per cwt. Final 2010 crop disposition and sales data will be published September 22, 2011.

Results from the 2010 Potato Objective Yield Survey confirmed Russet Burbank as the leading variety seeded in Maine, comprising 38.0 percent of the total acres planted. Frito-Lay varieties comprised 15.6 percent of the total acreage, followed by Snowden with 5.8 percent and Shepody at 5.2 percent. Total russet acreage covered 51 percent of all acreage planted in 2010, unchanged from 2009. The percentage of white varieties planted totaled 39 percent, compared with 35 percent a year earlier. Acreage planted to red varieties averaged 5 percent compared with 6 percent in 2009. Yellow varieties comprised 5 percent of the total planted acreage, down 3 percentage points from 2009.

Potato farmers in Massachusetts also harvested a high quality crop in 2010. Summer long dry conditions promoted excellent quality, but size was off due to lack of moisture. Harvest was underway in mid-August, with no significant rains until October. The December 1 forecast placed acreage harvested at 3,800 acres and yields at 285 cwt per acre. Rhode Island potato farmers harvested 600 acres in 2010, and yields were expected to average 275 cwt per acre.



FALL POTATOES: Acreage, Yield, Production, Disposition, and Value, 2001 – 2010 [1]

State and Year	Area		Yield per Acre	Production	Total Used for Seed	Disposition			Price Per Cwt	Value of	
						On Farm Where Grown		Sold			
	Planted	Harvested				Seed, Feed, Home Use	Shrink and Loss			Production	Sales
	1,000 Acres		Cwt	1,000 Cwt					Dollars	1,000 Dollars	
Maine											
2001	62.5	62.0	265	16,430	1,355	301	849	15,280	7.65	125,690	116,892
2002	64.5	64.0	265	16,960	1,386	310	790	15,860	7.05	119,568	111,813
2003	66.0	65.5	260	17,030	1,245	215	2,430	14,385	6.05	103,032	87,065
2004	63.5	61.5	310	19,065	1,231	190	4,900	13,975	6.50	123,923	90,735
2005	57.5	56.2	275	15,455	1,264	242	1,183	14,030	8.25	127,504	115,619
2006	58.5	57.0	305	17,385	1,228	228	1,227	15,930	7.80	135,603	124,027
2007	57.1	56.5	295	16,668	1,183	195	633	15,840	7.90	131,677	125,374
2008	56.0	54.7	270	14,769	1,154	214	525	14,030	9.75	143,998	137,051
2009	56.0	55.5	275	15,263	1,238	215	968	14,080	10.10	154,156	141,904
2010	55.0	54.8	290	15,892					10.00	158,920	
Massachusetts											
2001	3.0	2.9	265	769	71	5	30	734	6.90	5,306	5,065
2002	3.3	3.2	255	816	65	5	16	795	7.30	5,957	5,804
2003	3.0	2.7	265	716	56	5	16	695	6.00	4,296	4,179
2004	2.6	2.5	320	800	59	5	6	789	6.60	5,280	5,198
2005	2.5	2.4	260	624	76	4	8	612	8.80	5,491	5,388
2006	3.1	3.1	240	744	59	5	5	734	10.10	7,514	7,433
2007	2.7	2.6	320	832	60	—	12	820	7.50	6,240	6,151
2008	2.8	2.7	260	702	74	12	25	665	14.20	9,968	9,413
2009	3.5	3.4	260	884	80	4	75	805	9.25	8,177	7,450
2010	3.8	3.8	285	1,083					9.30	10,072	
Rhode Island											
2001	0.5	0.5	280	140	10	—	3	137	6.70	938	918
2002	0.5	0.5	235	118	13	—	—	118	7.75	915	915
2003	0.6	0.6	285	171	11	—	12	159	7.00	1,197	1,112
2004	0.5	0.5	290	145	14	—	3	142	7.65	1,109	1,086
2005	0.5	0.5	210	105	12	—	2	103	8.50	893	874
2006	0.5	0.5	260	130	14	—	2	128	10.40	1,352	1,325
2007	0.6	0.6	300	180	12	—	5	175	8.55	1,539	1,495
2008	0.5	0.5	280	140	12	—	3	137	13.30	1,862	1,826
2009	0.5	0.4	230	92	12	1	10	81	11.20	1,030	911
2010	0.6	0.6	275	165					12.90	2,129	
New England [2]											
2001	66.0	65.4	265	17,339	1,436	306	882	16,151	7.61	131,934	122,875
2002	68.3	67.7	264	17,894	1,464	315	806	16,773	7.07	126,440	118,532
2003	69.6	68.8	260	17,917	1,312	220	2,458	15,239	6.06	108,525	92,356
2004	66.6	64.5	310	20,010	1,304	195	4,909	14,906	6.51	130,312	97,019
2005	60.5	59.1	274	16,184	1,352	246	1,193	14,745	8.27	133,888	121,881
2006	62.1	60.6	301	18,259	1,301	233	1,234	16,792	7.91	144,469	132,785
2007	60.4	59.7	296	17,680	1,255	195	650	16,835	7.89	139,456	133,020
2008	59.3	57.9	270	15,611	1,240	226	553	14,832	9.98	155,828	148,290
2009	60.0	59.3	274	16,239	1,330	220	1,053	14,966	10.06	163,363	150,265
2010	59.4	59.2	290	17,140					9.98	171,121	

[1] 2010 production and value data are preliminary. Revised production, sales, and disposition data will be published September 22, 2011, in the ***Potatoes, 2010 Summary***.
[2] New England includes Maine, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island.

MAINE POTATOES: Production and Stocks by Month, 2004 – 2009 Crop Years

Crop Year	Production	Stocks Held by Growers, Local Dealers, and Processors						
		Current Year December 1	Following Year					
			January 1	February 1	March 1	April 1	May 1	June 1
	1,000 Cwt							
2004	19,065	15,000	12,800	11,100	9,400	7,500	5,000	2,900
2005	15,455	12,500	11,200	9,700	8,400	6,500	4,300	2,500
2006	17,385	14,000	12,500	10,900	9,600	7,600	5,300	3,000
2007	16,668	12,900	11,400	9,700	8,000	6,400	4,300	2,500
2008	14,769	11,300	10,000	8,500	7,100	5,600	3,700	2,200
2009	15,263	12,000	10,800	9,300	7,800	6,000	3,900	2,200

MAINE POTATOES: Prices Received by Farmers for Fall Potatoes, Monthly and Marketing Year Average, 2004 – 2009 Crop Years [1]

Crop Year	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Market Year Average
	Dollars per Cwt												
2004	5.90	5.15	5.65	6.15	6.35	5.90	6.55	6.60	6.95	7.30	7.40	7.70	6.50
2005	*	5.85	6.30	7.85	8.20	8.20	8.40	8.75	9.45	9.30	8.50	8.10	8.25
2006	*	6.25	6.50	8.15	8.25	8.35	7.90	7.60	8.15	8.20	8.05	7.65	7.80
2007	*	6.20	6.40	7.25	7.55	7.60	8.00	8.55	8.65	9.15	8.75	8.55	7.90
2008	*	7.80	8.65	10.20	9.95	9.95	10.40	11.20	10.60	9.70	9.15	(D)	9.75
2009	*	(D)	8.80	9.75	9.75	9.65	10.00	10.60	10.90	10.70	10.20	(D)	10.10

* Missing data indicates too few potatoes being marketed to set price.
(D) Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.
[1] Average price of potatoes sold for all uses, including table stock, processing, seed, and livestock feed.

MAINE POTATOES: Percent of Acres Planted by Variety and Type, 2005 – 2010

Variety and Type	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
	Percent					
By Variety						
Russet Burbank	42.5	42.5	39.1	42.6	41.5	38.0
Frito-Lay, All	17.1	17.1	18.9	13.8	11.1	15.6
Snowden	2.2	2.1	3.8	*	1.4	5.8
Shepody	7.2	5.2	4.6	4.6	3.9	5.2
Superior	3.4	4.5	5.0	3.5	4.9	3.8
Russet Norkotah	1.6	2.1	2.6	4.2	5.1	3.5
Yukon Gold	2.8	3.0	3.3	3.7	4.3	2.8
Atlantic	3.5	1.5	2.0	1.4	3.0	2.8
Reba (NY87)	1.4	2.1	1.5	2.2	2.0	2.1
Innovator [1]	—	—	—	—	—	2.0
Goldrush	2.7	1.0	2.8	3.7	2.7	1.9
Norland	2.3	2.4	2.6	4.0	3.6	1.6
Katahdin	2.4	3.1	2.8	2.4	2.7	1.6
Marcy [1]	—	—	—	—	—	1.3
Keuka Gold [1]	—	—	—	—	—	1.3
Norwis	2.4	2.3	1.8	3.6	1.2	1.2
Kennebec [1]	—	—	—	—	—	1.0
Monona	1.0	1.9	1.9	*	2.1	*
Ontario	2.8	2.9	2.0	2.6	1.5	*
Andover	*	1.0	*	*	*	*
Red La Soda [2]	—	—	—	1.0	*	*
Other Varieties	4.7	5.3	5.3	6.7	9.0	8.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
By Type:						
Russets	47.0	46.0	45.0	52.0	51.0	51.0
Whites (Long and Round)	49.5	51.0	46.0	35.0	35.0	39.0
Yellows [3]	—	—	5.0	8.0	8.0	5.0
Reds	3.5	3.0	4.0	5.0	6.0	5.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Included with other varieties.
[1] Not available prior to 2010.
[2] Not available prior to 2008.
[3] Not available prior to 2007.

MAINE POTATOES: Number of Tubers per Hill, Hills per Acre, Percent of Net Yield by Grading Categories and Type, 2005 – 2010 [1]

Type and Year	Tubers per Hill [2]	Hills per Acre	United States Grading Categories		
			US Number 1 2 Inch Minimum [3]	US Number 2 or Processing Usable 1 ½ Inch Minimum [4]	Cull [5]
	Number		Percent of Net Yield		
Reds [6]					
2005	—	13,005	—	—	—
2006	—	14,532	—	—	—
2007	8.1	12,874	80	17	3
2008	7.2	13,785	87	9	4
2009	7.6	14,873	82	9	9
2010	6.9	16,275	90	4	6
Yellows					
2007	6.6	13,418	82	12	6
2008	9.0	13,228	82	10	8
2009	6.1	15,617	82	10	8
2010	9.2	13,327	79	13	8
Round Whites					
2005	7.3	12,494	83	8	9
2006	8.0	12,604	78	10	12
2007	7.1	13,290	89	9	2
2008	6.7	12,796	76	12	12
2009	7.7	14,061	73	16	11
2010	7.4	13,595	71	15	14
Long Whites [7]					
2005	6.7	10,402	81	11	8
2006	6.0	13,149	60	17	23
2007	7.5	11,943	59	24	17
2008	5.0	11,784	64	21	15
2009	—	—	—	—	—
2010	—	—	—	—	—
Russets					
2005	9.8	9,007	74	16	10
2006	10.9	10,208	63	21	16
2007	11.0	9,629	70	18	12
2008	10.2	9,603	66	20	14
2009	10.7	9,638	72	19	9
2010	9.6	9,964	69	21	10
All Varieties					
2005	8.6	10,595	—	—	—
2006	9.1	11,613	—	—	—
2007	8.9	11,519	—	—	—
2008	8.6	11,210	—	—	—
2009	9.1	11,810	—	—	—
2010	8.4	12,054	—	—	—

[1] Percent of net yield adjusted for field loss.
[2] Tubers 1½ inches and over.
[3] Potatoes which meet the requirements for US#1, as stated in U.S. Standards for Grades of Potatoes, USDA, Agriculture Marketing Service.
[4] Potatoes which meet the requirements for US#2, as stated in U.S. Standards for Grades of Potatoes, USDA, Agriculture Marketing Service.
[5] Potatoes not meeting the requirements for US#1 or US#2, as stated in U.S. Standards for Grades of Potatoes, USDA, Agriculture Marketing Service.
[6] All years not available.
[7] Unavailable after 2008; too few reports to allow publication.

MAINE POTATOES: Percent of Net Yield by Size Categories and Type, 2005 – 2010 [1]

Type and Year	United States Size Group Categories								
	1 ½ Inch – Under 1 ⅞ Inch	1 ⅞ Inch – Under 2 Inch	2 Inch – Under 2 ¼ Inch	2 ¼ Inch – Under 2 ½ Inch	2 ½ Inch – Under 3 ½ Inch	3 ½ Inch – Under 4 Inch	4 Inches +		Number of Samples
	Percent								Number
Reds [2]									
2007	6	7	16	28	43	*	—		6
2008	1	2	16	27	54	*	1		6
2009	3	2	23	25	46	1	—		6
2010	0	2	18	34	46	0	0		5
Yellows [2]									
2007	1	3	8	13	65	10	1		11
2008	1	2	10	15	69	2	*		9
2009	*	2	13	14	70	1	*		9
2010	6	5	21	23	43	1	1		7
Round Whites									
2005	2	3	9	15	61	9	1		58
2006	*	2	11	18	64	4	1		59
2007	1	1	10	21	61	5	1		54
2008	*	4	12	20	60	3	*		43
2009	4	5	13	20	54	3	1		36
2010	4	6	14	20	52	3	1		47
			2 Inches and over			10 oz and over			
			4 oz – Under 6 oz [3]	6 oz – Under 8 oz	8 oz – Under 10 oz	10 oz – Under 12 oz	12 oz – Under 14 oz	14 oz +	
	Percent								
Long Whites (Shepody) [4]									
2005	5	1	27	18	19	13	9	8	8
2006	1	3	22	19	19	9	12	15	11
2007	2	1	37	25	20	5	9	1	9
2008	2	6	19	19	15	17	13	9	7
2009	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2010	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Russets									
2005	4	4	32	18	15	10	6	11	79
2006	6	7	35	19	12	8	4	9	64
2007	7	6	33	20	14	8	5	7	68
2008	6	7	35	20	12	7	5	8	69
2009	7	7	41	20	11	5	4	5	61
2010	6	7	33	20	14	8	4	8	52

* Less than 0.5 percent.
[1] Percent of net yield adjusted for field loss.
[2] All years not available.
[3] Includes potatoes 2 inches or greater weighing less than 4 ounces.
[4] Unavailable after 2008; too few reports to allow publication.

MAINE POTATOES: Harvest Loss by Size Categories and Type, 2005 – 2010 [1]

Type and Year	United States Size Group Categories							
	1 ½ Inch – Under 1 ⅞ Inch	1 ⅞ Inch – Under 2 Inch	2 Inch – Under 2 ¼ Inch	2 ¼ Inch – Under 2 ½ Inch	2 ½ Inch – Under 3 ½ Inch	3 ½ Inch – Under 4 Inch	4 Inches +	Total
	Cwt per Acre							
Round Whites								
2005	1	1	4	3	6	0	0	15
2006	7	3	5	3	4	0	0	22
2007	4	3	2	1	3	0	0	13
2008	6	2	4	3	7	1	0	23
2009	7	2	6	3	5	*	0	23
2010	5	3	6	6	5	2	0	27
			2 Inches and Over					
			4 oz – Under 6 oz [2]	6 oz – Under 8 oz	8 oz – Under 10 oz	10 oz – Under 12 oz	12 oz – Under 14 oz	
	Cwt per Acre							
Russets								
2005	3	2	6	2	1	1	0	15
2006	6	3	9	3	*	2	0	23
2007	5	2	2	2	2	*	0	13
2008	10	2	5	1	2	0	0	20
2009	11	3	5	1	1	2	0	23
2010	15	4	12	4	2	1	0	38

[1] Includes US#1, US#2, and Culls.
[2] Includes potatoes 2 inches or greater weighing less than 4 ounces.
* Less than 0.5 cwt/acre.

Photo courtesy of Clover Leaf Farm, Presque Isle, ME