

### FALL POTATOES

December, 2011 assessments placed fall potato production in Maine at 14.3 million cwt (hundredweight), 10 percent below 2010, and the smallest crop harvested in the State since 1920. Prolonged wet conditions during the season spanned from planting through harvest and resulted in reductions in both acreage harvested and yields. An estimated 3,000 acres were not harvested in 2011. Growers dug potatoes from 54,000 acres, 800 fewer acres harvested than a year earlier. Yields averaged 265 cwt per acre in 2011, down 25 cwt per acre from 2010, and below the previous 5-year average of 287 cwt per acre.

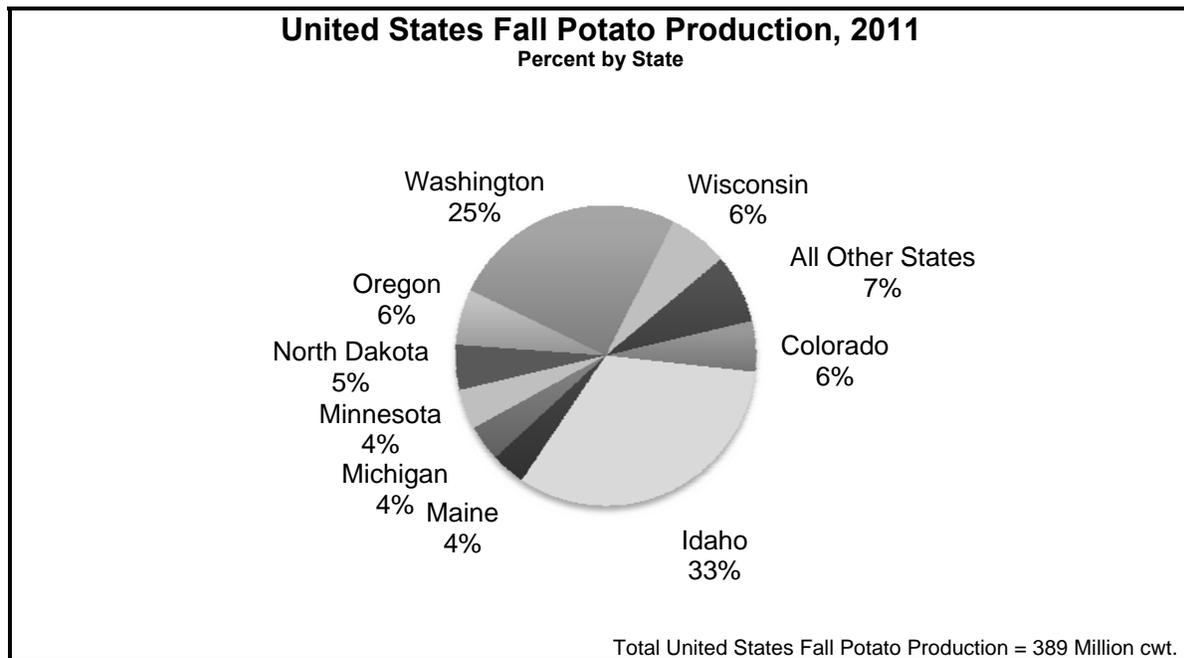
Less than optimal planting and growing conditions got the 2011 crop off to a slow start, with field entry delayed due to heavy soils from prolonged rains. Maine's crop was 100 percent seeded by mid-June with only 50 percent emerged; both planting and emergence ranged from 1-2 weeks behind schedule. Heavy rains in late June/early July caused serious wash outs in fields, and wet conditions placed growers on a 5-day spray schedule to combat late blight. Rains continued throughout the month, making July the wettest month on record in northern Maine. Wet weather continued into August, and some locations in Aroostook County received over 10 inches. Rains continued into September. When skies did clear, farmers were digging well into the night to get the crop out of the soggy ground. Many farmers included the drowned-

out acreage as harvested, and losses were reflected in lower yields. The preliminary price received for 2011 crop Maine potatoes (all uses) was estimated at \$10.20 per cwt, slightly above the previous 2 years.

Results from the 2011 Potato Objective Yield Survey showed round whites at 81 percent U.S. Number 1, up from 70 percent a year earlier. Culls averaged 14 percent for round whites, compared with 15 percent the previous year. Russets averaged 67 percent U.S. Number 1, compared with 69 percent in 2010. Culls averaged 19 percent for russets, compared with 10 percent in 2010.

Potato farmers in Massachusetts and Rhode Island also battled wet conditions throughout the growing season. Massachusetts potato production weighed in at 743,000 cwt in 2011, falling 31 percent below the previous year due to fewer acres harvested and reduced yields. Based on early December 2011 assessments, Massachusetts growers harvested 2,700 acres and yields averaged 275 cwt per acre. An estimated 800 acres were left unharvested. Rhode Island potato farmers harvested 600 acres in 2011 and yields averaged 250 cwt per acre. The 150,000 cwt harvested in the state was 9 percent short of the previous year's total.

Final 2011 crop disposition and sales data will be published September 20, 2012, in the **Potatoes** release.



FALL POTATOES: Acreage, Yield, Production, Disposition, and Value, 2002 – 2011 <sup>1</sup>

State and Year	Area		Yield per Acre	Production	Total Used for Seed	Disposition			Price Per Cwt	Value of	
	Planted	Harvested				On Farm Where Grown		Sold		Production	Sales
						Seed, Feed, Home Use	Shrink and Loss				
	1,000 Acres		Cwt			1,000 Cwt		Dollars	1,000 Dollars		
<b>Maine</b>											
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	1,227	215	968	14,080	10.10	154,156	141,904
2010	55.0	54.8	290	15,892	1,130	175	600	15,117	10.00	158,920	151,055
2011	57.0	54.0	265	14,310					10.20	145,962	
<b>Massachusetts</b>											
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	84	4	75	805	9.25	8,177	7,450
2010	3.9	3.8	285	1,083	78	3	20	1,060	9.65	10,451	10,213
2011	3.5	2.7	275	743					10.60	7,876	
<b>Rhode Island</b>											
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	14	1	10	81	11.20	1,030	911
2010	0.6	0.6	275	165	16	1	4	160	12.90	2,129	2,071
2011	0.6	0.6	250	150					16.90	2,535	
<b>New England <sup>2</sup></b>											
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	1,325	220	1,053	14,966	10.06	163,363	150,265
2010	59.5	59.2	290	17,140	1,224	179	624	16,337	10.01	171,500	163,339
2011	61.1	57.3	265	15,203					10.29	156,373	

<sup>1</sup> 2011 production and value data are preliminary. Revised production, sales, and disposition data will be published September 20, 2012, in the *Potatoes, 2011 Summary*.<sup>2</sup> New England includes Maine, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island.

MAINE POTATOES: Production and Stocks by Month, 2005 – 2010 Crop Years <sup>1</sup>

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								
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
2010	15,892	12,300	10,900	9,300	7,900	5,900	3,900	2,300

<sup>1</sup> Stocks include processor holdings and most of the seed to plant the following year's crop.

MAINE POTATOES: Prices Received by Farmers for Fall Potatoes,  
Monthly and Marketing Year Average, 2005 – 2010 Crop Years <sup>1</sup>

Crop Year	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Market Year Average
Dollars per Cwt													
2005	(D)	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	(D)	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	(D)	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	(D)	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)	(D)	8.80	9.75	9.75	9.90	9.95	10.50	10.90	10.90	10.20	(D)	10.10
2010	(D)	(D)	8.00	9.40	9.45	9.90	10.30	11.40	11.00	10.70	10.30	(D)	10.00

(D) Missing data indicates too few potatoes being marketed to set price or data are not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.  
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, 2006 – 2011

Variety and Type	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Percent						
<b>By Variety:</b>						
Russet Burbank	42.5	39.1	42.6	41.5	38.0	43.1
Frito-Lay	17.1	18.9	13.8	11.1	15.6	12.5
Snowden	2.1	3.8	*	1.4	5.8	5.5
R Norkotah	2.1	2.6	4.2	5.1	3.5	4.9
Shepody	5.2	4.6	4.6	3.9	5.2	4.1
Superior	4.5	5.0	3.5	4.9	3.8	4.1
Norland	2.4	2.6	4.0	3.6	1.6	3.9
Reba	2.1	1.5	2.2	2.0	2.1	2.7
Goldrush	1.0	2.8	3.7	2.7	1.9	2.6
Yukon Gold	3.0	3.3	3.7	4.3	2.8	2.2
Innovator	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	2.0	2.0
Blazer R	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	*	1.9
Atlantic	1.5	2.0	1.4	3.0	2.8	1.3
Monona	1.9	1.9	*	2.1	*	1.1
Ontario	2.9	2.0	2.6	1.5	*	1.1
Katahdin	3.1	2.8	2.4	2.7	1.6	1.1
Andover	1.0	*	*	*	*	*
Keuka Gold	*	*	*	*	1.3	*
Marcy	*	*	*	*	1.3	*
Norwis	2.3	1.8	3.6	1.2	1.2	*
Kennebec	*	*	*	*	1.0	*
Red La Soda	*	*	1.0	*	*	(NA)
Other Varieties	5.3	5.3	6.7	9.0	8.5	5.9
<b>Total</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>By Type:</b>						
Russets	46.0	45.0	52.0	51.0	51.0	
Whites (Long and Round)	51.0	46.0	35.0	35.0	40.0	
Yellows	(NA)	5.0	8.0	8.0	5.0	
Reds	3.0	4.0	5.0	6.0	4.0	

\* Included with other varieties.  
(NA) Not available.

**MAINE POTATOES: Number of Tubers per Hill, Hills per Acre,  
Percent of Net Yield by Grading Categories and Type, 2005 – 2011**<sup>1</sup>

Type and Year	Tubers per Hill <sup>2</sup>	Hills per Acre	United States Grading Categories		
			US Number 1 2 Inch Minimum <sup>3</sup>	US Number 2 or Processing Usable 1 ½ Inch Minimum <sup>4</sup>	Cull <sup>5</sup>
	Number		Percent of Net Yield		
<b>Reds<sup>6</sup></b>					
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
2011	7.2	13,687	75	12	13
<b>Yellows<sup>7</sup></b>					
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
2011	6.8	14,268	—	—	—
<b>Round Whites</b>					
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	70	15	15
2011	6.9	12,801	81	5	14
<b>Long Whites</b>					
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	—	—	—	—	—
2011	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Russets</b>					
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
2011	8.7	9,809	67	14	19
<b>All Varieties</b>					
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			
2011	7.9	11,303			

— Unavailable; too few reports to allow publication.

<sup>1</sup> Percent of net yield adjusted for field loss.

<sup>2</sup> Tubers 1½ inches and over.

<sup>3</sup> Potatoes which meet the requirements for US#1, as stated in U.S. Standards for Grades of Potatoes, USDA, Agriculture Marketing Service.

<sup>4</sup> Potatoes which meet the requirements for US#2, as stated in U.S. Standards for Grades of Potatoes, USDA, Agriculture Marketing Service.

<sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> All years not available.

<sup>7</sup> Unavailable prior to 2007.

MAINE POTATOES: Percent of Net Yield by Size Categories, by Type, 2005 – 2011 <sup>1</sup>

Type and Year	United States Size Group Categories							Number of Samples
	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 and Over	
	Percent							Number
<b>Reds</b>								
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
2011	6	4	11	25	53	1	0	10
<b>Yellows <sup>2</sup></b>								
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
2011	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
<b>Round Whites</b>								
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	13	20	53	3	1	47
2011	1	2	10	17	63	7	*	41

\* Less than 0.5 percent.

<sup>1</sup> Percent of net yield adjusted for field loss.<sup>2</sup> 2011 not available.MAINE POTATOES: Percent of Net Yield by Size Categories, Long Types, 2005 – 2011 <sup>1</sup>

Type and Year	United States Size Group Categories							Number of Samples
	1 ½ Inch – Under 1 ⅞ Inch	1 ⅞ Inch – Under 2 Inch	2 Inches and Over					
			4 oz – Under 6 oz <sup>2</sup>	6 oz – Under 8 oz	8 oz – Under 10 oz	10 oz – Under 12 oz	12 oz – Under 14 oz	
	Percent							Number
<b>Long Whites <sup>3</sup></b>								
2005	5	1	27	18	19	13	9	8
2006	1	3	22	19	19	9	12	15
2007	2	1	37	25	20	5	9	1
2008	2	6	19	19	15	17	13	9
2009	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2010	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2011	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Russets</b>								
2005	4	4	32	18	15	10	6	11
2006	6	7	35	19	12	8	4	9
2007	7	6	33	20	14	8	5	7
2008	6	7	35	20	12	7	5	8
2009	7	7	41	20	11	5	4	5
2010	6	7	33	20	14	8	4	8
2011	3	5	35	22	16	8	4	7

<sup>1</sup> Percent of net yield adjusted for field loss.<sup>2</sup> Includes potatoes 2 inches or greater weighing less than 4 ounces.<sup>3</sup> Unavailable after 2008; too few reports to allow publication.

**MAINE POTATOES: Harvest Loss by Size Categories, Round Whites, 2005 – 2011 <sup>1</sup>**

Year	United States Size Group Categories							Total
	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 and Over	
Cwt per Acre								
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
2011	6	5	6	6	7	0	0	30

\* Less than 0.5 cwt per acre.

<sup>1</sup> Includes US#1, US#2, and Culls.

**MAINE POTATOES: Harvest Loss by Size Categories, Russets, 2005 – 2011 <sup>1</sup>**

Year	1 ½ Inch – Under 1 ⅞ Inch	1 ⅞ Inch – Under 2 Inch	2 Inches and Over				Total
			4 oz – Under 6 oz <sup>2</sup>	6 oz – Under 8 oz	8 oz – Under 10 oz	10 oz – And Over	
Cwt per Acre							
2005	3	2	6	2	1	1	15
2006	6	3	9	3	*	2	23
2007	5	2	2	2	2	*	13
2008	10	2	5	1	2	0	20
2009	11	3	5	1	1	2	23
2010	15	4	12	4	2	1	38
2011	15	4	7	2	*	2	30

\* Less than 0.5 cwt per acre.

<sup>1</sup> Includes US#1, US#2, and Culls.

<sup>2</sup> Includes potatoes 2 inches or greater weighing less than 4 ounces.



Photo courtesy of Clover Leaf Farm, Presque Isle, ME