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MAPLE SYRUP 2002

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A special "THANK YOU" goes to New England producers and buyers who have helped us by completing the annual Maple Syrup survey during April and May.

SYRUP PRODUCTION UP 29 PERCENT NATIONWIDE

UNITED STATES: The 2002 U.S. maple syrup production totaled 1.36 million gallons, up 29 percent from last year's production of 1.05 million gallons. The number of taps is estimated at 6.58 million, up one percent from the 2001 total of 6.48 million, while the yield per tap is estimated to be 0.206 gallons, up from 0.162 gallons in 2001.

Vermont led all states in production with 495,000 gallons for 2002, an increase of 80 percent from last season. Maine was second with 230,000 gallons, up 15 percent from 2001. New York's production, at 228,000 gallons, increased 18 percent from 2001. Production increases in these three states are attributed to favorable weather early in the spring which resulted in an earlier maple season and good sap flow. The lack of heavy snow cover made tapping trees and running tubing much easier this year.

Production increases from 2001 were also realized in Wisconsin, New Hampshire, Michigan, and Massachusetts. These states also cited favorable weather conditions early in spring and during the tapping season, allowing for good sap flow. However, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Connecticut experienced lower production due to less favorable weather than the previous year.

Temperatures were generally favorable for good sap flow and syrup production in all states except Connecticut and Pennsylvania where warm weather at night did not allow the sap in the trees to freeze. Overall, the 2002 season lasted an average of 52 days. This compares to 29 days in 2001 and 27 days in 2000. Season length ranged from 30 days in Ohio and Wisconsin to 75 days in Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont.

Sugar content of the sap was lower than 2001 with approximately 45 gallons of sap required to produce one gallon of syrup. This is in contrast with 41 gallons in 2001, but comparable to the 46 gallons in 2000. Slightly more of the higher demand light syrup was produced than in 2001, but most was of medium color.

The revised U.S. 2001 average price per gallon was \$28.70, up \$1.10 from the 2000 price of \$27.60. The value of production, at \$30.1 million for 2001, was down 11 percent from 2000. The biggest price increases were realized in Maine, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire.

NEW ENGLAND (excluding Rhode Island): In New England, maple syrup production for 2002 totaled 853,000 gallons, up 52 percent from last year. Vermont remained the largest producing state in New England and the Nation, with 58 percent of the region's production and 37 percent of the total United States syrup. Taps in New England totaled 3.9 million, up three percent from the 3.8 million set last year, and making up 59 percent of the Nation's maple taps.

The 2002 maple season was rated mostly favorable in temperatures, promoting optimum production in four of the five New England states. This was a positive change from last year when cold temperatures and excessive snow kept many maple producers from collecting sap. Output from all states, except Connecticut, rose above the previous year. Temperatures were reported to be 72 percent favorable, 15 percent too warm, and 13 percent too cool. Sap started to run early this year and caught many producers off guard, especially in the southern New England states. Opening dates for each state were: Connecticut - January 20; Massachusetts - February 9; New Hampshire - February 4; Vermont - February 9; and Maine - February 14. Closing dates were as follows: Connecticut - April 5; Massachusetts - April 10; New Hampshire - April 20; Vermont - April 25; and Maine - April 30. The sugar content of the sap was below average, requiring approximately 44 gallons of sap to produce a gallon of syrup. The majority of the syrup produced was medium amber followed by light and then dark syrup.

2001 PRICES AND SALES: Across New England, the average equivalent price per gallon for 2001 maple syrup varied widely depending on the percentage sold retail, wholesale, or bulk. The 2001 all sales equivalent price increased in all states as follows: \$1.80 in Connecticut to \$45.70, \$4.50 in Maine to \$18.70, \$2.80 in Massachusetts to \$40.60, \$1.90 in New Hampshire to \$40.00, and \$0.80 in Vermont to \$30.80. Maine's price continues to be lower than the other states due to the high percentage of bulk sales within that state. The 2001 gallon equivalent price of \$28.07 in New England reflects an increase of \$1.61 from the 2000 price of \$26.46. Prices for additional smaller container sizes were asked for the first time this year. This information was used to derive the all equivalent gallon price. However, the data was not published separately to avoid disclosure of individual operations. At the request of the industry, producers will no longer be asked to provide an early season estimate of current year prices.

MAPLE SYRUP: Taps, Yield, and Production 2000 - 2002

STATE	Taps			Yield per Tap			Production		
	2000	2001	2002	2000	2001	2002	2000	2001	2002
	1,000 Taps			Gallons			1,000 Gallons		
Connecticut	51	51	51	0.137	0.176	0.157	7	9	8
Maine	1,085	1,085	1,085	0.230	0.184	0.212	250	200	230
Massachusetts	245	200	215	0.159	0.170	0.209	39	34	45
New Hampshire	370	335	345	0.203	0.134	0.217	75	45	75
Vermont	2,150	2,090	2,170	0.214	0.132	0.228	460	275	495
NEW ENGLAND^{1/}	3,901	3,761	3,866	0.213	0.150	0.221	831	563	853
Michigan	2/	332	320	2/	0.181	0.206	44	60	66
New York	2/	1,163	1,240	2/	0.166	0.184	210	193	228
Ohio	2/	432	376	2/	0.222	0.199	34	96	75
Pennsylvania	2/	360	337	2/	0.192	0.163	47	69	55
Wisconsin	2/	436	440	2/	0.156	0.180	65	68	79
UNITED STATES	2/	6,484	6,579	2/	0.162	0.206	1,231	1,049	1,356

^{1/} New England includes CT, ME, MA, NH, and VT.^{2/} Only available in New England states.SOURCE: *Crop Production*, 8:30 a.m., June 12, 2002, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MAPLE SYRUP: Production, Price and Value, 1999 - 2001

STATE	Production			Average Gallon Equivalent Price of All Sales ^{1/}			Value of Production		
	1999	2000	2001	1999	2000	2001	1999	2000	2001
	1,000 Gallons			Dollars			1,000 Dollars		
Connecticut	13	7	9	42.80	43.90	45.70	556	307	411
Maine	195	250	200	19.40	14.20	18.70	3,783	3,550	3,740
Massachusetts	44	39	34	38.80	37.80	40.60	1,707	1,474	1,380
New Hampshire	61	75	45	37.40	38.10	40.00	2,281	2,858	1,800
Vermont	370	460	275	29.00	30.00	30.80	10,730	13,800	8,470
NEW ENGLAND^{2/}	683	831	563	27.90	26.46	28.07	19,057	21,989	15,801
Michigan	73	44	60	28.20	35.10	31.40	2,058	1,544	1,884
New York	195	210	193	27.30	29.00	29.50	5,324	6,090	5,694
Ohio	95	34	96	30.00	34.30	31.30	2,850	1,166	3,005
Pennsylvania	67	47	69	26.00	28.40	25.30	1,742	1,335	1,746
Wisconsin	75	65	68	23.70	27.70	29.20	1,778	1,800	1,986
UNITED STATES	1,188	1,231	1,049	27.60	27.60	28.70	32,809	33,924	30,116

^{1/} Average gallon equivalent price is a weighted average across retail, wholesale, and bulk sales. This price is lower for states, such as Maine, with more wholesale and bulk sales. The average gallon equivalent price is not the average retail price paid for a gallon of syrup -- see page 3 for retail gallon average prices.^{2/} New England includes CT, ME, MA, NH, VT.SOURCE: *Crop Production*, 8:30 a.m., June 12, 2002, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MAPLE SYRUP: Sales Percentages, New England, 2000 - 2001

TYPE OF SALE	Connecticut		Maine		Massachusetts		New Hampshire		Vermont	
	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001
	Percent									
Retail	75	85	5	5	65	70	75	70	45	35
Wholesale	15	10	5	5	25	20	10	20	15	15
Bulk	10	5	90	90	10	10	15	10	40	50

SOURCE: *Crop Production*, 8:30 a.m., June 12, 2002, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MAPLE SYRUP: Sales Percentages, Other States, 2000 - 2001

TYPE OF SALE	Michigan		New York		Ohio		Pennsylvania		Wisconsin	
	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001
	Percent									
Retail	62	68	45	54	68	69	53	44	47	42
Wholesale	27	19	32	15	20	10	17	9	25	26
Bulk	11	13	23	31	12	21	30	47	28	32

SOURCE: *Crop Production*, 8:30 a.m., June 12, 2002, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MAPLE SYRUP: Prices by Type of Sales and Size of Container, 1999 - 2001 ^{1/}

STATE & YEAR	Retail							Wholesale						Bulk					All Sales per gallon equivalent price ^{2/}
	Gal	½ Gal	Qt	Pt	½ Pt	3.4 oz (100 ml)	250 ml	Gal	½ Gal	Qt	Pt	½ Pt	3.4 oz (100 ml)	Grade A			Grade B & C	All Grades	
														light amber	med amber	dark amber			
Dollars Per Container														Dollars Per Pound ^{2/}					Dollars
Connecticut																			
1999	36.40	20.60	12.00	7.00	4.70	2.25	3/	30.20	16.90	9.10	5.30	3.45	1.55	4/	1.81	1.48	1.27	1.40	42.80
2000	36.70	20.10	11.70	7.30	4.60	2.50	3/	4/	18.00	9.10	5.60	3.50	1.70	4/	4/	4/	4/	1.10	43.90
2001	35.40	20.30	11.70	6.90	4.40	2.60	4/	28.70	17.50	10.30	5.40	4/	4/	N/A	N/A	4/	4/	1.20	45.70
Maine																			
1999	29.00	15.70	9.50	5.50	3.70	2.15	3/	26.80	14.50	8.00	4.70	3.65	1.55	1.50	1.46	1.40	1.32	1.45	19.40
2000	31.60	17.90	10.00	6.20	4.50	2.30	3/	24.50	13.20	7.50	4.60	3.50	4/	1.16	1.06	.99	.79	1.00	14.20
2001	32.10	18.30	10.20	5.90	4.00	2.10	4/	26.70	14.20	8.00	4.60	2.80	4/	1.57	1.49	1.43	1.04	1.45	18.70
Massachusetts																			
1999	34.20	20.00	11.40	6.50	4.15	2.40	3/	26.90	15.40	8.50	4.65	3.00	1.40	1.97	1.53	1.43	1.19	1.50	38.80
2000	33.90	19.20	11.20	6.70	4.10	2.10	3/	28.60	15.70	9.00	5.10	3.00	1.50	1.62	1.50	1.32	1.16	1.30	37.80
2001	33.10	19.90	11.60	6.80	4.30	4/	4/	30.30	4/	9.40	5.40	3.50	1.60	1.88	1.72	4/	1.36	1.40	40.60
New Hampshire																			
1999	33.50	19.00	11.20	6.50	4.00	2.25	3/	29.40	15.70	8.60	5.00	3.00	2.10	1.91	1.72	1.58	1.20	1.55	37.40
2000	33.90	18.80	11.30	6.60	3.90	2.60	3/	23.70	15.50	8.30	4.90	2.90	2.40	1.92	1.72	1.42	.95	1.40	38.10
2001	34.50	19.80	11.30	6.80	3.90	2.40	7.10	28.70	15.80	9.00	5.20	3.10	4/	2.14	1.81	1.49	1.14	1.60	40.00
Vermont																			
1999	30.70	18.10	10.50	6.70	4.30	2.55	3/	25.40	15.40	8.60	5.15	3.25	2.95	1.95	1.84	1.70	1.48	1.80	29.00
2000	31.60	18.00	10.50	6.60	4.30	2.60	3/	26.40	15.30	8.60	5.10	3.40	4/	1.83	1.70	1.53	1.30	1.60	30.00
2001	32.40	19.00	11.40	7.00	4.70	2.90	6.10	28.80	16.20	9.20	5.20	3.30	4/	2.20	1.95	1.67	1.33	1.90	30.80
Michigan																			
1999	31.50	17.40	9.60	6.00	4.10	5/	5/	26.10	15.50	8.30	4.40	3.00	5/	5/	5/	5/	5/	1.50	28.20
2000	32.00	18.50	9.70	6.10	4.00	5/	5/	29.50	15.60	7.60	4.50	2.50	5/	5/	5/	5/	5/	1.80	35.10
2001	33.00	18.40	10.30	6.00	5.70	5/	5/	25.60	15.60	8.50	4.70	3.50	5/	5/	5/	5/	5/	1.80	31.40
New York																			
1999	29.70	16.60	9.35	5.95	3.65	5/	5/	25.50	14.80	7.90	4.70	2.05	5/	5/	5/	5/	5/	1.35	27.30
2000	28.10	16.50	9.80	6.35	3.95	5/	5/	24.30	14.20	7.65	4.55	2.75	5/	5/	5/	5/	5/	1.35	29.00
2001	29.90	17.30	10.10	6.30	4.20	5/	5/	25.80	15.60	8.65	5.05	3.00	5/	5/	5/	5/	5/	1.40	29.50
Ohio																			
1999	29.00	16.60	10.10	6.30	4.10	5/	5/	26.20	14.30	8.20	5.10	3.65	5/	5/	5/	5/	5/	1.80	30.00
2000	28.80	16.60	9.90	6.10	4.40	5/	5/	27.20	15.00	8.50	5.40	3.70	5/	5/	5/	5/	5/	1.45	34.30
2001	29.30	17.00	9.70	6.00	4.60	5/	5/	24.70	14.70	8.40	4.80	3.80	5/	5/	5/	5/	5/	1.55	31.30
Pennsylvania																			
1999	27.50	16.10	9.25	5.76	3.60	5/	5/	26.70	14.40	8.28	5.06	3.15	5/	5/	5/	5/	5/	1.40	26.00
2000	29.00	17.00	9.90	5.80	3.60	5/	5/	27.10	14.90	8.20	4.70	2.90	5/	5/	5/	5/	5/	1.30	28.40
2001	28.30	16.70	9.60	5.70	3.50	5/	5/	26.70	14.50	8.20	4.90	3.00	5/	5/	5/	5/	5/	1.40	25.30
Wisconsin																			
1999	27.20	15.10	8.00	4.80	3.20	5/	5/	27.10	14.90	7.90	4.60	2.80	5/	5/	5/	5/	5/	1.50	23.70
2000	27.60	15.20	8.10	4.10	2.40	5/	5/	25.30	14.50	8.40	4.30	2.70	5/	5/	5/	5/	5/	1.40	27.70
2001	27.80	15.30	8.30	5.10	3.30	5/	5/	27.60	15.30	8.10	4.60	3.00	5/	5/	5/	5/	5/	1.50	29.20

^{1/} Average gallon equivalent price is a weighted average across retail, wholesale, and bulk sales.

^{2/} For dollars per gallon: multiply dollars per pound by 11.02 pounds per gallon.

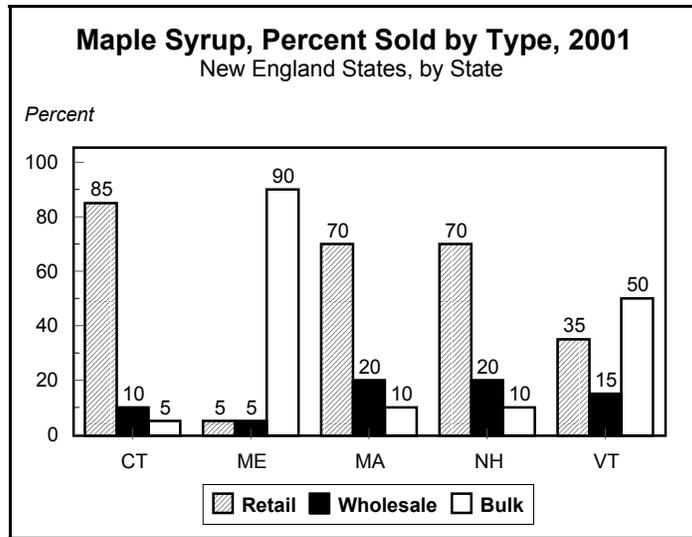
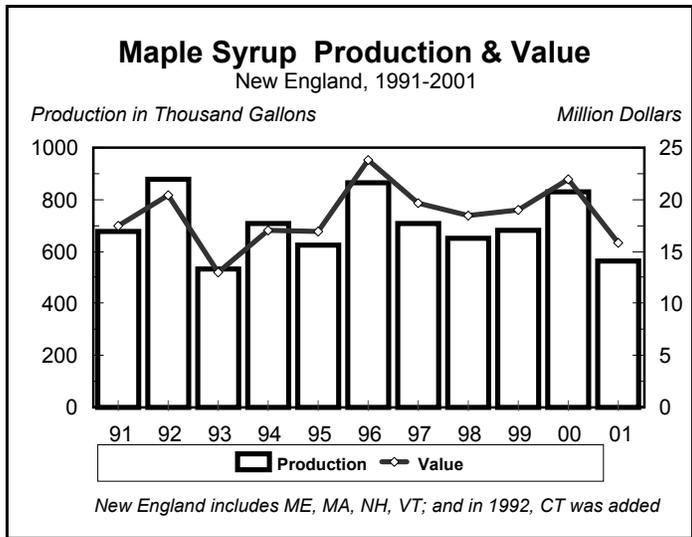
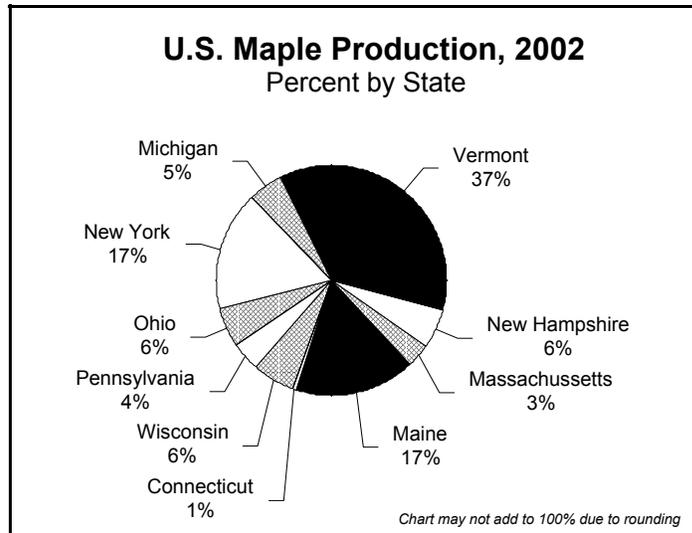
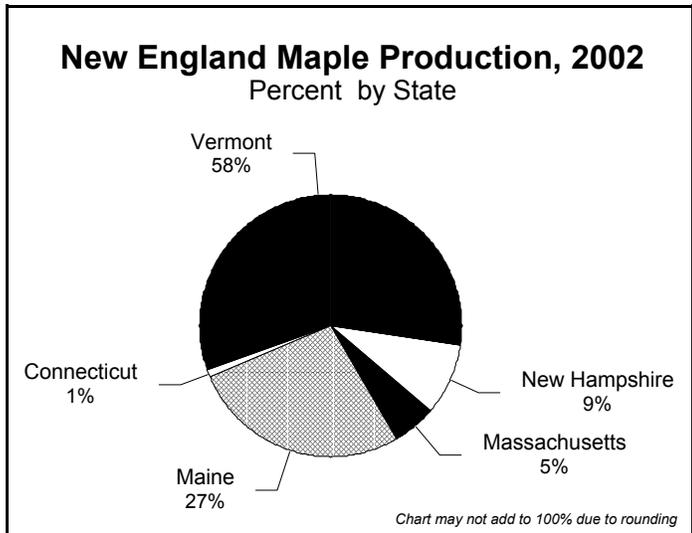
^{3/} Data available for the first time in 2001.

^{4/} Data not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

^{5/} Only available in New England states.

SOURCE: Crop Production, 8:30 a.m., June 12, 2002, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.





2002 Comments From Maple Producers, By County

CONNECTICUT - Fairfield: Dry winter did not seem to hurt quantity of sap. Made very good tasting medium amber syrup. Sap flowed sporadically and came to near zero by March 10th.

Hartford: Poor sap flow this year. Too warm, too early. Warm temperatures from January 12th. We missed the good runs which possibly diminished the sugar content of sap sooner and required more sap volume for syrup. Sap flow was average.

Sugar content seemed high early, then dropped off. **Litchfield:** Warm spells caused the syrup to get very dark. The trees did not run well this year because we didn't have much of a winter.

We had very few freezing nights. Had two or three good runs right after February 24th. Probably should have started season a little earlier. Lack of snow cover and warm temperatures made it difficult to keep collected sap cold compared to last year. Despite lack of snow, sap production was good. Color was good; flavor was very good. Sugar content of sap was lower this year.

Middlesex: Too much wide temperature fluctuation; either very cold or very warm. Weather was way too warm for substantial flow of sap. Bad year, warm temperatures too early. **New Haven:** Combination of drought and warm nights gave me fits. I had to re-tap new holes for sap to run.

Early ones had dried up. Weather in late March and early April was more sugaring weather. Quality was good. With a warm dry winter here in southern Connecticut (no snow), we probably should have tapped in December or January...probably wouldn't have done any worse. A very low sap flow from beginning of season and a very high sap to syrup ratio into the 50 to 1 end of season.

New London: Weather too warm in early part of the season. First two runs were of good volume, but volume decreased to only one-third that of normal. Probably due to the drought. Weird season. Started very early with long periods of unfavorable conditions during the season. When temperatures were favorable, flow was very good. **Tolland:** It was over before it started.

With Connecticut in current "drought" advisory, we decided to give our trees a break this year and will tap for 2003. This would have been a good year to tap in January. I was going to start two weeks earlier, but I figured warm trend would not hold, so I waited for normal start date, but it stayed warm longer than normal. Red maples were virtually bone dry. Sugar maples ran well with most syrup A-medium then switched right into B-grade.

Windham: For my area, we started two weeks earlier than 2001. Many of the nights in early to mid- March were too warm. Found our buckets ran much better than tubing as 2001 was the opposite. The season ended two weeks early because the weather was too hot. The syrup had good flavor, but was dark in color. Worst year in 30 years of keeping records, only half an average crop. Sap was thin and didn't run even when temperatures were right. Tap holes dried up after only three weeks. Syrup was mostly dark.

MAINE - Aroostook: I believe the better flow was in February and March. Early season, often cold and windy. Late season,

unseasonably warm. **Cumberland:** Was great early. Trees dried up about six weeks after tapping. **Franklin:** Sap flow was slow. It was either too cool or too warm to sustain a good flow.

Missed some early runs in late February. Quit early, but could have made more. Poor season with no good runs. **Kennebec:** Extremely variable. We did not tap this year due to difficult weather.

Knox: Great year. Consistent sap flow. Season ended about a week early. **Lincoln:** A lot of good sap early made for a short quick season. **Oxford:** Alternating warm and favorable days separated by four to five days of very cold weather during entire period.

Unusually heavy flow of sap when it did run. We had a late start and an early finish. **Penobscot:** Excellent year with long freezes and long thaws.

Piscataquis: Stayed light for us for quite awhile. We seemed to have quite a few days with poor runs. Good season overall though. More rain conditions than we were used to. Three very large (more than we could handle) sap runs. Very consistent spring.

Somerset: One of the best seasons in over seven years. Strange season, huge runs once a week then too cold. Made mostly light amber. Everything was good, but I think the sap started running in February and I didn't tap until March.

Waldo: Exceptional runs quantity wise. Excellent flavor to syrup. Started early with lots of cold days, but got good sap. Strange year - started too early, a little too cold in the middle, ended in heat wave. **Washington:** This year we had no frost in the ground and little snow on the ground.

The nights were warm and the days were cold. The season started late and was short. All the syrup was dark. **York:** The cool temperatures kept the sap flow steady. The warmer days and nights had little effect on the sap flow.

Overall, we expected the season to be below average, but overall we had an average year. The warm winter caused a quick beginning to the season and an early end. It also appears to have caused a poor boil down rate.

Awesome weather, great quality, doesn't get any better than this year. A superb season, gathered on 31 days. Product ranged from light amber to medium amber.

MASSACHUSETTS - Berkshire: Warm for three to four days in a row then would freeze and start another flow. I boiled almost every day which is not normal. Never got a deep freeze. It was dry with not enough snow. Wish every year was like this one. There were days it could have run better, but I am very satisfied.

Franklin: Abnormal spring and winter with too dry conditions. Tapped late and missed a couple of runs. Otherwise, sap ran good, but sugar content low. The season started a bit later than usual and ended a week sooner than usual. There was NO SNOW in the sugarbush, which made it so much easier than the 2001 season. Sap was sweet and ran light amber for almost three weeks; then to medium amber. Very good quality syrup this year. Weather conditions excellent. Sugar content low. Excellent syrup. **Hampden:**

Beginning of season, it was too warm with few large runs because it didn't freeze at night. Later in the season, it got colder with good temperatures for daily sap flow, but the sugar content went down. Sap was very low in sugar which made syrup dark from boiling so long. The nights were cool, but not cold enough to freeze trees. **Hampshire:** Due to the very poor weather and dry conditions, we choose to give the trees a break this year and did not set any taps. This season was a February year! No snow made it easier to set lines up. Should have started a week earlier. Great sap flow, but very short season. Syrup turned suddenly to grade B and then quit. **Middlesex:** When we had cold nights, we also had cold days and when we got warm nights, the days were also warm. **Worcester:** Season started off great. We made a lot of light syrup, then went to dark. Season was two weeks earlier than last year. Good conditions for starting the season. Had some cold spells mid-season when it didn't run for four to five days at a time. Temperatures were very erratic. Sap quality was below average.

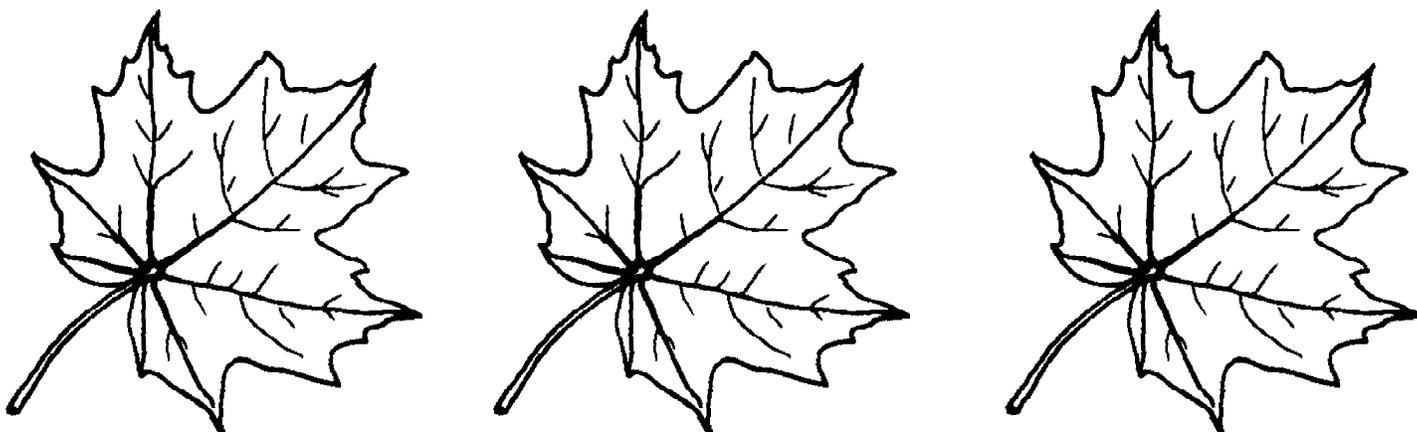
NEW HAMPSHIRE - Belknap: The weather could not have been any better. The syrup was very light in color overall, but needed a lot of filtering...very dirty. Warm winter, but favorable temperatures during the season. Low sugar content, but still great quality. Good sap flowing weather in February which is not normal in this area. March weather had many days too cold for good runs. **Carroll:** Season probably started February 15th, but we disbelieved it and were not ready to tap. The early run lasted through February 26th, then not much sap ran until March 13th. Excellent season, thereafter. We made 100 percent light amber. We never had a real "run" of sap, but we had a steady slow flow. It was a steady series of light runs and we boiled almost every other day. **Cheshire:** Poor year with low sugar in sap. Weather was good. Started working in woods at the end of January. Not much snow. Good sugaring weather. Very little or no snow helped with gathering. Very dry soil conditions may have lowered production. Quality of syrup very good. Intermittent, good, and bad weather affected the quantity of sap flow. Season ended abruptly due to hot weather. **Coos:** Started early, but at times sap flows were far between, mostly due to cold spells. On some days it would thaw and start flowing early afternoon and by 4:00 p.m. everything was frozen. Quality was high almost throughout the season. Much better year than last year. Very good season, results were a pleasant surprise given the small snow cover. **Grafton:** Excellent season in both quality and quantity. Good sap runs and high sap sugar content. Early start with very good runs due to little snow on the ground. I didn't notice any affect from drought conditions. Weather conditions were excellent. Sap runs were large for a dry season. A very good production year. Never made any dark syrup, all light and medium. **Hillsborough:** Lots of warm days and a good many cold nights, but we could have had more below freezing nights. No sugar production this

year. We gave the trees a break because of the drought. **Merrimack:** Very unusual season. Long season due to temperature fluctuations. Weather was good for sap flow. It was also good for sap storage as it didn't get too warm to spoil it. Small spouts kept running longer than larger old spouts. Early start to season. Very long run of light. Never had any heavy runs. **Rockingham:** Beautiful sap conditions, but we should petition mother nature to start the season later; I wasn't ready. **Strafford:** This was a good year for light grades. **Sullivan:** Very favorable weather conditions, however, missed February run - not tapped in until March 9th. We had a good, early run and made a lot of A-light and medium. Very early start; we weren't ready. This was a very disjointed season with two to three days of favorable weather, followed by two to three cold days; two to three days of good weather, then two to three days of warm weather.

VERMONT - Addison: The opening weekend, March 9th, we had 60 degree weather and we broke a production record. After March 19th, there was a cold snap which slowed production up. Good time to cleanup and quit. A lot of sap, but weak sugar content. A lot of fancy syrup and grade B syrup without much in between. **Bennington:** Not typical sugaring weather. Too cold, then too warm, but the result was huge runs night and day for two to three days. **Caledonia:** For us, it was too cold and the wind blew too much for a good sap flow. After a warm winter, sap ran hard late February while we tapped. The warmer woods got the runs this year. Better than the past year. Had to be ready for late February to get early run. **Chittenden:** Started out with light color and 60 degree temperatures, but the color dropped to dark and it took awhile to get back to medium amber. Then it dropped again. We made more dark syrup than in past years. Excellent season. The weather stayed cool enough to keep the bacteria low in the pipe lines, but warm enough to flow. **Essex:** Poor season, not worth the work. Excellent light syrup. Very little medium amber, although quite flavorful. Excellent dark and grade B. The weather only had five or six freeze and thaw cycles, but the amount of sap produced was exceptional. Although the season started early, we didn't have any large flows until late in the season. The weather stayed pretty cold and broke all at once and sugaring was over pretty quick. **Franklin:** Late February started with a bang, then a freeze up mid-March for about a week, then pretty good weather until the warm up at the end of March. Quality was very good this year. Warm spell around March 14th caused syrup to darken, but quality overall was fine. Sugar content of sap was way below our average. Weather was good. I just got started too late and missed the first two runs in February. **Lamoille:** The conditions were ideal this year. Most of our good runs were when the skies were cloudy and would run for 10 to 12 hours. Then a high pressure would come in with cold freezing temperatures recharging the trees for another run. For three weeks in March nothing ran. It was not

an inspiring year. Our weather was colder than usual for a longer period of time. We feel our quality of syrup benefitted from this. While my trees were less stressed by last year's drought than some at lower elevations, the quality and quantity of sap flow is very clearly lower. **Orange:** Mostly large runs. High quality early, then dropped off fast. Days failed to warm up quickly enough. Sap runs were very slow, but sugar content was high. We passed up the good, early run, then encountered cold weather in mid-March. Flow resumed toward the end of March. **Orleans:** The weather was very favorable this year. We had a good crop without being dumped on by heavy snow storms like last year. Most syrup was of the lighter grades with excellent flavor. Started out too warm in early March for a good flow of sap and then had two weeks starting March 18th that was too cold for sap to run. **Rutland:** Sap ran best at night. Sugar content was low this year. Very little snow on the ground at the start of the season. The weather was great although sap didn't flow as expected. Our best flows of sap started in late morning and ran into the next day. Color and flavor were excellent. Made fancy early, then got unseasonably warm spell which

made grade darker. It came back up later, but not to fancy. **Washington:** Good volume runs. I was surprised that our drought conditions didn't seem to hamper flow. Cold at beginning, warmed up fast, and shut us off early. Too warm at times. Very fancy syrup early on. Enough snow to give some moisture without having to wade to your hips in snow. **Windham:** A much better yield this year and better working conditions without the snow. The sap, however average, at one and a half to two percent compared to several days of three percent last year. A great season with no hot spells. The only times sap did not run were the periods of below freezing temperatures. **Windsor:** Sap volume was excellent. Sugar content low. Early start caught many off guard. Two good runs the last part of the season. Just a bit too cold, those with vacuum siphons got a better sap flow later in season. Lots of days the wind was wrong causing the sap not to run well. Long season, but not long hours or long days. Perfect weather with light syrup day after day.



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