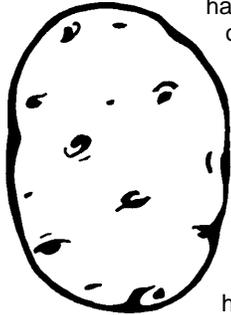


## FALL POTATOES

Maine farmers harvested 18.1 million hundredweight (cwt) of potatoes in 1998, securing the state's rank as the eighth largest producer of potatoes in the Nation. Growers harvested 64,500 acres in 1998, a reduction of 7,500 acres from the previous year and the lowest acreage harvested in the state in 100 years. Despite the 10 percent drop in acreage, production fell only 5 percent short of the previous year due to improved yields. Warm, dry spring conditions got the crop off to an early start, with 95 percent planted by June 1. Excellent growing conditions through June secured a strong start for the crop, however dry conditions followed in July and August. Lack of rainfall kept disease outbreaks in check, but forced irrigation where equipment was available. Yields were extremely variable in 1998, depending on moisture availability. Objective yield sampling revealed that, although hills per acre declined, increases in tuber hill count and weight resulted in improved yields in the state. Excellent digging



conditions prevailed in the fall, and harvest finished up by the end of October, on schedule with normal. Yields averaged 280 cwt per acre in 1998, compared with 265 cwt per acre in 1997 and the previous five-year average of 252 cwt per acre. With sales close to \$103 million, Maine ranked sixth in the Nation based on value of 1998 fall potato sales. The average price received for Maine grown potatoes was \$6.45/cwt, a nickel above a year earlier, and well above the National average of \$5.07/cwt for the fall produced crop.

Potato farmers in Massachusetts and Rhode Island also took advantage of ideal spring planting conditions, and had the crop seeded from 1 to 2 weeks early. Less than optimum conditions prevailed for the rest of the growing season. Heavy rains in June caused damage to the developing crop as well as acreage losses from flooding at some locations. Extremely dry conditions followed for most of July and August, resulting in smaller sized potatoes and a lighter crop. Massachusetts growers harvested 2,900 acres of potatoes in 1998, with average yields of 235 cwt per acre. Rhode Island potato farmers harvested 700 acres, also with average yields of 210 cwt per acre.

### FALL POTATOES: Acreage, Yield, Production, Disposition and Value, 1989 - 1998

STATE & 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>Connecticut</b>											
1989	0.4	0.3	210	63	0	1	2	60	7.10	447	426
1990 <sup>1/</sup>	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Maine</b>											
1989	81.0	80.0	275	22,000	1,701	600	1,650	19,750	7.40	162,800	146,150
1990	81.0	76.0	270	20,520	1,782	650	1,700	18,170	6.05	124,146	109,929
1991	81.0	79.0	230	18,170	1,804	575	1,470	16,125	5.80	105,386	93,525
1992	82.0	81.0	300	24,300	1,760	710	5,940	17,650	5.10	123,930	90,015
1993	80.0	78.0	255	19,890	1,716	580	3,370	15,940	6.90	137,241	109,986
1994	78.0	75.0	245	18,375	1,716	525	2,850	15,000	6.10	112,088	91,500
1995	78.0	78.0	220	17,160	1,716	420	1,025	15,715	6.40	109,824	100,576
1996	78.0	77.0	275	21,175	1,584	395	1,800	18,980	4.60	97,405	87,308
1997	72.0	72.0	265	19,080	1,430	275	1,760	17,045	6.40	122,112	109,088
1998	65.5	64.5	280	18,060	1,496	360	1,740	15,960	6.45	116,487	102,942
<b>Massachusetts</b>											
1989	2.6	2.5	240	600	51	2	20	578	8.35	5,010	4,826
1990	2.6	2.6	250	650	57	2	20	628	7.20	4,680	4,522
1991	3.0	3.0	195	585	59	2	41	542	6.55	3,832	3,550
1992	3.0	3.0	275	825	62	6	41	778	5.90	4,868	4,590
1993	3.0	3.0	215	645	59	4	10	631	7.50	4,838	4,733
1994	3.1	3.1	240	744	62	2	65	677	7.30	5,431	4,942
1995	3.3	3.3	260	858	57	1	7	850	6.40	5,491	5,440
1996	2.7	2.6	260	676	59	--	18	658	5.65	3,819	3,718
1997	3.0	3.0	270	810	68	--	40	770	7.70	6,237	5,929
1998	2.9	2.9	235	682	60	--	30	652	6.25	4,263	4,075

**FALL POTATOES: Acreage, Yield, Production, Disposition and Value, 1989 - 1998**

STATE & 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>Rhode Island</b>											
1989	1.2	1.2	250	300	29	1	10	289	6.80	2,040	1,965
1990	1.1	1.1	245	270	26	1	4	265	6.60	1,782	1,749
1991	1.3	1.3	185	241	27	1	2	238	6.60	1,591	1,571
1992	1.3	1.3	290	377	23	2	8	367	5.30	1,998	1,945
1993	1.1	1.1	205	226	22	--	4	222	6.45	1,458	1,432
1994	1.1	1.1	225	248	18	--	2	246	6.55	1,624	1,611
1995	0.9	0.9	270	243	17	--	2	241	7.35	1,786	1,771
1996	0.8	0.8	240	192	16	--	2	190	6.50	1,248	1,235
1997	0.8	0.8	270	216	16	--	3	213	7.60	1,642	1,619
1998	0.7	0.7	210	147	13	--	2	145	6.60	970	957

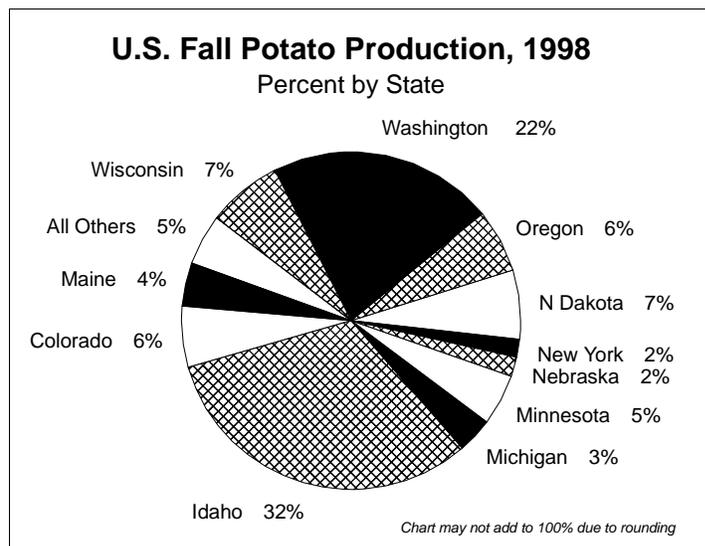
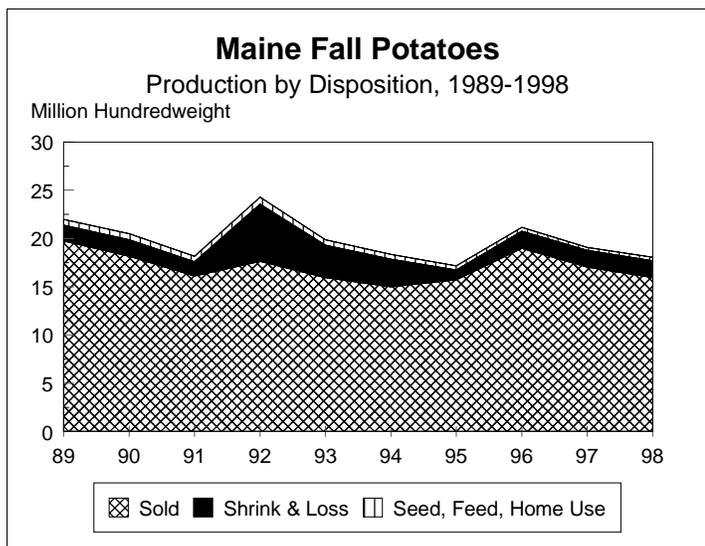
<b>New England<sup>2/</sup></b>											
1989	85.2	84	273	22,900	1,781	603	1,680	20,617	7.42	170,297	152,941
1990	84.7	79.7	270	21,503	1,865	654	1,726	19,123	6.10	130,608	116,626
1991	85.3	83.3	228	18,996	1,890	578	1,513	16,905	5.84	110,809	98,646
1992	86.3	85.3	299	25,502	1,845	718	5,989	18,795	5.14	130,796	96,550
1993	84.1	82.1	253	20,761	1,797	584	3,384	16,793	6.92	143,537	116,151
1994	82.2	79.2	245	19,367	1,796	527	2,917	15,923	6.16	119,143	98,053
1995	82.2	82.2	222	18,261	1,790	421	1,034	16,806	6.41	117,101	107,787
1996	81.5	80.4	274	22,043	1,659	395	1,820	19,828	4.65	102,472	92,261
1997	75.8	75.8	265	20,106	1,514	275	1,803	18,028	6.47	129,991	116,636
1998	69.1	68.1	277	18,889	1,569	360	1,772	16,757	6.44	121,720	107,974

<sup>1/</sup> Connecticut estimates discontinued as of 1990

<sup>2/</sup> New England includes:

CT, ME, MA, RI in 1989

ME, MA, RI in 1990 - present



## MAINE POTATOES: Percent of Acres Planted by Variety, 1994 - 1998

VARIETY & TYPE	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
<b>BY VARIETY:</b>	Percent				
Atlantic	10	8	5	6	6
Frito-Lay, All	8	8	10	9	10
Goldrush	3	4	3	2	2
Katahdin	4	3	4	3	3
Mainestay	1/	2	1/	2	1/
Norwis	3	3	3	4	3
Ontario	7	10	9	8	12
Ranger Russett	3	1/	1/	1/	1/
Russet Burbank	16	16	20	20	23
Russet Norkotah	2	7	8	4	3
Snowden	5	5	5	4	5
Shepody	12	11	11	12	14
Superior	17	14	14	14	9
All Red Varieties	1/	1/	1/	4	4
Other Varieties	10	9	8	8	6
<b>TOTAL VARIETIES</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>BY TYPE:</b>	Percent				
White & Red Varieties	73	69	68	73	72
Russet Varieties	27	31	32	27	28

<sup>1/</sup> Included with other varieties

MAINE POTATOES: Number of Tubers <sup>1/</sup> per Hill and Hills per Acre, by Type, 1994 - 1998

YEAR	Round Whites		Long Whites		Russets		All Varieties <sup>2/</sup>	
	Tubers <sup>1/</sup> per Hill	Hills per Acre	Tubers <sup>1/</sup> per Hill	Hills per Acre	Tubers <sup>1/</sup> per Hill	Hills per Acre	Tubers <sup>1/</sup> per Hill	Hills per Acre
1994	6.6	13,898	7.0	12,233	9.9	9,704	7.5	12,659
1995	5.3	14,590	4.1	13,677	6.7	10,262	5.6	13,248
1996	7.3	13,695	5.9	12,828	9.9	9,739	8.0	12,461
1997	6.3	14,122	6.0	12,521	10.6	9,289	7.7	12,449
1998	7.6	13,317	6.5	12,218	9.8	10,189	8.1	12,323

<sup>1/</sup> Tubers 1½ inches and over <sup>2/</sup> Includes Red varieties

MAINE POTATOES: Percent of Net Yield by Weight within Grade <sup>1/</sup>, by Type, 1994 - 1998

GRADE	Round Whites					Long Whites					Russets				
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
	Percent														
U.S. No. 1	75	86	78	82	79	62	82	68	87	73	66	79	72	70	72
U.S. No. 2	16	10	14	10	13	21	11	16	8	18	18	16	14	19	17
Culls	9	4	8	8	8	17	7	16	5	9	16	5	14	11	11

<sup>1/</sup> Reflects condition before harvest or handling damage

## MAINE POTATOES: Potato Production and Stocks Held by Growers, Local Dealers and Processors, by Month, 1994 - 1998 Crop Years

CROP YEAR	Production	Stocks Held by Growers, Local Dealers, and Processors							
		Year		Following Year					
		December 1	January 1	February 1	March 1	April 1	May 1	June 1 <sup>1/</sup>	
		1,000 Cwt							
1994	18,375	13,400	11,400	9,400	7,700	5,200	2,800	--	
1995	17,160	13,800	12,400	10,400	8,500	5,700	2,800	--	
1996	21,175	16,900	15,300	13,100	11,200	8,400	5,300	--	
1997	19,080	15,600	14,100	12,100	10,300	7,400	4,500	--	
1998	18,060	14,100	12,500	10,500	8,450	6,000	3,800	1,900	

<sup>1/</sup> June 1 stocks unavailable for 1997 and earlier years.

## MAINE POTATOES: Prices Received, 1994 - 1998 Crop Years

CROP YEAR	Prices Received <sup>1/</sup> by Farmers for All Potatoes, Monthly and Marketing Year Average										
	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	Market Year Average
	Dollars Per Cwt										
1994	5.65	4.85	5.25	5.70	6.00	6.20	6.25	6.60	6.70	6.15	6.10
1995	5.55	5.25	5.85	6.25	6.25	6.30	6.30	6.60	6.85	7.05	6.40
1996	5.20	4.70	4.90	4.35	4.35	4.65	4.50	4.75	5.05	4.55	4.60
1997	8.10	5.65	5.70	6.10	6.30	6.10	6.35	6.55	6.95	6.75	6.40
1998	6.25	5.40	5.70	5.85	5.90	6.15	6.45	6.90	7.45	7.05	6.45

<sup>1/</sup> Average price of potatoes sold for fresh market, processing, seed and feed