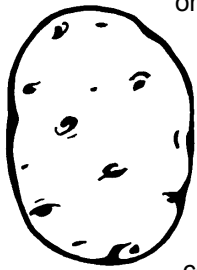


FALL POTATOES



Maine's 2003 potato production was estimated on December 1, 2003 at 17 million cwt (hundredweight), fractionally above the 2002 output. The December 1 forecast placed acres harvested at 65,500 acres, an increase of 1,500 acres from the previous year. Cool, wet weather conditions prevailed during May and June of that year. Potatoes were only 50 percent planted by the end of May, compared with 70 percent normally planted by that time, and emergence was slow due to cool soil temperatures. Dry conditions followed in July, keeping disease outbreaks in check; however, insect activity was high. Two weeks of heavy rains in early August left standing water in the rows and resulted in acreage left unharvested and diminished tuber quality at some locations. Harvest ranged from one to two weeks behind schedule through mid-September. Most of the crop was dug by October 20, on schedule with normal. Potato yields

averaged 260 cwt per acre in 2003, compared with 265 cwt per acre in the previous year. Final 2003 crop disposition and sales data will be available September 23, 2004.

Maine ranked eighth in the Nation based on the value of 2002 fall potato sales. The price received for 2002 crop Maine potatoes averaged \$7.05 per cwt, down \$0.60 per cwt from a year earlier, but above the National fall potato average of \$6.69 per cwt.

Potato farmers in Massachusetts and Rhode Island also battled poor planting and harvesting conditions during the 2003 growing season. Massachusetts growers left 200 acres unharvested in 2003, and Rhode Island growers had to abandon 100 acres. Potato yields in 2003 were above average in the two Southern New England States, averaging 275 cwt per acre in Massachusetts and 300 cwt per acre in Rhode Island. Quality, however, was off due to excessive moisture at harvest.

FALL POTATOES: Acreage, Yield, Production, Disposition and Value, 1994 - 2003

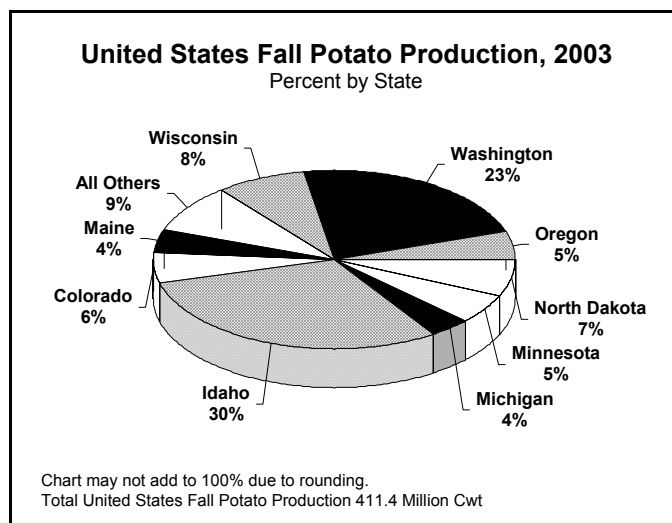
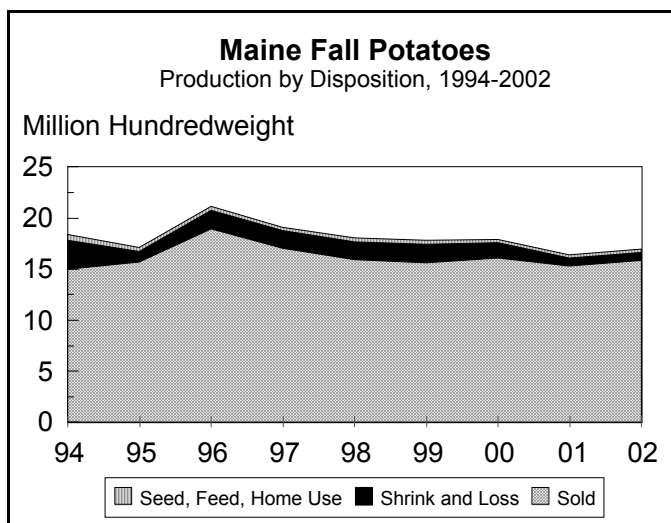
State and Year	Area		Yield per Acre	Production	Total Used for Seed	Disposition			Price per Cwt	Value of	
	Planted	Harvested				On Farm Where Grown		Sold		Production	Sales
						Seed, Feed, Home Use	Shrink and Loss				
	1,000 Acres		Cwt			1,000 Cwt		Dollars	1,000 Dollars		
Maine											
1994	78.0	75.0	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	1,430	360	1,740	15,960	6.45	116,487	102,942
1999	65.0	62.5	285	17,813	1,408	330	1,850	15,633	6.35	113,113	99,270
2000	64.0	64.0	280	17,920	1,302	315	1,490	16,115	6.15	110,208	99,107
2001	62.0	62.0	265	16,430	1,344	301	849	15,280	7.65	125,690	116,892
2002	64.0	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/	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/
Massachusetts											
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
1999	3.0	2.9	255	740	62	--	30	710	6.35	4,699	4,509
2000	2.8	2.5	255	638	59	1	72	565	5.40	3,445	3,051
2001	2.9	2.8	265	742	71	5	29	708	6.90	5,120	4,885
2002	3.3	3.2	255	816	65	5	16	795	7.30	5,957	5,804
2003	3.0	2.8	275	770	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/

FALL POTATOES: Acreage, Yield, Production, Disposition and Value, 1994 - 2003

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	
Rhode Island											
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	11	--	2	145	6.60	970	957
1999	0.6	0.6	225	135	9	--	2	133	7.25	979	964
2000	0.5	0.5	275	138	13	--	--	138	7.20	994	994
2001	0.5	0.5	280	140	10	--	3	137	6.70	938	918
2002	0.5	0.5	235	118	11	--	--	118	7.75	915	915
2003	0.6	0.5	300	150	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/
New England^{2/}											
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	1,501	360	1,772	16,757	6.44	121,720	107,974
1999	68.6	66.0	283	18,688	1,479	330	1,882	16,476	6.36	118,791	104,743
2000	67.3	67.0	279	18,696	1,374	316	1,562	16,818	6.13	114,647	103,152
2001	65.4	65.3	265	17,312	1,425	306	881	16,125	7.61	131,748	122,695
2002	67.8	67.7	264	17,894	1,462	315	806	16,773	7.07	126,440	118,532
2003	69.6	68.8	261	17,950	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/

^{1/} Data in Potatoes report available in September 2004.

^{2/} New England includes: Maine, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island.



MAINE POTATOES: Percent of Acres Planted by Variety, 1999 - 2003

Variety and Type	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
By Variety:	Percent				
Russet Burbank	26.1	33.7	29.1	36.4	33.2
Frito-Lay, All	9.5	11.1	12.6	10.9	11.9
Shepody	15.0	11.1	11.4	9.2	9.7
Ontario	17.5	9.2	7.3	9.7	8.3
Superior	7.8	5.7	8.9	7.2	6.1
Russet Norkotah	1.0	4.0	3.5	4.7	4.4
Atlantic	4.7	2.8	3.6	3.4	3.5
Katahdin	3.3	1.7	3.9	1.6	2.5
Norwis	1.7	2.6	2.4	2.2	2.4
Snowden	3.3	2.2	1.5	1.4	2.2
Yukon Gold	1.8	2.2	2.2	1.4	2.0
Norland	1/	1.3	1.6	1.6	1.9
Reba (NY 87) 13	1/	1/	1/	1/	1.7
Goldrush	1/	1/	1.7	1.1	1.6
Chieftain	2.3	2.2	2.2	1.8	1.4
Kennebec	1/	2.3	1/	1/	1/
Other Varieties	6.0	7.9	8.1	7.4	7.2
Total Varieties	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
By Type:					
Reds	4.0	4.0	5.0	4.0	4.0
White (Long and Round)	68.0	57.0	60.0	53.0	56.0
Russet Varieties	28.0	39.0	35.0	43.0	40.0
Total Varieties	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

^{1/} Included with other varieties.

MAINE POTATOES: Number of Tubers ^{1/} per Hill and Hills per Acre, by Type, 1999 - 2003

Year	Round Whites		Long Whites		Russets		All Varieties ^{2/}	
	Tubers ^{1/} per Hill	Hills per Acre	Tubers ^{1/} per Hill	Hills per Acre	Tubers ^{1/} per Hill	Hills per Acre	Tubers ^{1/} per Hill	Hills per Acre
1999	6.8	13,425	5.8	12,767	9.4	9,112	7.4	12,168
2000	7.5	13,255	6.6	12,351	10.3	9,717	8.4	11,871
2001	6.2	13,509	6.4	12,722	9.4	9,304	7.5	11,862
2002	7.4	13,803	5.6	12,230	10.7	9,596	8.5	11,948
2003	7.8	13,521	6.8	12,021	10.5	9,731	8.9	11,729

^{1/} Tubers 1½ inches and over.

^{2/} Includes Red varieties.

MAINE POTATOES: Percent of Net Yield by Weight within Grade ^{1/}, by Type, 1999 - 2003

Grade	Round Whites					Long Whites					Russets				
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
	Percent														
United States No. 1 ^{2/}	79	77	83	83	77	64	62	61	73	62	67	68	75	77	61
United States No. 2 ^{3/}	11	12	10	11	11	18	20	20	19	19	16	18	15	16	22
Culls ^{4/}	10	11	7	6	12	18	18	19	8	19	17	14	10	7	17

^{1/} Reflects condition before harvest or handling damage.

^{2/} Potatoes which meet the requirements for US #1, as stated in United States Standards for Grades of Potatoes, United States Department of Agriculture, Agriculture Marketing Service.

^{3/} Potatoes which meet the requirements for US #2, as stated in United States Standards for Grades of Potatoes, United States Department of Agriculture, Agriculture Marketing Service.

^{4/} Potatoes not meeting the requirements for US #1 or US #2, as stated in United States Standards for Grades of Potatoes, United States Department of Agriculture, Agriculture Marketing Service.

**MAINE POTATOES: Potato Production and Stocks Held by Growers, Local Dealers and Processors
by Month, 1998 - 2002 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
		1,000 Cwt						
1998	18,060	14,100	12,500	10,500	8,450	6,000	3,800	1,900
1999	17,813	14,500	13,000	11,300	9,400	7,200	4,400	2,300
2000	17,920	14,100	12,500	10,900	8,700	6,600	4,000	1,900
2001	16,430	12,200	10,800	8,900	7,100	5,300	3,300	1,800
2002	16,960	12,600	11,200	9,500	8,000	6,300	3,900	2,100

MAINE POTATOES: Prices Received, 1998 - 2002 Crop Years

Crop Year	Prices Received ^{2/} 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										
1998	6.25	5.40	5.70	5.85	5.90	6.15	6.45	6.90	7.45	7.05	6.45
1999	5.80	5.30	5.45	6.35	6.45	6.30	6.35	6.40	6.80	6.60	6.35
2000	5.80	5.45	5.50	5.55	5.60	5.50	5.90	6.20	6.80	7.30	6.15
2001	6.20	5.70	6.05	6.65	7.50	7.75	8.30	8.65	9.45	8.05	7.65
2002	5.75	5.45	5.60	6.65	6.95	7.10	7.10	7.45	8.10	8.15	7.05

^{1/} Average price of potatoes sold for all uses, including table stock, processing, seed and livestock feed.

