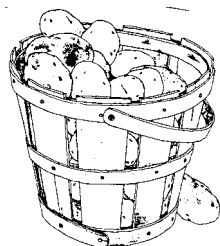


FALL POTATOES

December 1 assessments placed Maine's 2004 potato production at 19.2 million cwt (hundredweight), 13 percent above 2003 production and the largest crop harvested in the state since 1996. Record high yields offset a 3,500 acre decline in harvested acreage. The December forecast placed acres harvested at 62,000 acres; yields averaged 310 cwt per acre. Crop growth was excellent through mid-

August with timely rains and sun promoting superior growth until heavy rains hit. This caused severe flooding in many fields. An estimated 1,500 acres were left unharvested in 2004 in the state. Prolonged rains interrupted needed spray schedules, increased the incidence of disease, and resulted in numerous tuber quality problems. Extremely dry conditions during September accelerated the pace of crop harvest. Growers had 75 percent of the crop dug by



October 3, well ahead of the five-year average of 60 percent. Final 2004 crop disposition and sales data will be available September 22, 2005.

Maine ranked ninth in the Nation based on the value of 2003 fall potato sales. The price received for 2003 crop Maine potatoes averaged \$6.05 per cwt, down \$1.00 per cwt from a year earlier, but above the National fall potato average of \$5.23 per cwt.

Potato farmers in Massachusetts and Rhode Island also enjoyed excellent growing and harvesting conditions during the 2004 growing season. Massachusetts growers harvested 2,500 acres with yields surpassing all records, averaging 320 cwt per acre. Rhode Island potato farmers harvested 500 acres and yields averaged 350 cwt per acre, also establishing record high yields in state.

FALL POTATOES: Acreage, Yield, Production, Disposition and Value, 1995 - 2004

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											
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	1,313	315	1,490	16,115	6.15	110,208	99,107
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	87,029
2004	63.5	62.0	310	19,220	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/
Massachusetts											
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	64	--	30	710	6.35	4,699	4,509
2000	2.9	2.6	255	663	63	1	75	587	5.40	3,580	3,170
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	4,170
2004	2.6	2.5	320	800	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/

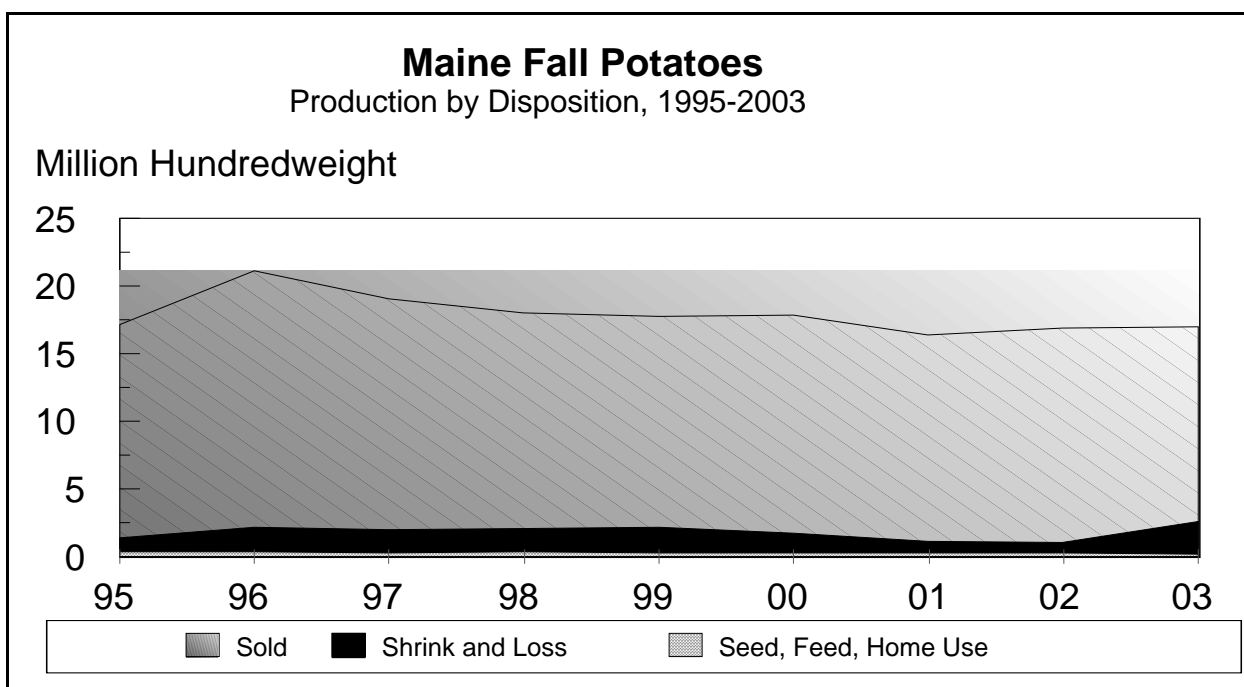
See footnotes after the New England table.

FALL POTATOES: Acreage, Yield, Production, Disposition and Value, 1995 - 2004

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											
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	276	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	236	118	13	--	--	118	7.75	915	915
2003	0.6	0.6	285	171	11	--	12	159	7.00	1,197	1,113
2004	0.5	0.5	350	175	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/
New England^{2/}											
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	1,481	330	1,882	16,476	6.36	118,791	104,743
2000	67.4	67.1	279	18,721	1,389	316	1,565	16,840	6.13	114,782	103,271
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	92,312
2004	66.6	65.0	311	20,195	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/

^{1/} 2004 crop disposition and sales will be published September 22, 2005 in the Potatoes, 2004 Summary Report.

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



MAINE POTATOES: Percent of Acres Planted by Variety, 2000 - 2004

Variety and Type	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
By Variety:	Percent				
Russet Burbank	33.7	29.1	36.4	33.2	36.7
Frito-Lay, All	11.1	12.6	10.9	11.9	11.5
Shepody	11.1	11.4	9.2	9.7	9.3
Ontario	9.2	7.3	9.7	8.3	5.5
Yukon Gold	2.2	2.2	1.4	2.0	3.3
Superior	5.7	8.9	7.2	6.1	3.0
Russet Norkotah	4.0	3.5	4.7	4.4	3.0
Atlantic	2.8	3.6	3.4	3.5	3.0
Katahdin	1.7	3.9	1.6	2.5	2.5
Norland	1.3	1.6	1.6	1.9	2.5
Snowden	2.2	1.5	1.4	2.2	2.3
Norwis	2.6	2.4	2.2	2.4	2.2
Goldrush	1/	1.7	1.1	1.6	1.9
Reba (NY 87) 13	1/	1/	1/	1.7	1.7
Monona	1/	1/	1/	1/	1.7
Chieftain	2.2	2.2	1.8	1.4	1.3
Centennial	1/	1/	1/	1/	1.2
Mainstay	1/	1/	1/	1/	1.0
Kennebec	2.3	1/	1/	1/	1/
Other Varieties	7.9	8.1	7.4	7.2	6.4
Total Varieties	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
By Type:					
Reds	4.0	5.0	4.0	4.0	5.5
White (Long and Round)	57.0	60.0	53.0	56.0	51.0
Russet Varieties	39.0	35.0	43.0	40.0	43.5
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, 2000 - 2004

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
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
2004	8.5	13,609	6.8	13,024	10.7	10,012	9.3	11,969

^{1/} Tubers 1½ inches and over.

^{2/} Includes Red varieties.

MAINE POTATOES: Percent of Net Yield by Weight within Grade, ^{1/} by Type, 2000- 2004

Grade	Round Whites					Long Whites					Russets				
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
	Percent														
United States No. 1 ^{2/}	77	83	83	77	85	62	61	73	62	69	68	75	77	61	70
United States No. 2 ^{3/}	12	10	11	11	8	20	20	19	19	11	18	15	16	22	13
Culls ^{4/}	11	7	6	12	7	18	19	8	19	20	14	10	7	17	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, USDA, Agriculture Marketing Service.

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

MAINE POTATOES: Potato Production and Stocks Held by Growers, Local Dealers and Processors by Month, 1999 - 2003 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						
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
2003	17,030	13,500	12,100	10,500	8,900	6,500	4,100	2,300

MAINE POTATOES: Prices Received, 1999 - 2003 Crop Years

Crop Year	Prices Received ^{1/} by Farmers for All Potatoes, Monthly and Marketing Year Average											
	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	Market Year Average
	Dollars Per Cwt											
1999	5.80	5.30	5.45	6.35	6.45	6.30	6.35	6.40	6.80	6.60	6.75	6.35
2000	5.80	5.45	5.50	5.55	5.60	5.50	5.90	6.20	6.80	7.30	7.00	6.15
2001	6.20	5.70	6.05	6.65	7.50	7.75	8.30	8.65	9.45	8.05	7.80	7.65
2002	5.75	5.45	5.60	6.65	6.95	7.10	7.10	7.45	8.10	8.15	7.40	7.05
2003	6.15	5.25	5.45	5.90	5.75	5.85	5.70	6.10	6.30	6.70	6.90	6.05

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

United States Fall Potato Production, 2004
Percent by State

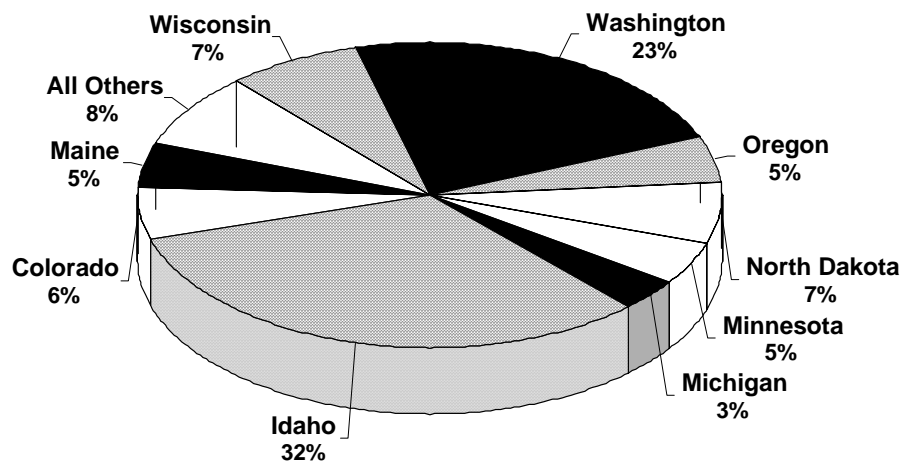


Chart may not add to 100% due to rounding.
Total United States Fall Potato Production 410.0 Million Cwt