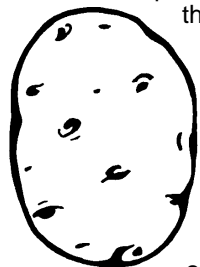


FALL POTATOES

Maine's farmers harvested 17.9 million cwt (hundredweight) of Fall potatoes in 2000, fractionally above a year earlier, and securing the state's rank as the eighth largest producer of Fall potatoes in the Nation. Cool, wet conditions through the end of May got the 2000 crop year planting season off to a slow start.



Emergence was complete by the end of June, with heat, sunshine and occasional showers promoting rapid crop growth. Harvest conditions were warm and dry, ideal for digging through early October. Growers harvested 64,000 acres in 2000, compared with 62,500 acres harvested the previous year. Potato yields averaged 280 cwt per acre, compared with 285 cwt per acre in 1999, and the previous 5-year average of 264 cwt per acre. With sales just over \$99 million, Maine was ranked

sixth in the Nation based on value of 2000 Fall potato sales. The average price received for Maine grown potatoes averaged \$6.15 per cwt, down \$0.20 per cwt from a year earlier, but well above the National average of \$4.55 per cwt.

Massachusetts and Rhode Island also battled cool, wet spring conditions to get the 2000 crop planted. Heavy spring rain drowned out fields, rendered many herbicides ineffective, and caused excessive reductions in soil nitrogen levels. Growers in Massachusetts were forced to leave 300 acres unharvested. Cool, rainy conditions persisted throughout most of the growing season. Good weather from late August through October allowed tubers to size up on higher land, and provided excellent harvesting conditions. Massachusetts growers harvested 2,500 acres, with yields averaging 255 cwt per acre. Rhode Island potato farmers harvested 500 acres, with average yields of 276 cwt per acre.

FALL POTATOES: Acreage, Yield, Production, Disposition and Value, 1991 - 2000

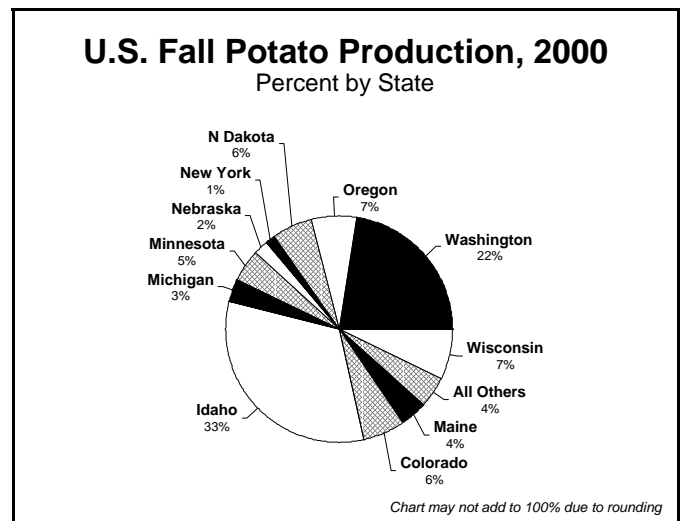
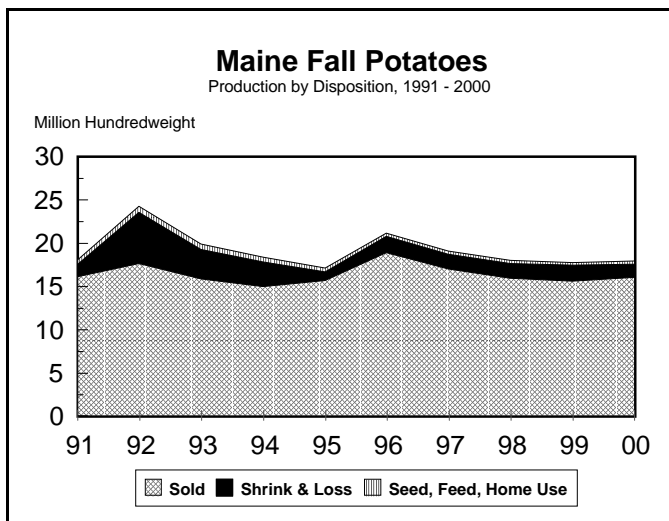
STATE & YEAR	Area		Yield per Acre	Production	Total Used for Seed	Disposition			Price per Cwt	Value of	
	Planted	Harvested				On farm where grown		Sold		Production	Sales
						Seed, feed, home use	Shrink and loss				
	1,000 Acres		Cwt			1,000 Cwt			Dollars	1,000 Dollars	
Maine											
1991	81.0	79.0	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	1,430	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
Massachusetts											
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
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

FALL POTATOES: Acreage, Yield, Production, Disposition and Value, 1991 - 2000

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	
Rhode Island											
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	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

New England^{1/}											
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	1,501	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

^{1/} New England includes: ME, MA, RI



MAINE POTATOES: Percent of Acres Planted by Variety, 1996 - 2000

VARIETY & TYPE	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
BY VARIETY:	Percent				
Atlantic	5	6	6	5	3
Frito-Lay, All	10	9	10	10	11
Goldrush	3	2	2	1/	1/
Katahdin	4	3	3	3	2
Kennebec	1/	1/	1/	1/	2
Mainestay	1/	2	1/	1/	1/
Norwis	3	4	3	2	3
Ontario	9	8	12	17	9
Russet Burbank	20	20	23	26	34
Russet Norkotah	8	4	3	1	4
Snowden	5	4	5	3	2
Shepody	11	12	14	15	11
Superior	14	14	9	8	6
Yukon Gold	--	--	--	2	2
All Red Varieties	1/	4	4	4	4
Other Varieties	8	8	6	4	7
TOTAL VARIETIES	100	100	100	100	100
BY TYPE:					
White & Red Varieties	68	73	72	72	61
Russet Varieties	32	27	28	28	39

^{1/} Included with other varieties

MAINE POTATOES: Number of Tubers ^{1/} per Hill and Hills per Acre, by Type, 1996 - 2000

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
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
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

^{1/} Tubers 1½ inches and over ^{2/} Includes Red varieties

MAINE POTATOES: Percent of Net Yield by Weight within Grade ^{1/}, by Type, 1996 - 2000

GRADE	Round Whites					Long Whites					Russets				
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
U.S. No. 1	78	82	79	79	77	68	87	73	64	62	72	70	72	67	68
U.S. No. 2	14	10	13	11	12	16	8	18	18	20	14	19	17	16	18
Culls	8	8	8	10	11	16	5	9	18	18	14	11	11	17	14

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

MAINE POTATOES: Potato Production and Stocks Held by Growers, Local Dealers and Processors, by Month, 1996 - 2000 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/}		
1996	21,175	16,900	15,300	13,100	11,200	8,400	5,300	1,000 Cwt		
1997	19,170	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		
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		

^{1/} June 1 stocks on hand unavailable prior to June 1, 1999.

MAINE POTATOES: Prices Received, 1996 - 2000 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	Market Year Average
Dollars Per Cwt											
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
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

^{1/} Average price of potatoes sold for fresh market, processing, seed and feed