



**NEW ENGLAND  
AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS**



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**MAPLE SYRUP**

NASS  
USDA

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MAPLE SYRUP PRODUCTION ABOVE PREVIOUS YEAR IN NEW ENGLAND

The 1989 maple syrup production in four of the New England states totaled 565,000 gallons, up fractionally from previous year. The increase was the result of higher yield per tap in 1989. Vermont remained the leading producer, with 400,000 gallons in 1989, up 8 percent from last year.

The season throughout most of the four producing states in New England was reported as being generally unfavorable. The far northern areas of Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont reported a good to excellent season, although it was late. The open winter caused a deeper freeze in the ground which took tree roots longer than usual to thaw out. In some areas the drought last summer and the dry winter left little moisture for the trees to absorb when their roots did warm up. The stress caused by pear thrips defoliating trees, primarily in southern areas, forced many producers to reduce the number of taps this year.

The 1989 season, like 1988, was short, lasting only about 27 days. The average opening date was March 18 in Maine, March 9 in Massachusetts, March 15 in New Hampshire and March 16 in Vermont. This was 6 to 9 days later than normal. The average closing date was April 13 in Maine, April 3 in Massachusetts, April 11 in New Hampshire and April 14 in Vermont; up to five days later than normal. Temperatures were generally reported as being either too cold or too warm or both.

The sweetness of sap in New England was slightly above normal, with an average of 38 gallons of sap needed to make a gallon of syrup in 1989, compared with 42 gallons in 1988. The color of the syrup was generally medium in all four states.

The value of production for New England is expected to total over \$17 million in 1989, 1 percent below the 1988 crop. Prices for 1989 maple syrup in New England are expected to average \$31.25 per gallon equivalent, compared with \$31.66 per gallon equivalent for the 1988 crop.

New York maple syrup production totaled 325,000 gallons, 5 percent above the 1988 production. The maple season in New York was 27 days long, with an opening date on March 15 and a closing date on April 10. Sap was slightly sweeter than normal, with an average of 39 gallons of sap to make a gallon of syrup. The season was either too warm or too cold. The color of syrup was medium to light.

MAPLE SYRUP: PRODUCTION AND VALUE, NEW ENGLAND AND NEW YORK, 1988 AND 1989

STATE	PRODUCTION		SEASON AVERAGE PRICE PER GALLON		VALUE OF PRODUCTION	
	1988	1989	1988	1989	1988	1989
	1,000 gallons		Dollars		1,000 Dollars	
Maine	76	85	26.50	21.90	2,014	1,862
Massachusetts	44	24	33.10	35.60	1,456	854
New Hampshire	74	56	35.40	36.10	2,620	2,022
Vermont	370	400	31.80	32.30	11,766	12,920
NEW ENGLAND	564	565	31.66	31.25	17,856	17,658
New York	310	325	23.50	21.80	7,285	7,085

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