New England Agricultural Statistics Service

a field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service
United States Department of Agriculture

22 Bridge St, Third Floor — *603-224-9639*
PO Box 1444 — *Aubrey R. Davis, Director* — *Fax: 603-225-1434*
Concord, NH 03302 — *www.usda.gov/nass* — *nass-nh@nass.usda.gov*

MAPLE SYRUP
2003

June 12, 2003

A special "THANK YOU" goes to New England producers and buyers who have helped us by completing the annual Maple Syrup survey during April and May.

SYRUP PRODUCTION DOWN 11 PERCENT NATIONWIDE

UNITED STATES: The 2003 U.S. maple syrup production totaled 1.24 million gallons, down 11 percent from last year's production of 1.39 million gallons. The number of taps was estimated at 6.62 million, down two percent from the 2002 total of 6.75 million, while the yield per tap was estimated to be .187 gallons, down from .206 gallons in 2002.

Vermont led all States in production with 430,000 gallons for 2003, a decrease of 14 percent from last season. New York's production, at 210,000 gallons, decreased 19 percent from 2002. Production decreases in Vermont and New York were attributed to cold weather early in the spring, and then temperatures warmed too quickly late in the season. Heavy snowcover made tapping trees and running tubing more difficult this year. Some producers decided not to tap due to the heavy amounts of snow received.

Maine produced 265,000 gallons, 15 percent above 2002. Maine was the only State to show an increase over last season. Weather in Maine was very similar to that of Vermont and New York. However, producers in northern Maine experienced a heavy sap run in mid-April, which enabled the State's production to show the increase over 2002.

Maple syrup production is down in Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. In Connecticut, production was unchanged from last year. These States also cited extremely cold weather conditions early, followed by temperatures that warmed too quickly. In some areas of these States, producers decided not to tap due to excessive snow cover.

Temperatures were generally unfavorable for good sap flow and syrup production in all of the maple producing States. Overall, the 2003 season lasted an average of 50 days. This compared to 52 days in 2002 and 29 days in 2001. Season length ranged from 85 days in Connecticut to 15 days in Ohio.

Sugar content of the sap for 2003 was higher than last year. Approximately 41 gallons of sap was required to produce one gallon of syrup. This compared with 45 gallons in 2002 but unchanged from 2001. Most syrup was dark and medium colored, with only a small quantity of light syrup produced.

The 2002 U.S. average gallon equivalent price (not retail price) was $27.60, down $1.00 from the 2001 price of $28.60. The U.S. value of production, at $38.4 million for 2002, was up 28 percent from 2001. Prices increased in Connecticut, Maine, Michigan, New Hampshire, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin, with each of the other maple producing States showing a price decrease.

NEW ENGLAND (excluding Rhode Island): In New England, maple syrup production for 2003 totaled 795,000 gallons, down seven percent from last year. Vermont remained the largest producing State in New England and the Nation, with 54 percent of the region's production and 35 percent of the total United States syrup. Taps in New England totaled 3.8 million, down three percent from the 3.9 million set last year and making up 57 percent of the Nation's maple taps.

The 2003 maple season was mostly rated too cold, causing production decreases in three of the five New England States. Temperatures were reported to be 45 percent too cold, 30 percent too warm, and 25 percent favorable. The season started off cold and then warmed up too fast at the end. Sap started to run late this year, especially in the southern New England States where excessive snow kept operators from tapping. Earliest dates for each State were as follows: Connecticut - February 2, Maine - February 11, New Hampshire and Vermont - February 15, and Massachusetts - February 19. Latest closing dates were: Connecticut and Massachusetts - April 28, New Hampshire and Vermont - April 30, and Maine - May 2. The sugar content of the sap was above average, requiring approximately 41 gallons of sap to produce a gallon of syrup. The majority of the syrup produced was dark amber followed by medium and then light syrup.

2002 PRICES AND SALES: Across New England, the average equivalent price per gallon for 2002 maple syrup varied widely depending on the percentage sold retail, wholesale or bulk. The 2002 all sales equivalent price increased $1.50 in Connecticut to $47.20, $0.70 in Maine to $19.40, and $1.10 in New Hampshire to $41.10. The all equivalent price decreased $1.10 in Massachusetts to $39.50 and $3.80 in Vermont to $27.00. Maine's price continues to be lower than the other States due to the high percentage of bulk sales within that State. This also explains the large drop in price in Vermont as their bulk sales increased from 50 to 60 percent. New England's 2002 gallon equivalent price of $27.04 reflects a decrease of $1.03 from the 2001 price of $28.07. *See table on page 4 for retail prices by State.*

MAPLE SYRUP: Taps, Yield, and Production 2001 - 2003

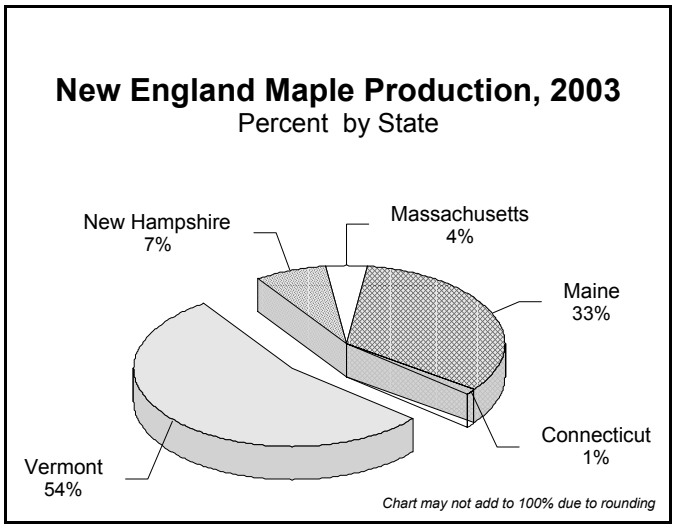
STATE	Taps			Yield per Tap			Production		
	2001	2002	2003	2001	2002	2003	2001	2002	2003
	1,000 Taps	1,000 Taps	1,000 Taps	Gallons	Gallons	Gallons	1,000 Gallons	1,000 Gallons	1,000 Gallons
Connecticut	51	51	50	0.176	0.157	0.160	9	8	8
Maine	1,085	1,085	1,095	0.184	0.212	0.242	200	230	265
Massachusetts	200	215	205	0.170	0.209	0.171	34	45	35
New Hampshire	335	345	325	0.134	0.217	0.175	45	75	57
Vermont	2,090	2,170	2,090	0.132	0.230	0.206	275	500	430
NEW ENGLAND [1/]	**3,761**	**3,866**	**3,765**	**0.150**	**0.222**	**0.211**	**563**	**858**	**795**
Michigan	332	320	360	0.181	0.206	0.164	60	66	59
New York	1,163	1,414	1,340	0.166	0.184	0.157	193	260	210
Ohio	432	376	387	0.222	0.199	0.132	96	75	51
Pennsylvania	360	337	364	0.192	0.163	0.132	69	55	48
Wisconsin	436	440	400	0.156	0.180	0.190	68	79	76
UNITED STATES	**6,484**	**6,753**	**6,616**	**0.162**	**0.206**	**0.187**	**1,049**	**1,393**	**1,239**
New Brunswick [2/]	1,319	--	--	0.060	--	--	79	147	--
Nova Scotia [2/]	331	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ontario [2/]	1,305	--	--	0.170	--	--	222	229	--
Quebec [2/]	30,695	--	--	0.153	--	--	4,708	5,406	--
CANADA [2/] [3/]	**33,650**	--	--	**0.149**	--	--	**5,009**	**5,783**	--

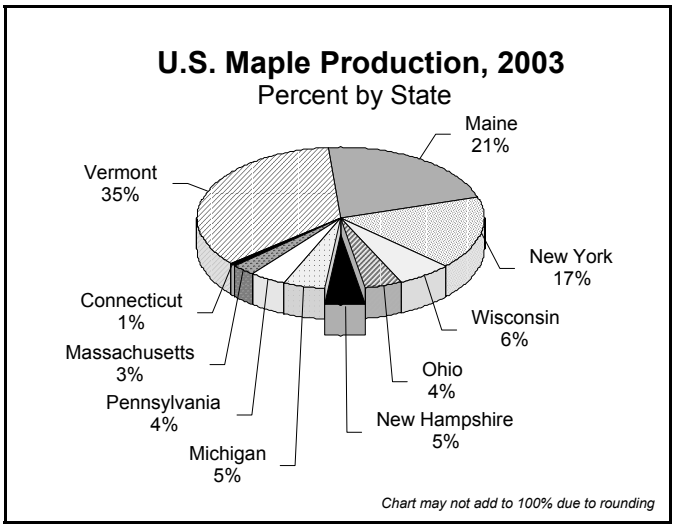
[1/] *New England includes CT, ME, MA, NH, and VT.*
[2/] Canadian data incomplete; figures unavailable at the time of publication.
[3/] *Data may not add due to rounding.*
SOURCE: **United States -** ***Crop Production***, 8:30 a.m., June 11, 2003, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. **Canada -** ***Statistics Canada.***

MAPLE SYRUP: Production, Price, and Value, 2000 - 2002

STATE	Production			Average Gallon Equivalent Price of All Sales [1/]			Value of Production		
	2000	2001	2002	2000	2001	2002	2000	2001	2002
	1,000 Gallons	1,000 Gallons	1,000 Gallons	U.S. Dollars	U.S. Dollars	U.S. Dollars	U.S. 1,000 Dollars	U.S. 1,000 Dollars	U.S. 1,000 Dollars
Connecticut	7	9	8	43.90	45.70	47.20	307	411	378
Maine	250	200	230	14.20	18.70	19.40	3,550	3,740	4,460
Massachusetts	39	34	45	37.80	40.60	39.50	1,474	1,380	1,778
New Hampshire	75	45	75	38.10	40.00	41.10	2,858	1,800	3,083
Vermont	460	275	500	30.00	30.80	27.00	13,800	8,470	13,500
NEW ENGLAND [2/]	**831**	**563**	**858**	**26.46**	**28.07**	**27.04**	**21,989**	**15,802**	**23,200**
Michigan	44	60	66	35.10	29.70	32.50	1,544	1,782	2,145
New York	210	193	260	29.00	29.50	26.30	6,090	5,694	6,838
Ohio	34	96	75	34.30	31.30	32.30	1,166	3,005	2,423
Pennsylvania	47	69	55	28.40	25.30	26.70	1,335	1,746	1,469
Wisconsin	65	68	79	27.70	29.20	29.30	1,800	1,986	2,315
UNITED STATES	**1,231**	**1,049**	**1,393**	**27.60**	**28.60**	**27.60**	**33,924**	**30,014**	**38,389**
New Brunswick [3/]	75	79	147	32.15	32.08	29.69	2,411	2,534	4,365
Nova Scotia [4/]	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ontario [3/]	371	222	229	35.59	36.39	36.05	13,205	8,078	8,255
Quebec [3/]	6,873	4,708	5,406	17.51	21.12	20.30	120,328	99,438	109,735
CANADA [3/]	**7,319**	**5,009**	**5,783**	**18.57**	**21.97**	**21.16**	**135,944**	**110,050**	**122,355**

[1/] *Average gallon equivalent price in U.S. dollars is a weighted average across retail, wholesale, and bulk sales. This price is lower for States, such as Maine, with more wholesale and bulk sales.* ***The average gallon equivalent price is not the average retail price paid for a gallon of syrup -- see page 4 for retail gallon average prices.***
[2/] *New England includes CT, ME, MA, NH, and VT.*
[3/] *The .746213 conversion rate is from Canadian dollars to U.S. dollars as of June 9, 2003.*
[4/] *Nova Scotia figures unavailable at the time of publication.*
SOURCE: ***United States - Crop Production***, 8:30 a.m., June 11, 2003, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. **Canada** - ***Statistics Canada.***





MAPLE SYRUP: Sales Percentages, New England, 2001 - 2002

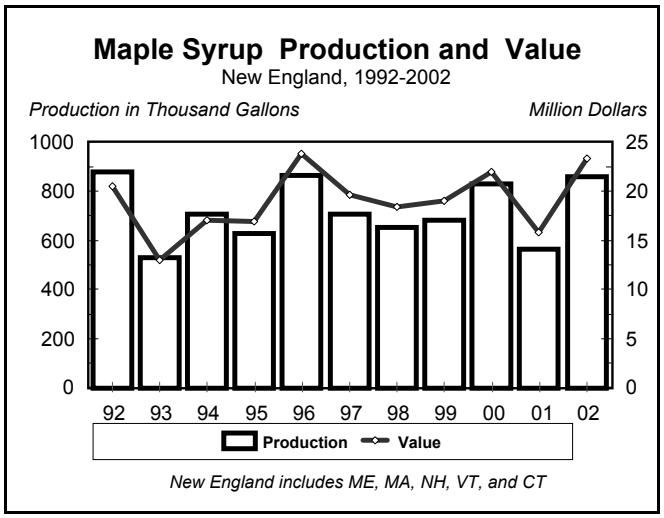
TYPE OF SALE	Connecticut		Maine		Massachusetts		New Hampshire		Vermont	
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Retail	85	85	5	5	70	50	70	70	35	25
Wholesale	10	10	5	5	20	30	20	15	15	15
Bulk	5	5	90	90	10	20	10	15	50	60

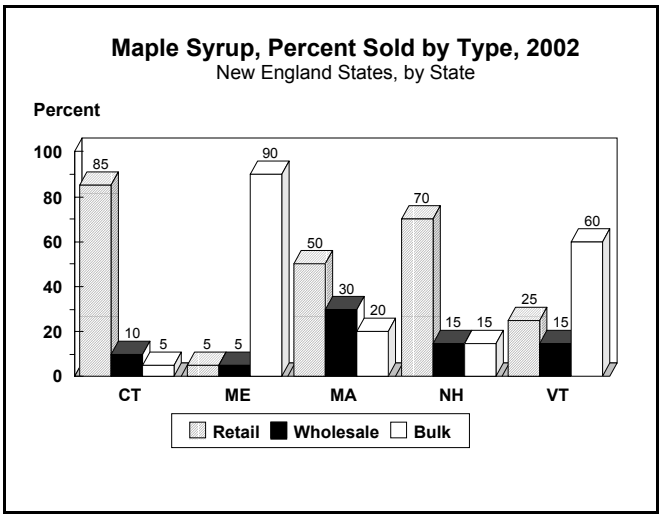
SOURCE: ***Crop Production***, 8:30 a.m., June 11, 2003, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MAPLE SYRUP: Sales Percentages, Other States, 2001 - 2002

TYPE OF SALE	Michigan		New York		Ohio		Pennsylvania		Wisconsin	
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Retail	68	65	54	39	69	76	44	45	42	42
Wholesale	19	15	15	21	10	6	9	19	26	24
Bulk	13	20	31	40	21	18	47	36	32	34

SOURCE: ***Crop Production***, 8:30 a.m., June 11, 2003, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.





MAPLE SYRUP: Retail and Wholesale Prices and Size of Containers, 2000 - 2002

State and Year	Retail								Wholesale						
	Gallon	Half Gallon	Quart	Pint	Half Pint	3.4 oz (100 ml)	8.5 oz (250 ml)	12 oz (355 ml)	Gallon	Half Gallon	Quart	Pint	Half Pint	3.4 oz (100 ml)	8.5 oz (250 ml)
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Connecticut															
2000	36.70	20.10	11.70	7.30	4.60	2.50	1/	2/	3/	18.00	9.10	5.60	3.50	1.70	2/
2001	35.40	20.30	11.70	6.90	4.40	2.60	3/	2/	28.70	17.50	10.30	5.40	3/	3/	2/
2002	37.50	21.20	11.80	7.30	4.60	2.60	7.50	3/	30.30	16.80	9.20	5.20	3.40	1.50	3/
Maine															
2000	31.60	17.90	10.00	6.20	4.50	2.30	1/	2/	24.50	13.20	7.50	4.60	3.50	3/	2/
2001	32.10	18.30	10.20	5.90	4.00	2.10	3/	2/	26.70	14.20	8.00	4.60	2.80	3/	2/
2002	34.00	18.60	10.50	6.50	4.20	2.00	5.70	8.40	28.20	16.80	8.40	4.80	3.00	1.70	5.30
Massachusetts															
2000	33.90	19.20	11.20	6.70	4.10	2.10	1/	2/	28.60	15.70	9.00	5.10	3.00	1.50	2/
2001	33.10	19.90	11.60	6.80	4.30	3/	3/	2/	30.30	3/	9.40	5.40	3.50	1.60	2/
2002	35.00	20.40	12.30	7.90	5.20	2.30	11.10	N/A	25.80	16.50	9.10	5.70	3.80	1.50	8.30
New Hampshire															
2000	33.90	18.80	11.30	6.60	3.90	2.60	1/	2/	23.70	15.50	8.30	4.90	2.90	2.40	2/
2001	34.50	19.80	11.30	6.80	3.90	2.40	7.10	2/	28.70	15.80	9.00	5.20	3.10	3/	2/
2002	33.30	19.00	11.30	6.80	4.10	2.40	6.10	6.70	28.30	17.20	10.40	5.60	3.50	2.30	4.40
Vermont															
2000	31.60	18.00	10.50	6.60	4.30	2.60	1/	2/	26.40	15.30	8.60	5.10	3.40	3/	2/
2001	32.40	19.00	11.40	7.00	4.70	2.90	6.10	2/	28.80	16.20	9.20	5.20	3.30	3/	2/
2002	31.40	18.20	11.30	7.10	4.50	2.50	7.20	7.50	25.00	16.20	9.30	5.40	3.40	2.10	4.90
Michigan															
2000	32.00	18.50	9.70	6.10	4.00	4/	4/	4/	29.50	15.60	7.60	4.50	2.50	4/	4/
2001	33.00	18.40	10.30	6.00	3.90	4/	4/	4/	25.60	15.60	8.50	4.70	2.70	4/	4/
2002	31.00	17.50	10.10	6.00	4.10	4/	4/	4/	25.00	15.30	8.70	4.90	3.40	4/	4/
New York															
2000	28.10	16.50	9.80	6.35	3.95	4/	4/	4/	24.30	14.20	7.65	4.55	2.75	4/	4/
2001	29.90	17.30	10.10	6.30	4.20	4/	4/	4/	25.80	15.60	8.65	5.05	3.00	4/	4/
2002	29.70	17.70	9.90	6.50	4.20	4/	4/	4/	26.90	14.80	8.00	4.70	2.90	4/	4/
Ohio															
2000	28.80	16.60	9.90	6.10	4.40	4/	4/	4/	27.20	15.00	8.50	5.40	3.70	4/	4/
2001	29.30	17.00	9.70	6.00	4.60	4/	4/	4/	24.70	14.70	8.40	4.80	3.80	4/	4/
2002	29.80	17.80	10.20	6.30	4.10	4/	4/	4/	24.10	14.30	9.20	5.60	3.20	4/	4/
Pennsylvania															
2000	29.00	17.00	9.90	5.80	3.60	4/	4/	4/	27.10	14.90	8.20	4.70	2.90	4/	4/
2001	28.30	16.70	9.60	5.70	3.50	4/	4/	4/	26.70	14.50	8.20	4.90	3.00	4/	4/
2002	29.10	16.50	9.70	5.70	3.60	4/	4/	4/	27.00	16.00	8.70	4.90	3.20	4/	4/
Wisconsin															
2000	27.60	15.20	8.10	4.10	2.40	4/	4/	4/	25.30	14.50	8.40	4.30	2.70	4/	4/
2001	27.80	15.30	8.30	5.10	3.30	4/	4/	4/	27.60	15.30	8.10	4.60	3.00	4/	4/
2002	27.80	15.50	8.50	5.30	3.30	4/	4/	4/	26.40	14.50	7.90	4.50	2.80	4/	4/

1/ Data available for the first time in 2001.
2/ Data available for the first time in 2002.
3/ Data not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.
4/ Only available in New England States.
*SOURCE: **Crop Production**, 8:30 a.m., June 11, 2003, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.*

MAPLE SYRUP: Bulk Prices by Grade, 2000 - 2002

State and Year	Bulk					All Sales per Gallon Equivalent Price [1/]
	Grade A			Grades B and C	All Grades	
	Light Amber	Med Amber	Dark Amber			
	Dollars Per Pound [2/]	Dollars Per Pound [2/]	Dollars Per Pound [2/]	Dollars Per Pound [2/]	Dollars Per Pound [2/]	Dollars
Connecticut						
2000	3/	3/	3/	3/	1.10	43.90
2001	N/A	N/A	3/	3/	1.20	45.70
2002	N/A	N/A	N/A	3/	3/	47.20
Maine						
2000	1.16	1.06	.99	.79	1.00	14.20
2001	1.57	1.49	1.43	1.04	1.45	18.70
2002	1.74	1.64	1.57	1.15	1.50	19.40
Massachusetts						
2000	1.62	1.50	1.32	1.16	1.30	37.80
2001	1.88	1.72	3/	1.36	1.40	40.60
2002	1.91	1.78	1.54	1.03	1.50	39.50
New Hampshire						
2000	1.92	1.72	1.42	.95	1.40	38.10
2001	2.14	1.81	1.49	1.14	1.60	40.00
2002	2.08	1.80	1.43	1.08	1.40	41.10
Vermont						
2000	1.83	1.70	1.53	1.30	1.60	30.00
2001	2.20	1.95	1.67	1.33	1.90	30.80
2002	2.02	1.81	1.55	1.27	1.70	27.00
Michigan						
2000	4/	4/	4/	4/	1.80	35.10
2001	4/	4/	4/	4/	1.80	29.70
2002	4/	4/	4/	4/	1.50	32.50
New York						
2000	4/	4/	4/	4/	1.35	29.00
2001	4/	4/	4/	4/	1.40	29.50
2002	4/	4/	4/	4/	1.30	26.30
Ohio						
2000	4/	4/	4/	4/	1.45	34.30
2001	4/	4/	4/	4/	1.55	31.30
2002	4/	4/	4/	4/	1.45	32.30
Pennsylvania						
2000	4/	4/	4/	4/	1.30	28.40
2001	4/	4/	4/	4/	1.40	25.30
2002	4/	4/	4/	4/	1.30	26.70
Wisconsin						
2000	4/	4/	4/	4/	1.40	27.70
2001	4/	4/	4/	4/	1.50	29.20
2002	4/	4/	4/	4/	1.40	29.30

[1/] Average gallon equivalent price is a weighted average across retail, wholesale, and bulk sales.
[2/] For dollars per gallon: multiply dollars per pound by 11.02 pounds per gallon.
[3/] Data not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.
[4/] Only available in New England States.
*SOURCE: **Crop Production**, 8:30 a.m., June 11, 2003, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.*

2003 Comments From Maple Producers, By County

Connecticut - **Fairfield:** I tapped early, but found it was too cold in the beginning. **Hartford:** While I had an early February run, for most of the month of February it was too cold. The end of February and early March produced high quality medium-light syrup. Warm spell in mid-March caused final run to be dark. I could have possibly continued to tap into early April, but I had cleaned-up after March 21 boil and did not want to start over again for another dark run. Late start for me; deep snow cover. Then the weather warmed at night which made the season short. Weather was very strange. Not enough temperature difference during the day for good flow. **Litchfield:** Sap seemed sweeter than normal. Syrup quality very good; much light and medium amber made. Erratic conditions with very few good days. Ice under snow in the woods made collection difficult. Very cold weather delayed start of season by about two weeks. Sap flow after that was very sporadic. **New Haven:** Thaw in December called for earliest tapping in my memory. Sap ran well for 3-4 days. Freeze up in Jan/Feb prevented any collection to speak of. March good sporadically for three weeks. Hard work to get what I did. I didn't pass up December; good quality although no "fancy" grade. Sugar content high; quality of syrup excellent. Started late, ended early. Ran well during season; lots of light syrup. Sap seemed to be very sweet. Continuing cold weather delayed our season here in Southern CT by two to three weeks. Our season was the shortest season ever, but intense. **New London:** Too cold in early season. Tapped very late due to weather. **Tolland:** Trees budded too quick. Deep snow all fall and all winter did not allow the ground to freeze hard. The maples budded as we were ready to tap so we skipped this year. Too cold early. Tapped mid-February but everything was frozen solid until March. Productive season for three weeks; normal is six weeks. Fast and furious! Made it all in three weeks. Cooked around the clock. Cool weather kept bacteria low so grade was higher. **Windham:** Too cold temperature and deep snow. Stayed cold long into March. Once temperatures warmed up, they stayed up. Latest start of season in 31 years. Syrup filtered better than usual. Good flavor syrup.

Maine - **Aroostook:** Best production I have had. Season very different but sap rich. Didn't think I would do well, but I did. Could have had runs later but gave up early! **Cumberland:** Best year ever. Started three weeks late and ran two weeks longer than average. Had taps on vacuum for the first time. Several days the sap ran over all storage tanks and I couldn't begin to keep up. Even non-vacuum taps ran well after March 15. **Franklin:** Bad year; weather conditions no good. **Hancock:** Season started four to six weeks late. Very few (three or four) days with 20 degree nights and 38 degree days. **Kennebec:** Started slow, too cold. Then ended with a big rush. Last ten days were excellent. Had too much sap, couldn't handle it. Syrup was mostly medium and very good quality. A very strange year. Very slow start then it finally happened; one spell of good runs and that was it. **Oxford:** Very cold winter and early spring. Very strange season. My first four cookings produced dark amber syrup. Then it turned light and medium amber finishing in the middle of April with dark amber. Other maple producers in my area had similar syrup. We had over a week of very good runs; couldn't keep up. Weather seemed favorable but sap didn't run real well until the first full week of April. It was one of the best years I have seen in years. **Penobscot:** Slow start then good flow. Syrup dark from start. Latest start in at least 30 years. April was very good sap flows. **Piscataquis:** Cool night and cool days and then warm nights and hot days. The week of April 7th - 10th was perfect but too late. **Somerset:** Had right weather early but the ground was frozen and trees would not run! Cool weather made nice light syrup. Started out real slow. It was looking like another bad season. Then in one week I doubled what I had made in the prior three weeks. Late season! Good quality of light amber collected in April. **Waldo:** Slow start. Made most of my syrup in three days time. Cold start then humongous run the second week of April. **York:** No gathering the first week; too cold. The last week was overwhelming. Some 1200 gallons of sap daily for three consecutive days. Boiled for 72 hours non-stop. Good season but late start and extremely late finish for this area. Fifty percent of syrup was produced between April 9th and April 13th. The most unpredictable weather I've ever seen.

Massachusetts - **Berkshire:** Stayed cold too long and warmed up too quick. Cold in early March until the 15th then lots of snow. Needed snow shoes to tap. Made lots of good flavored dark syrup. March 1st there was three and a half feet of snow on the ground and sap lines were buried. I have never seen a worst year. A lot of snow but not frost under it. When the snow was gone, so was the moisture you need to go up the tree and of course it was very warm. **Franklin:** First the weather was correct but too much snow on the ground. Then the weather was too warm. Later the weather was correct again but buds were present. Excessive deep snow made woods work very difficult. Not much light syrup. Very little sugar sand. Snow real deep and very cold end of February to middle of March. Season was okay for about three or four days then weather became unfavorable. At the beginning of April it turned cold and we got a real good ice storm. There was about half an inch of ice on trees which caused a real good sap flow. Made almost 50 percent of maple crop then, but it was dark syrup. **Hampden:** Stayed cold too long then warmed up too fast. Trees started to bud so we quit. Sap was really sweet; good flavor to syrup before warm spell. Had about three days in three weeks where the sap ran. Did not have temperature fluctuation for sap flow. Good sugar content. There was four and a half inches of snow when tapping season was good but when people thought it was done, we got a second great run. **Hampshire:** We had one very warm week that made very dark syrup but the next week cooled off again and the syrup was much better. We didn't make a whole lot of syrup because we cleaned pans frequently to get decent syrup and the weather was uncooperative. **Middlesex:** What a winter! Cold, cold, cold! **Worcester:** Too cold and then too warm. Started late but ended on time. Too warm during the season. Our season usually starts around February 21, but was unusually cold. Didn't really start running until the week of March 16th - 22nd. Then warmed up, got cold again the second week of April, when it ran for another five days before the warmth hit and the season was over. We usually pull taps in the first week of April and didn't pull them until the 15th. The March sap was unusually sweet to taste.

New Hampshire - **Belknap:** Really sporadic; way too warm then

way too cold. Heavy snow most of the season. Temperatures seemed right but very slow runs from trees. No late February run this year; too cold. Didn't start until March. Ran good the first week of April. The syrup was mostly medium and light; some dark during the warm spell. The season nearly ended in early April but a period of cold weather and snow in mid-April brought heavy/sweet sap; we made good syrup. **Carroll:** Temperatures for sap flow arrived a bit late but roots were still frozen. No real runs, only dribbles, but steady. Best flow first week of April; still nothing great. No light syrup made this year; more dark than usual. It's hard to describe the seasonal temperatures because we had times when it was too warm and other times too cool. It was an unusual year. Didn't get the right combination of night and day temperatures. **Cheshire:** Stayed too cold for sap well into March. When sap finally ran, weather warmed up too fast. Season was saved by a big cool down in late March, early April. Sap run in April was fantastic; made over 40 percent of product in April. **Coos:** Strange! Way too warm early in the season. Then way too cold late in the season. Vacuum was a lifesaver. Made a lot more syrup this year compared to last year. No light syrup; made mostly dark. **Grafton:** Tough season that ended above average. Early season was too cold and then too warm. Snow storms and normal sap weather in early April made the season. Made dark syrup early and light syrup late. Syrup was dark though sugar content was average. Vacuum saved us! Good season. We have buckets; the high-tech stuff didn't work when our buckets did. Season started late (cold) and then warmed up fast; so run was short and dark. Stayed too cold into the middle of March with very few days when the sap ran at all. Then it got too warm and it didn't do much until the beginning of April when we had a week or so of good weather (20's at night to 45 or 50 in the day) when it ran good and that was about it. **Hillsboro:** The weather was too cold for many days, then too hot. Never had cold nights and warm days. Run days were spotty; color was good light to medium. We did not get many good temperature days. Poorest year we can remember in 12 years. Too hot during the day and not enough cold at night. Temperatures remained around 40 degrees and not enough variation. **Merrimack:** Stayed cold too long into March. Started late; March 17th. It warmed up too quick and sap stopped running. Snow storms in April made the season. April 9th - 12th was the best run. The season was quite variable. We boiled only five times with color starting very light then becoming darker then light and finally dark. **Rockingham:** Produced and discarded much "off-flavor" syrup. Heavy salt use near our roadside maples may have had an impact on syrup quality. Strange season. Most frustrating season ever. Too cold early; too warm mid-season. Season opened late and warmed up too early. Best runs occurred late. **Strafford:** We got some very good runs and made some very light syrup then went right back to medium then dark. The weather got too warm. A very strange season to say the least! I think all maple producers learned a lot this year. **Sullivan:** Too much snow; started tapping late. Weather was either too cold or too warm. It was a lousy winter with lots of cold and snow. Cold held on too long and then it got too warm too quick.

Vermont - **Addison:** First two weeks too warm. Best sap flow in early April after snow and cold spell. Too cold for good sap flow for two weeks then warm 60 degrees resulting in darker syrup; usually make mostly fancy grade. Good season; best ever; grade pretty good. The sap didn't even flow when the conditions were right. **Bennington:** It was our latest start ever because of cold conditions in late February and early March. Once the season got going, we had periods where it was either too warm or too cold. We had our best run April 10th - April 14th when we made 45 percent of our crop. Color lightened to fancy during this run before falling back to dark amber. **Caledonia:** Only one good run; too dry at end of season. Too much wind and not enough precipitation. It was too cold in the beginning, then too warm, then got too cold again. Lost a chunk of time in the middle due to no sap running. **Chittenden:** Season started too cold. Once it got warm enough, it didn't freeze at night. We made half our syrup in five days (April 10th - 14th); our one good run! Syrup was much darker than usual. Made no fancy and we usually make a good amount. Unfavorable conditions for those with just gravity and no vacuum. **Essex:** When sugaring first started temperatures went from 20 below zero to 60 degrees above for about a week with no freezing nights. This caused us to start off with dark syrup. We ended up with pretty much a full crop, but was dark syrup. The nights were perfect but the daytime temperatures weren't quite warm enough. We had a cold snap in late April after the snow was gone and the frost was out of the ground. I thought the sap would really run, but the first day it didn't get quite warm enough for sap to start and the second day the wind was in the south and it didn't run. Then it never froze again. Sap ran so slow it was dark. **Franklin:** Too cold at first then too warm too quick at the end. Made no fancy to speak of; lots of medium to dark syrup. Even though we didn't receive any large quantities of sap (due to weather conditions), we had a favorable season. More precipitation and a couple of degrees warmer on several occasions could have made a significant impact on the amount of syrup produced. The season was different, as always. No two years are the same. The only thing that saved our crop was the new pipe line and vacuum system. **Lamoile:** Production way down. We usually make 75 percent fancy; no fancy this year; flavor good but dark. Either it was too cold or too warm this year. Our first couple of times boiling, syrup was medium and off flavor. From the third day on, it turned to fancy with a favorable flavor. Once the weather was warm, the sap flow was more intense and resulted in light syrup with a good flavor. Very poor sap flow for most of the season. It was favorable for short periods of time but then it would get too warm and then too cold for too long. Never got a succession of freezing nights after warm days. **Orange:** Good flavor, but dark. Runs were small. When it finally warmed up, it got too warm and then was too cool for two weeks. Had one good run in April with lightest syrup; no fancy but good flavor. Weather was strange; season started late after a very cold winter. Only had one good run. **Orleans:** Too warm early and then ten cold days but no sap. Then excellent runs and light colored syrup. Flavor was excellent throughout the season. Vacuum systems made a significant difference to improve production. One good run on April 10th; the rest of the season was too cold or too warm. We made dark syrup at first, but a lot of fancy later. It was the first time ever that the first run was not fancy grade. Producers with tubing and vacuum made normal or above normal crops in our area. Those on buckets or just tubing usually came out with below normal crops. Weak sap flow; "weeping runs" some folks called them. **Rutland:** Too cold until April 1st and then it warmed up rapidly. Only a few nights below freezing. Latest that I have finished sugaring ever. Deep snow in some woods; never did get all taps in.

Sap just drizzled; no good runs. The weather never really got into a good pattern for optimum sap production. It was either too cold or too warm. Strange year! **Washington:** Year started late and with dark A syrup. Our sap flows were erratic; would shut down for days and then start up again. We were pleasantly surprised to see flow pick up in April and lighten up to a medium. Vacuum was essential; nature was not good for sap this year. Every year seems to leave it's peculiarities, but this year was one of the strangest I can recall in over 30 years of sugaring. First it started out very dark, then too cold for a few days. The next run it started to get lighter and after a warm day, it got cold again for several more days but resumed dark again and worked our way up to medium when it quit again. It kept going this way and we never quite got up to fancy. Our best run was the last from April 10th - 13th, otherwise it would've been real bad quantity wise also. Crazy year; never had a good run! **Windham:** Too cold with too much snow followed closely by too warm with too much sun. Boiled more sap in April than in March. Not a very good year; temperature was not favorable. **Windsor:** A lot of good flavored dark syrup. This was a good year to have vacuum. It was a long season here. We had a lot of frost mornings but not cold enough to make a run.

This report is taken from the June issue of the National Crop Production report published by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service at 8:30 a.m. on June 11, 2003. This annual report includes prices received for the previous year's crop and production for this year's crop. All National reports and State-level newsletters, such as this, are available on the Internet.

National Reports can be ordered by calling 1-800-999-6779.

How can you get these reports electronically?

* All National reports and State newsletters are available on the Internet at: ***http://www.usda.gov/nass/***
* For free National e-mail reports, send a message to: ***usda-reports@usda.mannlib.cornell.edu***
  and in the body, type: ***lists***
* For free State newsletters, such as this, send a message to: ***listserv@newsbox.usda.gov***
  and in the body, type: ***subscribe new-eng-all-reports*** *OR* ***lists*** *for other States.*
* *All reports and newsletters are available on the Canadian Internet at:* ***http://www.agr.gc.ca/misb/hort/maple_eng.html****.*

AUBREY R. DAVIS*, Director* ***Judy Price,*** *Editorial Assistant* ***JOE SAMSON,*** *Deputy Director*
AGRICULTURAL STATISTICIAN: Angela Considine