



Maple Syrup

June 14, 1993

SHORT AND BITTER SWEET SEASON FOR MAPLE PRODUCERS

Maple syrup production in New England for 1993 totaled 532,000 gallons, down 39 percent from last year. Vermont remained the leading state in New England and nationwide, with 58 percent of the region's production and 31 percent of the total U.S. output.

1993 production was down from 1992 across all states in the New England region. The largest drop in production was noticed in Vermont with a 46 percent decrease in production to 310,000 gallons. Massachusetts and New Hampshire producers followed with 34 and 30 percent decreases in production, respectively. Maine producers made 26 percent less syrup than 1992, while Connecticut decreased their output by 17 percent to 10,000 gallons.

New England's 1993 sugaring season lasted approximately 23 days, 2 weeks shorter than the 1992 season. The average opening dates were March 1 in Connecticut, March 13 in Massachusetts, March 20 in New Hampshire, March 23 in Maine and March 24 in Vermont. Most areas experienced short sap runs due to extremely cold temperatures early in the season and warm temperatures late in the season. All New England producers were affected by abnormally high snowfall amounts. Many producers in northern areas could not get into their sugarbush to tap the trees. Some producers reported that extensive damage to tubing lines was caused by pests and late winter storms. The average closing dates were April 4 in Connecticut, April 7 in Massachusetts, April 10 in New Hampshire and Vermont, and April 11 in Maine.

The sweetness of sap in New England remained the same as in 1992 as indicated by the average sap/syrup ratio of 40 gallons. However, some areas experienced unusually sweet conditions. The color of syrup in the region was reported to be mostly medium amber, with equal amounts of dark and light. Maine producers reported equal amounts of medium and dark syrup.

The value of New England's 1993 maple syrup production is expected to total \$11.5 million. This value is a 44 percent decrease from 1992 for the five New England

states. A surplus of syrup on the market from past years has contributed to the price decrease even though production dropped nearly 40 percent from 1992.

The 1993 U.S. maple syrup production totaled 1.01 million gallons, down 39 percent from last year. The estimated crop value is \$22.3 million, down 43 percent from last year. The U.S. estimate consists of the ten major producing states.

Maple syrup production varied widely across the U.S. New York producers experienced record low production. Midwestern producers had the only favorable sap conditions this year compared to the poor season in the northeast. Sap sweetness was near normal across most states with approximately 40 gallons of sap required to produce one gallon of syrup. Ohio and Pennsylvania were the exceptions with about a 45:1 sap/syrup ratio.

**MAPLE SYRUP: Production and Value,
1992 - 1993**

STATE	Production		Value	
	1992	1993	1992	1993
	1,000 Gallons		1,000 Dollars	
Connecticut	12	10	504	344
Maine	153	113	2,433	1,695
Massachusetts	50	33	1,740	983
New Hampshire	94	66	3,093	1,848
Vermont	570	310	12,711	6,634
NEW ENGLAND^{1/}	879	532	20,481	11,504
Michigan	85	75	2,533	1,995
Minnesota ^{2/}	12		328	
New York	400	180	9,360	4,158
Ohio	55	75	1,590	1,815
Pennsylvania	95	40	2,337	908
Wisconsin ^{3/}	115	105	2,496	1,932
U.S.	1,641	1,007	39,125	22,312

^{1/} New England includes CT, ME, MA, NH, VT

^{2/} Estimates discontinued after 1992

^{3/} 1992 revised

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The forecasted value of New England's 1994 maple syrup crop based on grower expectations is \$16.8 million. This is a 30 percent increase from the 1993 total value of \$12.9 million for the five New England states. The forecasted average price per gallon for New England syrup across retail, wholesale, and bulk markets is \$23.80 which is down 50 cents from last year's price of \$24.30.

UNITED STATES: U.S. Maple syrup production in 1994 totaled 1.32 million gallons, up 31 percent from last year. The forecasted crop value is \$30.9 million, up 31 percent from 1993. The U.S. estimate now consists of the 10 major producing states shown on page 1. (Minnesota estimates were discontinued after 1992.)

Maple syrup production in 1994 was up across the entire nation. Producers in the mid-west had a slow start to the season due to the cold winter and deep snow but most producers felt they had a good season overall. New York's production increased 39 percent over last season to 251,000 gallons, ranking them second to Vermont in production.

1993 PRICES AND SALES: Average gallon equivalent prices for 1993 maple syrup across retail, wholesale, and bulk sales varied across the region. Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Vermont all sales equivalent prices increased to \$43.20, \$35.50, and \$24.00 from 1992 figures of \$42.00, \$32.90, and \$22.30 respectively. Maine and Massachusetts prices dropped to \$14.30 and \$33.70 from 1992 prices of \$15.90 and \$34.80, respectively.

Urban market sales in Connecticut and increased retail sales in New Hampshire and Vermont were factors in the price increases. Depressed Canadian syrup prices in the bulk market depressed prices in Maine while an increase in wholesale sales decreased gallon equivalent prices in Massachusetts. The 1993 gallon equivalent price of \$24.30 across all New England states increased 4 percent over 1992 price of \$23.30.

MAPLE SYRUP: Sales Percentages, 1992 - 1993

TYPE OF SALE	Connecticut		Maine		Massachusetts		New Hampshire		Vermont	
	1992	1993	1992	1993	1992	1993	1992	1993	1992	1993
	Percent									
Retail	90	85	8	6	70	65	55	60	31	35
Wholesale	10	10	2	2	10	15	30	25	16	20
Bulk	-	5	90	92	20	20	15	15	53	45

MAPLE SYRUP: Prices by Type of Sales and Size of Container, 1992 - 1993

STATE & YEAR	Retail					Wholesale					Bulk				All Sales equiv per gallon
	Gal	½ Gal	Quart	Pint	½ Pint	Gal	½ Gal	Quart	Pint	½ Pint	Grade A			Grade B & C	
											light amber	med amber	dark amber		
----- Dollars Per Container -----											----- Dollars Per Pound -----			Dollars	
Connecticut															
1992	33.20	19.60	10.20	6.30	4.00	^{1/}	15.70	9.20	5.10	3.05	-	-	-	-	42.00
1993	33.80	19.50	10.90	6.55	4.25	^{1/}	16.20	8.40	5.00	3.20	-	-	^{1/}	^{1/}	43.20
Maine															
1992	31.60	17.90	9.75	5.50	3.55	19.40	14.00	7.85	4.20	2.60	1.30	1.20	1.10	.95	15.90
1993	31.30	17.00	9.40	5.50	3.15	22.60	13.30	7.10	4.20	2.50	-	1.30	1.10	.95	14.30
Massachusetts															
1992	32.40	18.70	10.80	6.40	3.75	21.90	17.60	8.50	5.10	2.90	1.20	1.15	1.05	1.00	34.80
1993	31.40	17.60	10.10	6.25	4.15	24.90	14.80	8.10	4.85	2.80	1.55	1.35	1.20	1.00	33.70
New Hampshire															
1992	31.40	18.00	10.80	6.30	3.70	21.70	12.30	6.85	4.10	2.90	1.25	1.15	1.10	1.00	32.90
1993	31.00	17.20	10.40	6.10	3.60	23.00	14.10	8.20	4.60	2.75	1.65	1.50	1.25	1.00	35.50
Vermont															
1992	26.70	16.00	9.50	6.00	3.70	21.80	13.40	7.15	4.65	2.75	1.20	1.15	1.10	1.05	22.30
1993	26.60	16.00	9.50	5.90	3.85	20.40	13.80	7.85	4.55	2.90	1.55	1.40	1.25	1.05	24.00

^{1/} Data withheld to prevent disclosure of individual operations

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