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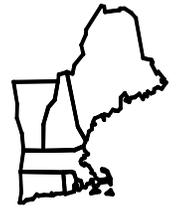
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MAPLE SYRUP

June 14, 2001

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 15 PERCENT NATIONWIDE

UNITED STATES: U.S. maple syrup production in 2001 totaled 1.05 million gallons, down 15 percent from last year and 12 percent below 1999. The preliminary value of production was placed at \$28.2 million, a decrease of 17 percent from 2000 and a decrease of 14 percent from 1999. The U.S. estimate consists of the ten major producing states.

Vermont led the U.S. in production with 275,000 gallons of syrup, a decrease of 40 percent from last season. Maine's production, at 200,000 gallons, decreased 20 percent from 2000. New York was the third leading state with production of 193,000 gallons, down 8 percent from last year. Production declines in these three States were attributed to very cold temperatures which limited good sap flow and syrup production. Ohio produced 96,000 gallons, almost triple last year's estimate of 34,000 gallons. Temperatures in Ohio were mostly favorable with warm days and cold nights enhancing sap flow.

Temperatures were generally favorable for good sap flow and syrup production in Connecticut, Michigan, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. In all other producing States, temperatures were unfavorable. Overall, the season lasted an average of 29 days. This compares to 27 days in 2000 and 31 days in 1999. Season length ranged from 25 days in both Maine and New Hampshire to 35 days in Connecticut.

Sugar content of the sap was better than the previous year as approximately 41 gallons of sap was required to produce a gallon of syrup. This is in contrast with 46 gallons of sap to produce one gallon of syrup in 2000. The majority of the syrup produced was medium-amber in color. More light syrup was produced than a year ago.

NEW ENGLAND (excluding Rhode Island): In New England, maple syrup production for 2001 totaled 563,000 gallons, down 32 percent from last year. This was the smallest maple syrup crop produced in the region since 1993. Vermont remained the largest producing state in New England and the nation, with 49 percent of the region's production and 26 percent of the total United States syrup.

In the five New England states, the 2001 maple season was rated too cold for optimum production. Output from all states, except Connecticut, fell below the previous year. Temperatures were reported to be 58 percent too cold, 31 percent favorable, and 22 percent too warm, reducing yields in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. Most reports indicated that there was too much snow to gather sap. The sugar content of the sap was slightly above average, requiring approximately 39 gallons of sap to produce a gallon of syrup. The majority of the syrup produced was medium-amber in color, with an even amount of light and dark syrup produced. Opening dates for each state averaged as follows: Connecticut - February 22, Massachusetts - March 9, New Hampshire - March 15, Vermont - March 17, and Maine - March 19. Average closing dates were: Connecticut - March 29, Massachusetts - April 6, New Hampshire - April 9, Maine - April 13, and Vermont - April 14.

The preliminary value of New England's 2001 maple syrup crop, based on grower expectations for the five states surveyed, is \$15.1 million, a 31 percent reduction from the 2000 total value of \$22.0 million. The preliminary average equivalent price per gallon for New England syrup across retail, wholesale and bulk markets is \$26.85, 1 percent higher than the 2000 final price.

2000 PRICES AND SALES: Across New England, the average equivalent price per gallon for 2000 maple syrup varied widely depending on the percentage sold retail, wholesale or bulk. The 2000 all sales equivalent increased \$1.10 in Connecticut to \$43.90, \$0.70 in New Hampshire to \$38.10, and \$1.00 in Vermont to \$30.00. The all sales equivalent decreased \$5.20 in Maine to \$14.20 and \$1.00 in Massachusetts to \$37.80. As expected, Maine continues to have a low gallon equivalent price due to the large percentage of bulk sales. From 1999 to 2000, the drop in price for Maine was extreme, due to an overabundance of syrup in Quebec which influenced the Maine bulk syrup market. New England's 2000 gallon equivalent price of \$26.46 reflects a slight decrease from the 1999 price of \$27.90.

MAPLE SYRUP: Production, Price and Value, 1999 - 2001

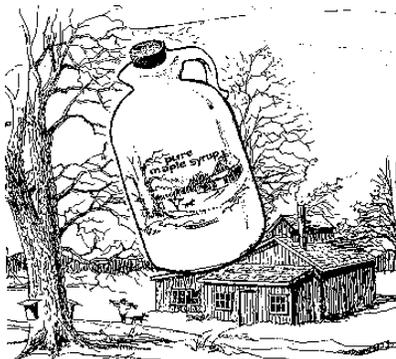
STATE	Production			Average Gallon Equivalent Price of All Sales ^{1/}			Value of Production		
	1999	2000	2001	1999	2000	2001 ^{2/}	1999	2000	2001 ^{2/}
	1,000 Gallons			Dollars			1,000 Dollars		
Connecticut	13	7	9	42.80	43.90	45.00	556	307	405
Maine	195	250	200	19.40	14.20	15.00	3,783	3,550	3,000
Massachusetts	44	39	34	38.80	37.80	38.00	1,707	1,474	1,292
New Hampshire	61	75	45	37.40	38.10	39.00	2,281	2,858	1,755
Vermont	370	460	275	29.00	30.00	31.50	10,730	13,800	8,663
NEW ENGLAND ^{3/}	683	831	563	27.90	26.46	26.85	19,057	21,989	15,115
Michigan	73	44	60	28.20	35.10	31.40	2,058	1,544	1,884
New York	195	210	193	27.30	29.00	26.00	5,324	6,090	5,018
Ohio	95	34	96	30.00	34.30	28.60	2,850	1,166	2,746
Pennsylvania	67	47	69	26.00	28.40	25.40	1,742	1,335	1,753
Wisconsin	75	65	68	23.70	27.70	25.10	1,778	1,800	1,707
UNITED STATES	1,188	1,231	1,049	27.60	27.60	26.90	32,809	33,924	28,223

^{1/} Average gallon equivalent price 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 3 for retail gallon average prices.**

^{2/} 2001 price and value are preliminary and based on grower expectations during April and May 2001.

^{3/} New England includes CT, ME, MA, NH, VT

SOURCE: **Crop Production**, 8:30 am, June 12, 2001, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.



MAPLE SYRUP: Sales Percentages, New England, 1999 - 2000

TYPE OF SALE	Connecticut		Maine		Massachusetts		New Hampshire		Vermont	
	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000
	Percent									
Retail	75	75	10	5	70	65	70	75	40	45
Wholesale	15	15	5	5	20	25	15	10	15	15
Bulk	10	10	85	90	10	10	15	15	45	40

SOURCE: **Crop Production**, 8:30 am, June 12, 2001, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MAPLE SYRUP: Sales Percentages, Other States, 1999 - 2000

TYPE OF SALE	Michigan		New York		Ohio		Pennsylvania		Wisconsin	
	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000
	Percent									
Retail	45	62	47	45	58	68	52	53	52	47
Wholesale & Bulk	55	38	53	55	42	32	48	47	48	53

SOURCE: **Crop Production**, 8:30 am, June 12, 2001, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

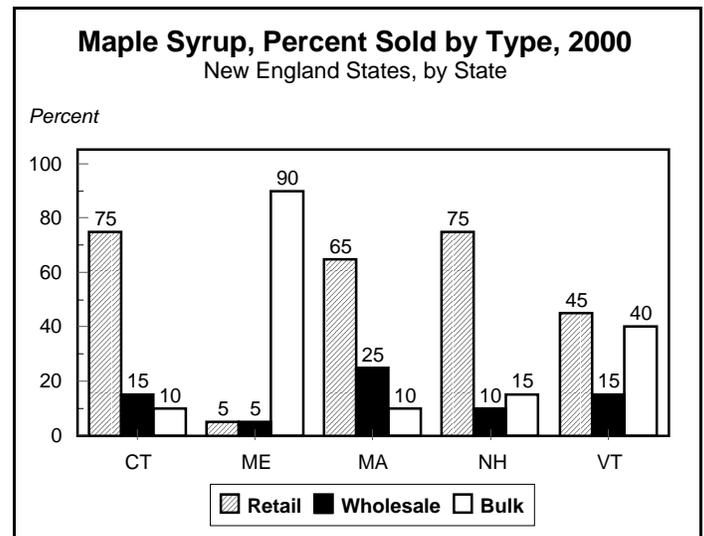
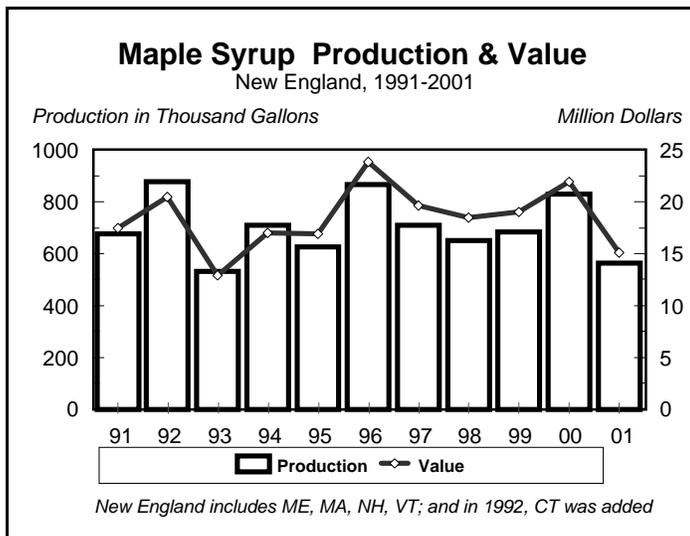
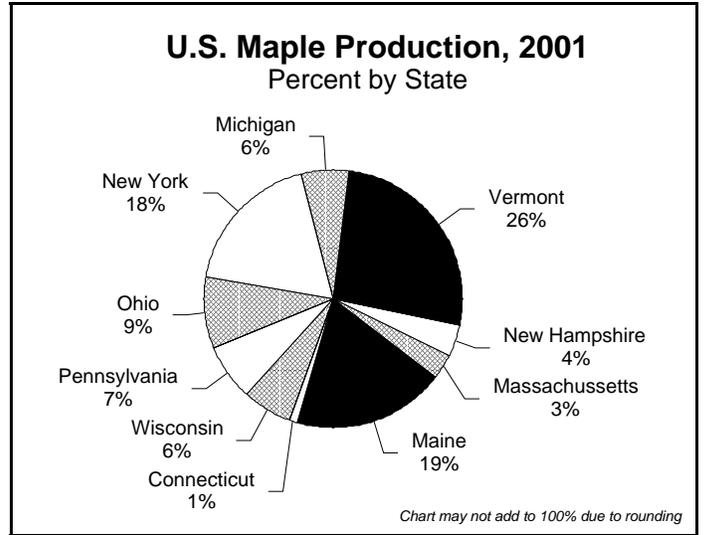
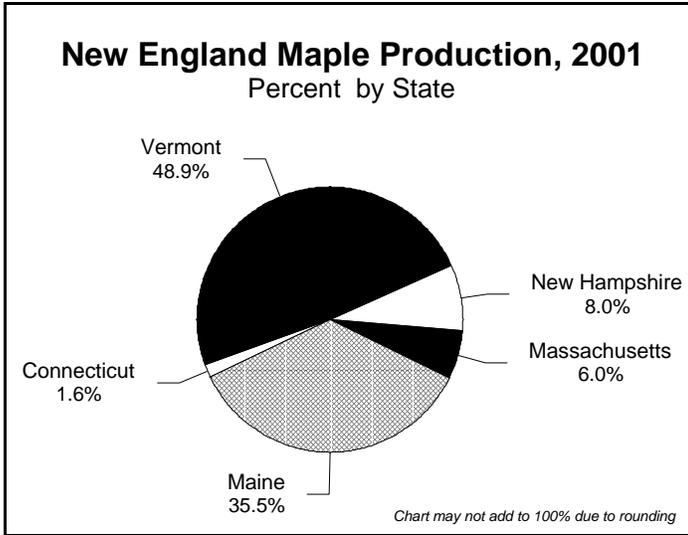
MAPLE SYRUP: Prices by Type of Sales and Size of Container, 1999 - 2001 ^{1/}

STATE & YEAR	Retail						Wholesale						Bulk					All Sales per gallon equivalent price ^{2/}
	Gal	1/2 Gal	Qt	Pt	1/2 Pt	3.4 oz (100 ml)	Gal	1/2 Gal	Qt	Pt	1/2 Pt	3.4 oz (100 ml)	Grade A			Grade B & C	All Grades	
													light amber	med amber	dark amber			
Dollars Per Container												Dollars Per Pound ^{3/}					Dollars Per Gallon	
Connecticut																		
1999	36.40	20.60	12.00	7.00	4.70	2.25	30.20	16.90	9.10	5.30	3.45	1.55	--	1.81	1.48	1.27	1.40	42.80
2000	36.70	20.10	11.70	7.30	4.60	2.50	--	18.00	9.10	5.60	3.50	1.70	--	--	--	--	1.10	43.90
2001 ^{4/}	37.50	21.20	12.10	7.40	4.50	2.40	--	16.90	9.10	5.50	3.40	1.70	--	--	--	--	--	45.00
Maine																		
1999	29.00	15.70	9.50	5.50	3.70	2.15	26.80	14.50	8.00	4.70	3.65	1.55	1.50	1.46	1.40	1.32	1.45	19.40
2000	31.60	17.90	10.00	6.20	4.50	2.30	24.50	13.20	7.50	4.60	3.50	--	1.16	1.06	.99	.79	1.00	14.20
2001 ^{4/}	32.20	18.10	10.70	6.90	4.50	2.40	26.50	14.40	7.80	4.70	3.50	--	1.18	1.11	1.00	.84	1.07	15.00
Massachusetts																		
1999	34.20	20.00	11.40	6.50	4.15	2.40	26.90	15.40	8.50	4.65	3.00	1.40	1.97	1.53	1.43	1.19	1.50	38.80
2000	33.90	19.20	11.20	6.70	4.10	2.10	28.60	15.70	9.00	5.10	3.00	1.50	1.62	1.50	1.32	1.16	1.30	37.80
2001 ^{4/}	34.30	19.40	11.30	6.70	4.10	1.90	28.80	16.10	9.00	5.20	3.30	--	--	--	--	--	--	38.00
New Hampshire																		
1999	33.50	19.00	11.20	6.50	4.00	2.25	29.40	15.70	8.60	5.00	3.00	2.10	1.91	1.72	1.58	1.20	1.55	37.40
2000	33.90	18.80	11.30	6.60	3.90	2.60	23.70	15.50	8.30	4.90	2.90	2.40	1.92	1.72	1.42	.95	1.40	38.10
2001 ^{4/}	34.10	19.60	11.30	6.70	3.90	2.60	24.40	15.60	9.10	4.90	2.80	2.20	---	1.81	1.41	.87	--	39.00
Vermont																		
1999	30.70	18.10	10.50	6.70	4.30	2.55	25.40	15.40	8.60	5.15	3.25	2.95	1.95	1.84	1.70	1.48	1.80	29.00
2000	31.60	18.00	10.50	6.60	4.30	2.60	26.40	15.30	8.60	5.10	3.40	--	1.83	1.70	1.53	1.30	1.60	30.00
2001 ^{4/}	33.20	18.90	11.10	7.00	4.50	2.80	27.90	16.50	9.40	5.30	3.50	--	2.08	1.91	1.64	1.37	1.85	31.50
Michigan																		
1999	31.50	17.40	9.60	6.00	4.10	--	26.10	15.50	8.30	4.40	3.00	--	--	--	--	--	1.50	28.20
2000	32.00	18.50	9.70	6.10	4.00	--	29.50	15.60	7.60	4.50	2.50	--	--	--	--	--	1.80	35.10
New York																		
1999	29.70	16.60	9.35	5.95	3.65	--	25.50	14.80	7.90	4.70	2.05	--	--	--	--	--	1.35	27.30
2000	28.10	16.50	9.80	6.35	3.95	--	24.30	14.20	7.65	4.55	2.75	--	--	--	--	--	1.35	29.00
Ohio																		
1999	29.00	16.60	10.10	6.30	4.10	--	26.20	14.30	8.20	5.10	3.65	--	--	--	--	--	1.80	30.00
2000	28.80	16.60	9.90	6.10	4.40	--	27.20	15.00	8.50	5.40	3.70	--	--	--	--	--	1.45	34.30
Pennsylvania																		
1999	27.50	16.10	9.25	5.76	3.60	--	26.70	14.40	8.28	5.06	3.15	--	--	--	--	--	1.40	26.00
2000	29.00	17.00	9.90	5.80	3.60	--	27.10	14.90	8.20	4.70	2.90	--	--	--	--	--	1.30	28.40
Wisconsin																		
1999	27.20	15.10	8.00	4.80	3.20	--	27.10	14.90	7.90	4.60	2.80	--	--	--	--	--	1.50	23.70
2000	27.60	15.20	8.10	4.10	2.40	--	25.30	14.50	8.40	4.30	2.70	--	--	--	--	--	1.40	27.70

^{1/} Dashes in table indicate data not published to prevent disclosure of individual operations.
^{2/} Average gallon equivalent price is a weighted average across retail, wholesale, and bulk sales.
^{3/} For dollars per gallon: multiply dollars per pound by 11.02 pounds per gallon
^{4/} 2001 data is preliminary and weighted based on 2000 container sales; only available for New England states.

SOURCE: Crop Production, 8:30 am, June 12, 2001, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.





2001 Comments From Maple Producers, By County

CONNECTICUT - Fairfield: The two weeks at the end of February and beginning of March were too cold and there was too much snow for the sap to flow. The weather conditions and quality were very good throughout March.

Hartford: The 2001 sugaring season was very late to start and physically difficult due to heavy snow cover and cold weather conditions. Cold weather conditions in February resulted in no runs during the month. Moderate flow began the second week of March. Overcast and cool temperatures provided a long season of slow sap flows. For the most part, dark amber syrup was made. An above average year.

Litchfield: Deep snow early in the season kept the ground from thawing and mud later made sap collection difficult. Minimal sap flows were received from mid-February through mid-March. Good sap weather was late in arriving and with reasonable temperatures, sap flowed slowly and steady for the most part of four weeks, running six days later than normal. Good syrup conditions produced good tasting and good quality syrup all season. It was a perfect season.

Middlesex: A bit too cold during the first three weeks, perfect middle period, and a bit warmer at the end. **New Haven:** Moderately cold late into the season. Unable to tap all trees due to snow depth from the more than usual snow fall. Late season produced dark syrup, but very good flavor.

New London: Long periods of extreme cold during the day and warmer nights decreased the sap flow. A very slow season. **Tolland:** Snow storms in March created problems in putting out taps. Good weather temperatures. Sap flowed through to the last week of March, but was minimal.

Windham: Cold the first half of the season, along with lots of snow made tapping difficult. Tapped twelve days later than normal in the last three weeks. Produced a total of 85 percent of the lightest color syrup in many years. Good syrup flavor.

MAINE - Androscoggin: Snowfall reached five feet around some trees making tapping difficult. Sap tubing was covered for days at a time. **Aroostook:** First two weeks of the season were too cold for the sap to flow. The last two weeks were excellent. Sugar content average. Some areas had only three good days, but the other days had very poor runs. **Cumberland:** Deep snow and weather, just a little too cold, negatively affected what should have been a very good year. **Franklin:** Despite good temperatures, with more than five feet of snow on the ground, the season got

off to a slow start and the trees didn't warm up to run sap. Weather turned warm early. Syrup started running dark, then light, but mostly remained a medium color. **Hancock:** Unusual weather for coastal Maine, with snow on the ground from early December until after the season ended.

Kennebec: Snow too deep to get all trees tapped. Good runs between March 30 and April 8. Boiled every day during this period. **Lincoln:** Late start due to cold and deep snow. In some areas, the ground was too cold and slow warming up or too cold and windy at the start. After that, good temperatures and one of the best years. Highest production. **Oxford:** Very heavy snow covers of three feet on the ground at start and two feet still there at the end, made collecting difficult and prevented the trees from running properly. Syrup production averaged 50 percent. The syrup made was very high quality in color and taste. In other areas, it was a very late start and there was too much snow. Cold weather and heavy snowfall in March prevented earlier tapping and reduced the number of taps possible. Plastic tubing was buried, so only buckets were used. **Penobscot:** Late starting season this year, resulted in two excellent sap flow periods. **Piscataquis:** Damage to some trees from an October snowstorm and extreme cold, with warmer than usual nights resulted in a lack of good runs. Expected a lot more sap. **Sagadahoc:** During the first part of the season, the nights were too warm and the ground was not frozen. Deep snow made collecting difficult. The last week of March and first week of April were favorable. Syrup darkened quickly. Started late and stopped too soon. **Somerset:** Worst March in 50 years of business. Too much snow and so cold that the trees never really warmed up to run. Deep snow, placed less taps this year. Syrup quality was mostly dark syrup, with some medium. Very short and poor season. **Waldo:** Many feet of snow and great sap runs made for a challenging season for collecting. Used snowshoes to reach and pull up dried taps. **Washington:** Snow conditions were excellent this spring and the temperature was good. **York:** Snowfall during March totaled 62 inches, making tapping very difficult. Tapped three weeks later than most years. Night time lows were warm, but despite this little sap ran. The warm temperatures made for slightly darker syrup than usual which was aggravated by a high boil down rate. Very late and short season for southern Maine.

MASSACHUSETTS - Berkshire: Good even flows, but never any really big sap runs. Cold, north wind, and too much snow reduced production. **Franklin:** Snow cover was very deep. Used snowshoes to collect and even then it was difficult. Unable to tap all trees. Start was too cool, then a rush and an abrupt stop. High quality sap produced better color, light to medium, and a sweeter, excellent taste than last year. **Hampden:** Short, cold, windy season, with over four feet of snow. Snowshoes were used to collect sap. The sap ran good for a short time, then slowed. Sap was sweeter this year. Good sugar content, but season was too cold and then too warm. Ended with lots of snow but no sap. **Hampshire:** Snow was very deep and first it was too cold, then it failed to freeze at night. Finally ran well after most of the holes had dried out and healed up. The season was very poor, but overall crop was saved by an incredible two and a half day sap run leading up to the March 30th snow storm. Half the crop was made in those two days. **Middlesex:** Absolutely terrible, the sap never seemed to run. **Worcester:** Too much snow. Very short season. Most of the sap came in the last week of the season. In some areas, sap flow was good although cold nighttime temperatures did adversely affect the runs. Sap flow was slow and taps dried out before season ended. The season was late and slow, but with good sugar content. Quality was excellent.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Belknap: Season started late, with heavy snow, then got too warm at night. Snow was still on the ground when run stopped. Pulled taps second week of April. Poorest season ever. **Carroll:** Weather seemed ideal, however, snow totaled 36 inches in the sugarbush at the start of the season. No hard freezes at night. No runs, just dribbled all season. Quality good. **Cheshire:** Have not seen a season like this one in 49 years, with no sustained runs, just short spurts. Too much snow and not enough temperature change resulted in difficulty installing and maintaining tubing. Severe snow storms covered lines twice, some breakage in lines and lost sap. Buckets ran well, with low sap volume, but higher than normal sugar content. Season ended abruptly and taps appeared dried out. **Coos:** Much too cold for most of the season. Deep snow resulted in digging out mainlines many times or not being able to tap trees. Thaw occurred second week of April, but sap still wouldn't run. Never had a good run. Use of vacuum on the orchard at the end of the season, resulted in production almost as good as an average year without vacuum. Hard work for so little syrup. Sap was very sweet. Quality of syrup was very high. **Grafton:** Weather was too cold early in the season with deep snow.

Later in the season when the weather was ideal for sap runs, trees quit running, even with the snow, 20 degree nights and warm days. Tap holes had dried out. Never got a good run of sap. Extreme amounts of sugar sand. Sap turned milky. **Hillsborough:** Not quite cold enough most nights. Too much snow. **Merrimack:** Season started one month late and went a week later than normal. Too cold and deep snow cover, with no night freezing early in the season. Good conditions later in the season. A number of days with favorable temperature for sap flow, but sap did not run. Never got a big run. Warmed up in early April. **Rockingham:** Poor year with no cold nights or warm days. Deep snow made sap collection difficult. Very few insects present during late season. Season was late in starting, but was excellent for approximately two weeks. Quality was great. **Sullivan:** Worst season ever. Four feet of snow, which never melted away from the trees, insulating the trees and roots, and keeping them from freezing and thawing. Few real freezes once the season began, with very little temperature fluctuation. Never more than 50 percent of what we would consider a good days run, even when the weather seemed perfect.

VERMONT - Addison: Season began late due to record snowfall in March and ended too soon when the snow melted. Deep snow covered lines causing them to stay frozen. Some lines were placed so high that workers had to climb up to get the lines down to wash. Worked very hard to make a little syrup. The snow was too deep and didn't expose the base of the trees until it was too late. Sap runs were average to small and the snow was deep. The high elevation producers had a poor year. We had another good year. **Bennington:** Deep snow, too cool in late February and early March. Unable to hang roadside buckets because of deep snow. A good run from March 29-April 4. No freezing nights after April 4. Started late, but ended about same time as other years. Two large snow storms prevented us from tapping all of our trees. No real good sap runs. Couldn't get into woods to service lines. Sweetest sap yet. **Caledonia:** Too much snow around trees, not allowing for proper winter thaw. Snow didn't melt around trees until April 11th, and by then temperatures didn't get below freezing. Trees ran very little sap until April 14-20. Lots of snow but no good runs. Wind blew too much for a good flow most of the time. Too cold early in the season and then too warm in mid and late season with minimal amount of freezing nights. **Chittenden:** Snow pack made gathering difficult and kept sugarbush cool throughout the season. Great temperatures a few days, but the north wind stopped the flow. Sap lines were buried and snow was

too deep. Only had one good, very sweet sap run all season long. Season was too late, did not bother to tap. **Essex:** Poorest season ever for some. Abundance of snow, six feet, and ice caused extensive damage to pipelines resulting in not being able to tap trees. Needed more wet snow showers with the freezing nights. No temperature changes between night and day. Hard work for so little sap. **Franklin:** Too much snow around trees. Couldn't tap trees. Stayed too cold for too long, then warmed up too fast and stayed too warm. Large snow storms kept burying lines. Seasonal snow accumulations totaled 12 feet. The fact that the ground never froze and the amount of snow received really affected the seasons product. The snow was so deep, getting to the sugar house was difficult. It was impossible to tap with buckets on snowshoes. Pipelines were buried about four feet under the snow. Sap just didn't run. It was a total disaster. Had a very bad year fighting the snow and trying to keep the lines free of snow. Season squeezed down to three weeks. Boiled nearly every day. Daytime temperatures only in the mid-30's but had quite good sap flow. Conditions more favorable for buckets than pipeline. Syrup color very light. Made only small amounts of dark at very end. Sugar sand was heavy but coarse and did not impede filtration. The temperature seemed to be right, but the sap did not flow. **Lamoille:** Excessive snow of up to five feet in some areas resulted in high operational costs. Pipes had to be shoveled out. Either the trees didn't freeze under the snow line or they didn't thaw. Month of March was too cool and the month of April brought unfavorable weather. Probably the worst season, production wise. The sap did not flow or runs were small all season. Early part of the season the nights were cold enough but the days were too cold, and the middle and late parts of the season the nights didn't get cold enough. **Orange:** The season was short. The early part of the season was too cool and brought too much snow. Mid-season the trees dried up from lack of moisture. Although the evenings were below freezing and the days sunny, it

was too windy. Conditions were just not right for good sap flow. Snow too deep so roots were not exposed to elements. Worst year I've seen in 30 years of doing maple production, too much ice and snow around trees. It was a lot of work on snowshoes and not worth it. **Orleans:** Heavy snow fall in March combined with cooler than ideal temperatures in late March through mid-April and cold northwest winds resulted in a poor season. Snow was so deep in some areas that trees could not be reached to tap. Temperatures were not conducive to a good sap flow. The trees hardly produced any sap. Way too much snow, had to shovel lines out continuously. **Rutland:** Deep snow with cold weather, no moisture in the ground and a lack of freezing nights from until late March and early April, resulted in very little sap flow in early March. Trees were tapped later than usual, with only a three week season. Although it was a poor year, the sap quality was good. Sap was about 50 percent sweeter than last year, but the volume was low. Syrup was above average in flavor and color. Sap flowed well but not long enough. **Washington:** Season started two and a half weeks later, ran erratically, and shut down early due to extreme cold and snowfalls, some areas up to seven feet. Pipelines need to be shoveled out several times. Snow shoes had to be used to reach the trees. Extremely difficult season. No big sap run this year, although there were many small runs. **Windham:** Very poor year. Deep snow cover insulated the trees during the best temperature changes delaying and shortening the season. Trees did not have a good run of sap. Sap was sweet and the flavor was good. Too much snow around the trees, never had a good sap run. **Windsor:** A disappointing year. The sap ran only about half as good as it could. Some sap was lost to broken lines buried in the deep snow before they could be dig out. No real runs. Had three to four feet of snow in woods, only ran one gallon of sap/tap for the year. Same bush last year gave over 10 gallons of sap/tap for the year. We lost a lot of sap from squirrels damaging lines.



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 12, 2001. This annual report includes prices received for the previous year's crop and production & expected prices for this year's crop. All national reports and state-level newsletters, such as this, are available on the Internet.

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- * All reports and newsletters are available on the Canadian Internet at: http://aceis.agr.ca/misb/hort/maple_eng.html.

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