



## Mint Production and Disposition Inquiry Training Materials

Below you will find links to a video, PowerPoint presentation, survey information sheet, and practice interviews for NASS's Mint Production and Disposition Inquiry. The practice interviews can be used to enter data in CATI or CAPI to get familiar with those data collection instruments.

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Strategic Planning and Business Services Division  
Strategic Planning Branch  
Workforce Performance and Staff Development Section

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## Survey Training

# Mint Production and Disposition Inquiry – December



**United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service**

Workforce Performance and Staff Development Section



# Survey Info

- Project code: **193**
- Questionnaires:
  - Mail around November 22<sup>nd</sup>
  - Web reporting available
- Release:
  - *Crop Production, Annual, early January*
  - *Crop Values, late February*



NASS website: [www.nass.usda.gov/](http://www.nass.usda.gov/)

# Example of data: 2022 Mint Info

- Peppermint:
  - Acres Harvested: 34,000
  - Yield: 99 lbs (oil) per acre
  - Production: 3,349,000 lbs of oil
  - Price: \$22.40/lb
- Spearmint:
  - Acres Harvested: 13,700
  - Yield: 120 lbs (oil) per acre
  - Production: 1,648,000 lbs of oil
  - Price: \$20.40/lb



# Mint Production



# Screening

- In 20XX, did this operation harvest any acres of mint for oil?
  - **If Yes:**
    - Did this operation harvest peppermint for oil?
    - Did this operation harvest spearmint for oil?
    - **If No:** Has this operation been sold, rented, or turned over to someone else?
      - Additional questions are asked to determine what the status of the operation is
      - Be sure to leave ample notes so the record can be updated as needed

# Peppermint Harvested for Oil

- In 20XX, did this operation harvest any acres of peppermint for oil?
  - Exclude acres rented to others.
  - Exclude acres harvested for fresh leaves.
  - Exclude acres harvested for tea.
- In 20XX, how many acres of peppermint did this operation harvest for oil?
  - Nearest tenth

# Peppermint Harvested for Oil

- In 20XX, how many pounds of peppermint oil were produced? (total pounds)
  - Of the pounds produced, how many pounds were sold?
  - How much did this operation receive for peppermint oil? (total dollars or price/pound)



# Spearmint Harvested for Oil

Section 2 is the EXACT same series of questions as Section 1, except that it refers to Spearmint.

(Note: WA state further splits Spearmint into 'native' and 'scotch' varieties, but the questions are still the same.)

- We also ask if the respondent has any comments they would like to share about their mint production.
  - Please record any information they provide.
  - Can be about the growing season, prices, labor shortages, market for the mint crop, etc.

# [Warnings] & [Errors]:

- Large acreages reported
- Very small acreages
  - Be sure it's not home garden/ home use
- Only want mint harvested for oil
  - No fresh leaves or tea
- Less than 75% of production sold
- Units other than whole pounds
- High or low yields or prices
  - Leave detailed info in comment

# Just For Fun:

- The United States produces more than 70% of the world's supply of peppermint and spearmint.
- The early Romans believed eating mint would increase intelligence.
- One drum of oil (weighing about 400 pounds) can be used to flavor approximately 5 million sticks of chewing gum or 400,000 tubes of toothpaste.

# Conclusion

- Leave notes to explain any unusual data
- Please contact your supervisor if you have any questions
- Have a good survey!



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## Mint Production and Disposition Inquiry – Overview

### General Survey Info:

Project code: **193** – Mint Survey

Questionnaires:

Mail around November 22<sup>nd</sup>

2 Versions (WA & 'All other states')

Release(s):

*Crop Production, Annual, Typically, around January 12<sup>th</sup>, 12pm ET*

*Crop Values, late February, 3pm ET*

### Mint Overview:

<b>Peppermint</b>	<b>Spearmint</b>
Yield: 99 lbs per acre (oil)	Yield: 120 lbs per acre (oil)
Price: \$22.40 per lb (oil)	Price: \$20.40 per lb (oil)
*2022 National Averages	





Mint is grown primarily for the oil produced from its leaves. The two major species of mint grown for commercial uses are peppermint and spearmint. Washington and Oregon are the two largest producers of both species of mint. Mint is a perennial plant that produces no seed. It is planted in rows, with state-certified, disease-free, root stock or underground runners from existing plants. Peppermint and spearmint both require similar production practices, and have similar weather, soil, and light requirements. They are planted and harvested in the same manner, using the same equipment.

### Survey Overview:

Only looking for mint that was harvested for oil. Exclude any other uses such as fresh leaves or tea. There is a federal marketing order in place for Pacific Northwest mint growers. Therefore, most operators should be familiar with the questions on the survey and are expected to readily know their acres, production, and sales figures.

Survey is split by type of mint: Peppermint first, followed by spearmint. The same questions are asked for each type. Additionally, Washington asks for Spearmint to be recorded as either “Scotch” or “Native” but the questions are otherwise unchanged.

# Mint Production and Disposition Inquiry Practice Interviews

For practice interviews, assume you are speaking with the operator and all contact information is correct.

## Exercise #1:

Did this operation harvest any acres of mint for oil? Yes

Did this operation harvest any acres of peppermint for oil? Yes

How many acres of peppermint did this operation harvest for oil? 115

How many pounds of peppermint oil were produced? 9500 lbs

Of the 9,500 pounds of peppermint oil produced, how many pounds were sold? All 9,500

How much money did this operation receive for the peppermint oil crop? \$125,000

*(If you are working with a record from Washington, put the spearmint under "native")*

Did this operation harvest any acres of spearmint for oil? Yes

How many acres of spearmint did this operation harvest for oil? 50.5

How many pounds of spearmint oil were produced? 3750 lbs

Of the 3,750 pounds of spearmint oil produced, how many pounds were sold? 3,750

How much money did this operation receive for the spearmint oil crop? \$55,000

Comments: N/A

No other operations, no results sent.

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## Practice Exercise #2

Was MINT grown on this operation at any time during 2021? Yes

In 2021, did this operation harvest any acres of peppermint for oil? Yes

In 2021, how many acres of peppermint did this operation harvest for oil? 40

In 2021, how many pounds of peppermint oil were produced? 800 lbs (Warning: Low yield)

Of the 800 pounds of peppermint oil produced in 2021, how many pounds were sold? 780

How much money did this operation receive for these 800 pound of peppermint oil? \$21.00/pound

Did this operation harvest any acres of Spearmint for oil? No

Comments: Drought lead to a poor yield, but prices were still good.

No other operations, no results sent.



## Additional Practice:

For extra practice, make sure you're comfortable coding an operation that's out of business, one that's in business but not growing mint, etc. Additionally, you can use the following average values and try putting in various amounts, taking note of the limits for yields and prices being either too low or high:

### Peppermint:

Yield: 99 lbs (oil) per acre

Price: \$18.90/lb

### Spearmint:

Yield: 121 lbs (oil) per acre

Price: \$16.90/lb