

# Cherry Production Inquiry – June 2026

## (CHERRIES AP)



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



2026



# General Survey Information

- Project Code: **134 - Noncitrus Fruit Survey**
- Questionnaires:
  - Mail date May 21<sup>st</sup>
- Calling:
  - May 30<sup>th</sup> – June 5<sup>th</sup>
- Release:
  - *Crop Production*
  - June 11, 2026



# Cherries, By the Numbers

- Sweet Cherries:
  - 360,710 tons from 95,000 bearing acres
    - 3.84 tons per acre
  - Washington is #1 state, with 40,000 acres
    - CA #2 with 38,000
  - Around 80% of crop is for fresh market
- Tart Cherries:
  - 214.8 million pounds from 28,900 bearing acres
    - 7,430 lbs/ac
  - Michigan is #1 state with 26,000 acres
  - 99% of crop for processing

# Tart vs. Sweet Cherries

- Almost all tart cherries grown in the U.S. are the Montmorency variety.
- Montmorency tart cherries, also known as sour cherries, are bright red when harvested, and they retain that bold color when dried, frozen or juiced.
- Tart cherries are typically used for processing.
- Sweet cherries are usually consumed fresh.
  - Some sweet cherry varieties include Bing, Lambert, Rainier, Burlat, and Royal Ann

# Questionnaire Versions

- 3 Versions:
  - V1: Sweet Cherries only
    - California, Oregon, Washington
  - V2: Tart Cherries only
    - Utah
  - V3: Sweet and Tart Cherries
    - Michigan

# Questionnaire Changes

- No changes for the 2026 survey!

# Tart vs. Sweet Cherries



# Survey Information

- Looking for **2026** *expected* production of Sweet and/or Tart cherries (depending on state)
- Like with most fruits and vegetables:
  - A wide variety of units may be reported
  - Sometimes with varying weights
  - Blaise is set up to handle whatever is reported

# Screening

- Any **cherry** tree acres?
  - If “**NO**”, Do you plan to have cherries in the future?
  - If “**NO**”, Has this operation been sold, rented...?
    - If “**YES**”, collect that person’s contact info
    - If “**NO**”, Will the land be used for any agricultural purposes....?
    - No other additional screening, so good notes about operation’s status is extremely helpful

# Survey Questions

- Total acres of sweet cherries [or tart if tart-only state]
  - Of these, how many were **bearing age** this year
- Expected total production for 2026
  - Quantity, unit, pounds per unit
- Same questions for tart cherries

# Something to Note: Decimals

- We cannot enter a decimal on the production question
- If **tons per acre** are reported this can be an issue
  - Example: If 5.5 tons per acre are reported, we cannot enter this. It would be rounded to 5 or 6 tons per acre which is not correct.
    - We can convert to pounds per acre, calculate total tons produced, or leave a note with the data.

# Harvesting Cherries



# [Warning]s and [Error]s:

- Large number of acres
- Bearing acres greater than total acres
- Low bearing to total acres ratio
  - We are asking about *bearing age*....and not what will actually bear a crop this year
    - This can cause some confusion if there is a late frost, disease/insect issues, etc. that impact production
- Bearing acres reported but no production reported
- Yield seems high or low
  - Total production / bearing acres (in pounds)

# Conclusion

- Referring to **2026** crop year *expected* production
- Watch the decimal points:
  - Acres, pounds per unit
- Be sure to leave a comment explaining any different units or odd reports.

