

Granite State Home and Garden
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Best NH Maple Crop in Years

By

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The official USDA production figures for the spring 2008 maple syrup crop are out and New Hampshire's 85,000 gallons is the most in years. Not since 1996, when NH sugarmakers recorded 89,000 gallons, has there been such a good year for maple.

This year's maple crop increased nearly 40% over the 2007 yield of 60,000. Average production over the last 20 years has been approximately 70,000 gallons. USDA's New England Agricultural Statistics Service report (available online at www.nass.usda.gov/nh) tabulates the total number of taps in NH at 360,000 yielding an average of .236 gallons of syrup per tap.

The south-central and south-western parts of the state had record setting production at many farms, while those in the northern parts of the states tended toward mediocre production totals. This maple season was characterized by many days where the temperature was just right for good sap flows in the lower half of the state but a bit too cold in the northern half of the state, accounting for the differing yields around the state.

New Hampshire ranks 8th nationally in maple production and third among the New England states after Vermont and Maine. Because 75% of New Hampshire's maple syrup is retailed directly to consumers, producer returns per gallon are among the highest of any state.

For more information on this topic and others, contact the Division of Regulatory Services, NH Dept. of Agriculture, and Markets & Food at tel. (603) 271-3685, registrations@agr.nh.gov or visit the website at www.agriculture.nh.gov.