

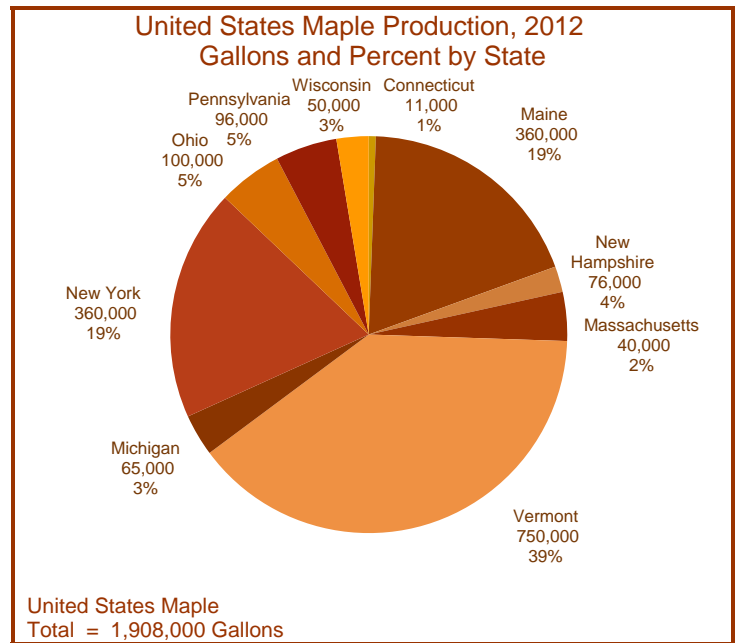
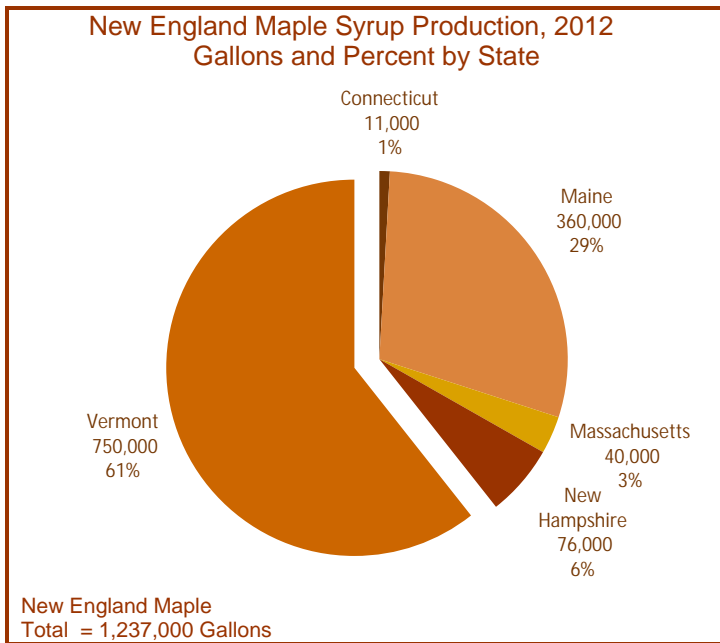
## 2012 MAPLE SEASON TOO WARM

New England (excluding Rhode Island): New England's maple syrup production in 2012 totaled 1.24 million gallons, down 27 percent from 2011's near record production of 1.70 million gallons. Vermont remained the top maple State in New England and the Nation, producing 39 percent of the United States' maple syrup. Taps in New England totaled 5.76 million, up 5 percent from last year and accounted for 59 percent of the Nation's maple taps.

The 2012 maple syrup season in New England was summer-like temperatures in the 70s and 80s across New England. The heat wave forced early budding of maple trees, marking the end of the maple syrup season.

Average start dates for sap collection for each State were as follows: Connecticut - February 9, Massachusetts -





SOURCE: Crop Production, June 12, 2012, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

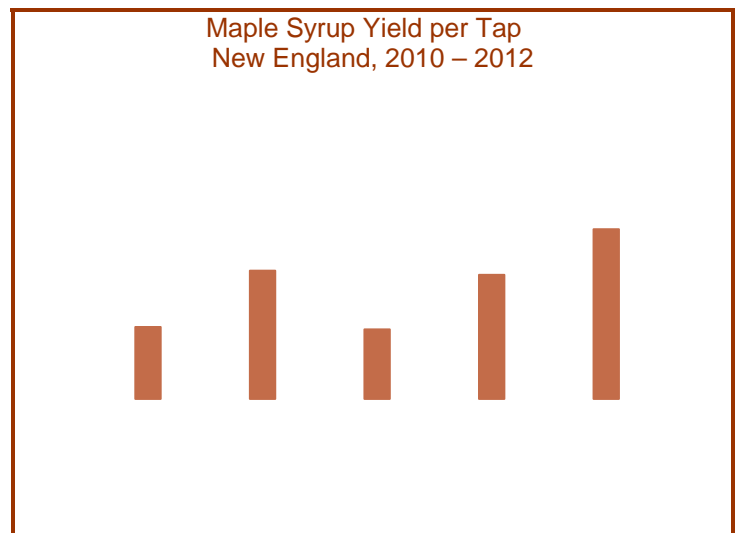
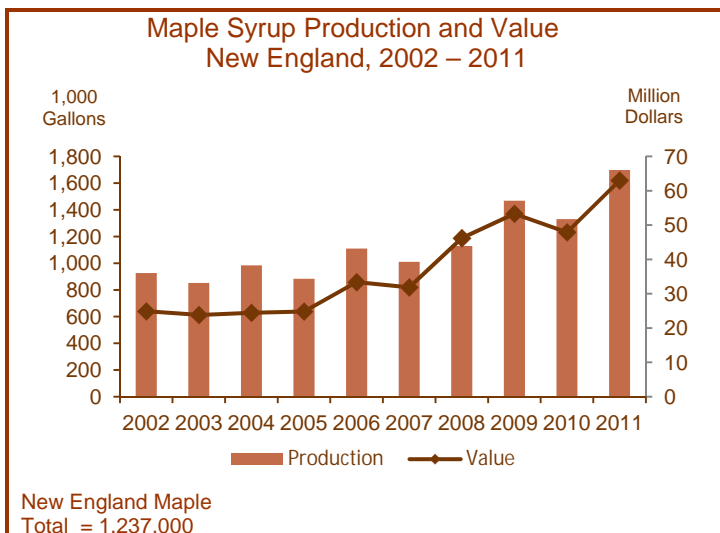
#### MAPLE SYRUP: Sales Percentages, New England, 2010 – 2011

Type of Sale	Connecticut		Maine		Massachusetts		New Hampshire		Vermont	
	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011
	Percent									
Retail	65	70	1	4	55	55	45	50	15	15
Wholesale	20	15	1	4	35	30	40	10	5	5
Bulk	15	15	98	92	10	15	15	40	80	80

#### MAPLE SYRUP: Sales Percentages, Other States, 2010 – 2011

Type of Sale	Michigan		New York		Ohio		Pennsylvania		Wisconsin	
	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011
	Percent									
Retail	49	45	28	29	55	42	69	43	39	30
Wholesale	24	15	15	11	20	17	9	27	13	13
Bulk	27	40	57	60	25	41	22	30	48	57

SOURCE: Crop Production, June 12, 2012, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.



MAPLE SYRUP: Retail and Wholesale Prices by Size of Containers, 2009 – 2011

State and Year	Retail								Wholesale	
	Gallon	Half Gallon	Quart	Pint	Half Pint	3.4 oz. (100 ml)	8.5 oz. (250 ml)	12 oz. (355 ml)	Gallon	Half



## Sugar Maker Comments by State

CONNECTICUT - Should have tapped in early February. Temperatures in February were better for sap flow than the warm/hot spell we had in March. No sugar content on trees farther uphill. Good season that just ended 2 weeks too soon. Too warm at night. If we didn't start sugaring a month early this season would have been a total loss. Very strange weather. Syrup quality good but turned dark quickly. Short season with no frost and limited few runs. Should have tapped beginning of January. It was a warm winter here in Connecticut and I am glad I did not tap. Too warm weather in February. The winter that wasn't – not enough frost in the ground and not enough sugar in the sap. Bad year as sap did not run. Temperatures were warm enough in mid-January for sap, so we lost approximately 2 weeks of potential sap flow. No real periods of cold temperatures in February. We experienced dry holes early and re-tapped new trees. Short season and low production. Warm very early. Best season ever attributed to tapping early and good vacuum. Never had frost in ground. Never had clear sap and got extra dark syrup.

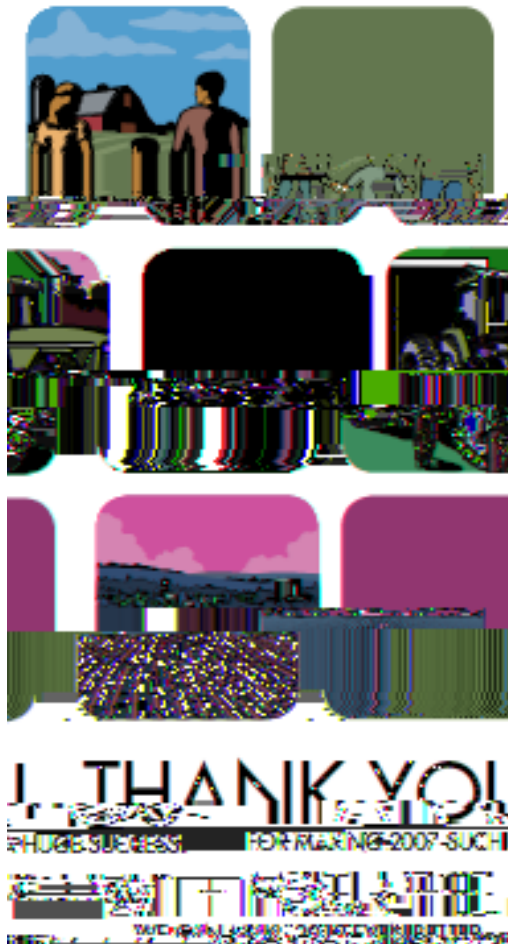
MAINE - Weather was extremely variable in my area, but generally too warm. The third week of March was way too warm. Week of 80 degree weather ended our season. March too warm, sap color off, and very few tanks of sap were clean. No good runs all season. Week in the 80s ended it. Good early start but a very early end. This year used only one tap per tree regardless of size. Very rare to get the right temperature conditions. No snow and no frost. I wish I had tapped in January. The best weather happened in January but no trees were tapped. The season looked promising, then record temperatures in mid-March brought it to an end. Good weather returned but too late. Worst season ever. Too warm at first but ended a good season. First part of sugaring was too warm. Last part was too cold. Started with 2.5 feet of snow in the woods and melted away fast. Started too warm and didn't make any light syrup. Ended good on crop total. At first it was too warm but turned cold and had a good crop. Five 80+ degree days stopped sap flow. Two good weeks to follow with no production. Warmed up too quickly and nights not nearly cold enough. Extremely warm weather brought trees to bud very early, then had better weather after pulled taps. Sap ran early and light with high sugar content at first. Due to the mild winter, our season started 2 weeks earlier and ended 3 weeks earlier than last year. The trees in our area, southern Maine, began to bud in the middle of March. Too hot in middle of season. The season unfortunately was much too short. Three weeks in March had 70+ degree temperatures which ended the season. Weather was too cold early in season, followed by two good weeks, then too warm at the end. Strangest year in 23 years, weather-wise. Trees budded out earliest ever with two very nice weeks for sap after our trees quit. Too warm alternating with too cold. One spell of hot weather spurred bud growth early. Season started early but sap flowed slowly. It became very warm in mid-March which ended the season. Low sugar content. Not good with five days of 70 and 80 degree weather.

MASSACHUSETTS - Having good season until second week in March, then warmed up and didn't get any more sap. I still set buckets and that seemed to be a benefit this year. It seemed it was warm enough to run in the buckets when the tubing was still frozen. We started one week earlier than ever before and should have started even earlier. Season started real early and stopped after a week of 70 degree weather. Sugar content very low. Season about one month early - February was March – and conditions were good. Started three weeks early. There was no

Temperatures were warm without freezing nights, but sap flow was high and ran continuous even with temperatures in the 70's. Bacteria levels preventing filtering & boiling issues meant dumping sap. Early budding led to stoppage of season even with continued sap flow. Sap quality improved as weather cooled, but too late. Season started early and we tapped as early as we should have. I made the worst flavored syrup I have ever made this season. Sap that flowed after March 21 was rancid. Season ended abruptly with two weeks of 60+ degree temperatures. The hot week in March ended our season. Sap flow after that was good but syrup produced from it was unmarketable. The weather warmed up too much in mid-March for sap to run. The worst year I ever had. Flow was normal until a stretch of 80 degree days when sap flow stopped. Excellent quality and flavor. Syrup was generally darker from start to finish. In 2011, I didn't make syrup until March 11, this year I was all done on March 13. Little snow cover and poor sugar content. Warm weather in mid-March brought season to an abrupt stop. Color went from medium straight to grade B. Because of weather, I did not sugar. Worst year ever. Grade dropped rapidly from fancy to dark. Sap kept running but the trees had buds. A week of 70+ degree weather

accelerated budding of maples, affecting sap flow and quality. By the end of warm week in March, sap kept running but dropped to 0.5 to 0.75 percent sugar content. March heat waves ruined the season. Early season had excellent weather, color, and taste. Stayed warm many days in a row. Without vacuum, production would be little or none. Record breaking heat wave in mid-March ruined the sugar season. Too warm to make good syrup of any quantity. Exceptionally warm weather in March killed our season just as it was getting started. Sugar content and flavor dropped like a rock when warm weather persisted. After the heat wave, although the weather became seasonable and conditions were right for sugaring, the sap was cloudy and we couldn't filter it. Mother Nature didn't cooperate. Never seen it so hot in mid-March. The very beginning was good, then it just got too warm. If you didn't tap in the middle of January, you missed half of your crop. Good quality syrup but warm weather allowed only five good runs. No freezing in mid-March for two weeks. During the very warm weather we lost all the snow that we had. Short season but with good quality. The season was short, but sap flow was plentiful during that brief window thanks to high vacuum.

# Coming This December 2012 Census of Agriculture



Gary R. Keough, Director  
Statistician: Hernán Ortiz

Alexander I Slosman, Editorial Assistant

Ty Kalas, Deputy Director  
Statistician Assistant: Joyce Supry

This is a summary of New England agricultural statistics taken from national Crop Production release nationwide reports issued by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, June 12, 2012. The New England Field Office can be reached at 1-800-642-9571 or through e-mail at [nass-nh@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-nh@nass.usda.gov)

All national reports and state newsletters are available on the Internet at: [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov). These reports are also available by subscription free of charge direct to your e-mail address. Starting with the NASS home page at [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov) locate the syndication section at the bottom of the right hand column, under receive reports by E-mail, click national or state, then follow the instructions on the screen.