

# California sets cherry record; big Washington crop rolling

By DAN WHEAT  
Capital Press

YAKIMA, Wash. — California has finished its best cherry season in recent memory at 9.7 million, 18-pound boxes, surpassing its previous record of 8.7 million boxes in 2008.

“It was a good year for them. Consumers were getting good fruit and we’ll keep right on rolling with good fruit,” B.J. Thurlby, president of Northwest Cherry Growers in Yakima, said of the Washington crop just ramping up.

“They needed it after the last few years of rain and poor fruit sets. We’re very happy for them,” he said of California. Washington harvest began June 6 at Doebler Orchard in Mattawa and has continued with other Mattawa and Pasco growers in light volumes the last two weeks.

“We’ll be close to 1 million (20-pound boxes) shipped by today. Cool weather has backed us up a couple more days. We originally anticipated we’d be at 5 million by the Fourth of July but it will be closer to 3.5 to 4 million,” Thurlby said on June 19.

That’s less than liked but still “decent” volume for



Dan Wheat/Capital Press

Cherries drop onto a conveyor at Columbia Fruit Packers, Wenatchee, Wash., on June 20. Chelan and Bing cherries are being packed for export to Japan and South Korea.

Fourth of July sales, he said. The Pacific Northwest forecast a 22.7-million, 20-pound box crop on May 17, with Washington producing 81 percent of that.

However, there is speculation the crop could easily exceed the 23.2 million-box record set in 2014.

Early variety Chelan and Tieton cherries wrapped up in Mattawa and Pasco, where picking is turning to Bing. The Lower Yakima Valley and Wenatchee are working

on early varieties.

There’s good harvest spread among districts, which makes for good quality and marketing and eases labor needs, Thurlby said.

“The weather this week looks wonderful. When it stays mild, not too hot, we end up with great quality,” he said.

June 15 rain and hail damaged cherries in Grandview and Finley, but it was spotty, said Frank Lyall, a Grandview grower.

“I haven’t heard of any-

one walking away from an orchard (as a total loss),” he said.

“The wild card with a large cherry crop is how clean a crop. So far out of Mattawa, we’ve been happy with a cullage rate of less than 20 percent on Chelan and Tieton and packout of large, firm cherries,” Lyall said.

Norm Gutzwiler, a Wenatchee grower, said wind has been a constant battle, marking a lot of cherries.

Lyall’s brother, Charles, a

Mattawa grower, said he suffered a little wind damage on June 12 and 13. He said he got slightly higher than average yield in Chelans at 8 tons per acre and his average in Tietons was 3 tons. Tietons were large and Chelans were pretty good at 10.5-row. That means 10.5 cherries to fill a row in a box.

Many years ago, the Washington industry banned 13-row cherries as too small and a few years ago voted on banning 12-row. It didn’t pass.

With fewer warm days to size up this year’s crop, cherries will be about one size smaller than last year, which was a year of unusually large cherries, said Bruce Turner, national marketing representative at Oneonta Starr Ranch Growers in Wenatchee.

Tom Riggan, president of Chelan Fresh Marketing, agreed, saying early cherries are running 10.5-row versus 10- and 9.5-row a year ago.

While growers fear labor shortages further into the season, labor usually is sufficient in early picking.

Charles Lyall said that was true for his early cherries. He said he had about 150 pickers and turned away a lot of California pickers looking for

work. The test will come, he said, as harvest volume picks up in Bing in the last week of June. He’s down to 10 pickers now in the lull before Bing and hopes to have no problem getting more again. Harvest spread among districts will help, he said.

Thurlby said California had enough labor and he’s hoping Washington will also as California pickers head north. He said he hasn’t heard of any packing house labor shortages.

Reggie Collins, general manager of Chelan Fruit Cooperative, said on May 12 that he was short 400 applicants for a June 10-12 packing start.

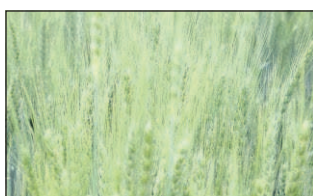
On June 20, he said advertising resulted in more than 1,000 applications from as far away as Idaho and California for sorters and packers.

“We’re fairly optimistic, but they have to show up. We will need 700 to 800 of those for double-shifting on three cherry lines from the last week of June through July 20,” he said.

Even though all three are new, high-tech lines requiring fewer sorters, they need packers for the variety of pouch bags, clamshells and other packaging, he said.

## Too early to worry about falling number problems, researchers say

### Wheat will reach sensitive stage in late June, early July



Capital Press File

Researchers say it’s too early for temperature swings to cause starch damage in this year’s wheat crop.

It’s too soon for farmers to start worrying about temperature fluctuations leading to low falling numbers in their wheat crop, Washington researchers say.

Temperatures in the 90s on May 30 followed by high temperatures in the 60s have some wheat growers worried about a repeat of last year’s falling number problems, a post on Washington State University’s Small Grains website reports.

Falling number is a test that measures starch damage that affects the quality of baked goods and noodles. Farmers were caught off guard last year when roughly 44 percent of soft white wheat samples and 42 percent of club wheat samples received ratings below 300,

the industry standard preferred by key overseas customers. The problem did not make its way to international buyers.

The industry estimates the damage last year cost more than \$30 million in lower prices.

The widespread problem was partly due to late maturity alpha-amylase, an enzyme that develops in response to widely fluctuating temperatures about one month after pollen-shedding, according to WSU.

It is difficult to pinpoint the window of LMA-sensi-

tivity for this year’s crop because it depends on when the wheat reached pollen-shedding, an event that depends on temperature and variety, according to WSU. Wheat in Central Washington reached this stage during the week following Memorial Day, while wheat farther east is just starting to head.

“We guesstimate that wheat in Central Washington may become LMA-sensitive during the last two weeks of June, while wheat farther to the east may become LMA-sensitive during the first two weeks of July,” WSU’s post states.

For more information, contact USDA Agricultural Research Service molecular geneticist Camille Steber at csteber@wsu.edu or Ryan Higginbotham, director of WSU’s cereal variety testing program, at rhigginbotham@wsu.edu.

## Sugar producers endorse updated trade agreement with Mexico

Capital Press

WASHINGTON, D.C. — An organization representing U.S. beet and cane sugar farmers says it supports a revised agreement to resolve the illegal dumping of subsidized Mexican sugar onto the U.S. market.

In 2014 Mexico and the U.S. reached an agreement, in lieu of protective tariffs, limiting the amount and type of sugar Mexico could export into the U.S.

Based on U.S. growers’ concerns that the agreement failed to address the glut of Mexican sugar on the market and increase U.S. prices, the countries recently reached a tentative agreement setting higher minimum prices for the sale of Mexican sugar into the U.S. and requiring that a greater percentage of Mexican sugar be shipped in an unrefined form to meet demand at U.S. refineries.

Leaders of the American Sugar Alliance said they liked many aspects of the proposed updated settlement but



Sean Ellis/Capital Press

Sugar beets grow in Idaho. A revised deal with Mexico will close a loophole and benefit U.S. cane and beet sugar producers.

couldn’t support it. They explained Mexico has the right to supply all U.S. sugar needs when its own production and existing agreements with other countries are insufficient to meet demand. The Alliance argued the original version of the settlement update would open a loophole allowing Mexico to decide the form of sugar to send the U.S. — refined or unrefined — to fill unmet demand.

ASA spokesman Phillip Hayes said in a June 15 press release his organization will now support the agreement because the Department of

Commerce has tightened it to address the loophole.

President Donald Trump “has said repeatedly that trade agreements and U.S. trade laws don’t work without strong enforcement,” Hayes said in the press release. “For too long, Mexico has been allowed to sidestep our trade laws, but those days are over.”

Based on price declines following sugar dumping, ASA estimates Mexico cost U.S. sugar producers \$2 billion during 2013 and 2014 combined, and another \$2 billion since the original agreement was signed.

### LEGAL

#### PUBLIC NOTICE BY WASHINGTON STATE PORK PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION AND THE NATIONAL PORK BOARD

The election of pork producer delegate candidates for the 2018 National Pork Producers (Pork Act) Delegate Body will take place at 1:00 pm, Wednesday, July 7, 2017 in conjunction with a Board of Directors meeting of Washington State Pork Producers Association, in Room 1 of the Soup It Up Restaurant, 109 East First Street, in Ritzville, Washington, 99169. All Washington State pork producers are invited to attend.

Any producer, age 18 or older, who is a resident of the state and has paid all assessments due may be considered as a delegate candidate and/or participate in the election. All eligible producers are encouraged to bring with them a sales receipt proving that hogs were sold in their name and the checkoff deducted. For more information, contact Washington State Pork Producers Association, 2001 VanTine Road, Garfield, Washington. Telephone 509/397-2694.

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#### Public Notice Announcing Scoping Meeting Swalley Irrigation District System Improvements

The United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS), with assistance of The Farmers Conservation Alliance and in cooperation with the Swalley Irrigation District and Deschutes Basin Board of Control as the project sponsor, is considering improvements to aging irrigation infrastructure in the Swalley Irrigation District. Improvements under consideration may be partially funded through the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 1954 (PL83-566) and will address water conservation, enhancement of aquatic species habitat, and public safety risks while supporting existing agricultural land use.

The proposed projects are located in the north-central portion of Deschutes County. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Council on Environmental Quality’s regulations at 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508 require an evaluation of potential environmental impacts associated with federal projects and actions with input from the public.

You are invited to attend a public scoping open house where your input is requested. The range of resource issues and conceptual alternatives addressing system improvements to the Swalley Irrigation District will be presented and discussed.

**Public Scoping Open House: Date:** July 6, 2017 - Thursday **Time:** 6:30PM to 7:30PM **Location:** Tumalo Community Church, (64671 Bruce Avenue, Bend OR 97703)

Comments may be submitted during the public scoping period starting July 7, 2017 and ending on July 20, 2017. Additional information is available at [www.oregonwatershedplans.org](http://www.oregonwatershedplans.org) or the NRCS link for Public Notices: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/or/newsroom/pnotice/>

Comments may be emailed to [swalleycomments@gmail.com](mailto:swalleycomments@gmail.com)

For further information contact:

Margi Hoffmann  
Community Relations Director  
Farmers Conservation Alliance  
11 3rd Street, Suite 101  
Hood River, OR 97031  
(503) 550-3556  
[margi.hoffmann@fcasolutions.org](mailto:margi.hoffmann@fcasolutions.org)

The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. A request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired or for other accommodations for persons with disabilities should be made at least 48 hours before the meeting to Margi Hoffmann (503) 550-3556

25-2/#4

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#### CHERRY AVENUE STORAGE

2680 Cherry Ave. NE  
Salem, OR 97301  
(503) 399-7454

#### AUCTION

Sat., July 1st • 10 a.m.

- Unit 4 - Bryan VanDyke
  - Unit 5 - Abe Schworak
  - Unit 73 - Miriam Flores
  - Unit 75 - Lisa Gayman
  - Unit 116 Andrew Sosa
  - Unit 129 - Jackie Hill
  - Unit 136 - Alison Davis
  - Unit 138 - 185 - Rachel Choudry
  - Unit 194 - Michelle Darr
  - Unit A-1 - Herminia Barboza
- Cherry Avenue Storage reserves the right to refuse any and all bids

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#### PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 819

Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 7/6/2017. The sale will be held at 10:00am by B.C. TOWING  
1834 BEACH AVE. NE, SALEM, OR 2010 MAZDA SPEED 3, 4DR VIN = JM1BL1H30A1313436 Amount due on lien \$4,105.00 Reputed owner(s) CHRISTIAN E. & KATHRYN A. SWANK NAVY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

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#### Public Notice Announcing Scoping Meeting Tumalo Irrigation District System Improvements

The United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS), with assistance of The Farmers Conservation Alliance and in cooperation with the Tumalo Irrigation District and Deschutes Basin Board of Control as the project sponsor, is considering improvements to aging irrigation infrastructure in the Tumalo Irrigation District. Improvements under consideration may be partially funded through the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 1954 (PL83-566) and will address water conservation, enhancement of aquatic species habitat and public safety risks while supporting existing agricultural land use.

The proposed projects are located in the north-central portion of Deschutes County. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Council on Environmental Quality’s regulations at 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508 require an evaluation of potential environmental impacts associated with federal projects and actions with input from the public.

You are invited to attend a public scoping open house where your input is requested. The range of resource issues and conceptual alternatives addressing system improvements to the Tumalo Irrigation District will be presented and discussed.

**Public Scoping Open House: Date:** July 6, 2017 - Thursday **Time:** 5:30PM to 6:30PM **Location:** Tumalo Community Church, (64671 Bruce Avenue, Bend OR 97703)

Comments may be submitted during the public scoping period starting July 7, 2017 and ending on July 20, 2017. Additional information is available at [www.oregonwatershedplans.org](http://www.oregonwatershedplans.org) or the NRCS link for Public Notices: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/or/newsroom/pnotice/>

Comments may be emailed to [wsp@tumalo.org](mailto:wsp@tumalo.org)

For further information contact:

Margi Hoffmann  
Community Relations Director  
Farmers Conservation Alliance  
11 3rd Street, Suite 101  
Hood River, OR 97031  
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#### Public Notice Announcing Scoping Meeting Central Oregon Irrigation District System Improvements

The United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS), with assistance of The Farmers Conservation Alliance and in cooperation with the Central Oregon Irrigation District and Deschutes Basin Board of Control as the project sponsor, is considering improvements to aging irrigation infrastructure in the Central Oregon Irrigation District. Improvements under consideration may be partially funded through the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 1954 (PL83-566) and will address water conservation, enhancement of aquatic species habitat and public safety risks while supporting existing agricultural land use.

The work being considered is located in the north-central portion of Deschutes County. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Council on Environmental Quality’s regulations at 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508 require an evaluation of potential environmental impacts associated with federal projects and actions with input from the public.

You are invited to attend a public scoping open house where your input is requested. The range of resource issues and conceptual alternatives addressing potential system improvements to the Central Oregon Irrigation District will be presented and discussed.

**Public Scoping Open House: Date:** July 10, 2017 - Monday **Time:** 5:30PM to 7:00PM **Location:** Redmond Grange (3152 SW Metolius Place, Redmond, OR 97756)

Comments may be submitted during the public scoping period starting July 11, 2017 and ending on July 24, 2017. Additional information is available at [www.oregonwatershedplans.org](http://www.oregonwatershedplans.org) or the NRCS link for Public Notices: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/or/newsroom/pnotice/>

Comments may be emailed to [watershed@coid.org](mailto:watershed@coid.org)

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Community Relations Director  
Farmers Conservation Alliance  
11 3rd Street, Suite 101  
Hood River, OR 97031  
(503) 550-3556  
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