



2017 MINT CROP REPORT

AMERICAN PEPPERMINT

We had a lot of moisture in the Northwest in Spring of 2017, but the summer provided an average year of heat units to produce an average peppermint crop. The year's yields boasted a good mix of high and low furan peppermint. With the increased demand for high furan peppermint, we expect prices to remain at 2017 ranges.

CONVENTIONAL INDIAN PEPPERMINT/CORNMINT

Peppermint is grown in Buduan, Bareilly, and some near Punjab, Ludhiana, Jalandhar, and Barabanki. Cornmint oil is produced near Lucknow in Sambhal, Chnadausi, and Budaun.

Low temperatures at the time of plantation and high temperatures at the time of harvest with a minimum difference of 95° F is favorable for peppermint oil. Low temperatures at the time of plantation and normal summer temperatures at the time of harvest for cornmint is suitable. An early monsoon disturbed the crop and prevented a second peppermint oil harvest. Cornmint will survive an early monsoon, but yields will contain a lower menthol content.

Plantations for 2017 have been drastically reduced in the mint producing areas due to an increase of corn plantings. Production of all the mint oils are down almost 40% from 2016. Prices went up due to more demand and less production. Increased price of natural menthol crystal was due to the fire at BASF plant in 2017.

AMERICAN SPEARMINT

Spearmint oil is enjoying a popularity surge. The Northwest native oil became highly sought after in 2017, so much so that the Farwest Spearmint Marketing Order held a special session, resulting in a request to the USDA to allow a temporary increase in oil release for the remainder of 2017 and a percentage increase for 2018. Most of this extra released oil is spoken for, so it's likely that the demand for spearmint oil will continue to rise.

CHINESE SPEARMINT

Chinese Spearmint is grown in Henan, Shandong, and Xingjiang provinces. Overall, the weather in China for spearmint oil was good in 2017.



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ACREAGE/PRODUCTION/POUNDS

All amounts are 2017 estimates.

American Peppermint

63,500 acres
6 million pounds of oil produced
Estimated sales 5.6 million pounds

American Native Spearmint

11,200 acres
1.3 million pounds of oil produced
Estimated sales 1.7 million pounds

American Scotch Spearmint

16,000 acres
1.6 million pounds of oil produced
Estimated sales 1.3 million pounds

Conventional Indian Peppermint

8,985 acres
440,920 pounds of oil produced

Conventional Indian Cornmint

728,295 acres
61,728,800 pounds of oil produced

Organic Indian Peppermint

593 acres
82,000 pounds of oil produced

Organic Indian Cornmint

1,544 acres
270,000 pounds of oil produced

Chinese Spearmint

642 acres
882,000 pounds of oil produced

Indian Spearmint

5,700 acres
150,000 tons of oil produced

Canadian Spearmint

5,700 acres
450,000 pounds of oil produced

NATIVE PEPPERMINT ACREAGE BY STATE

We're expecting to see an overall reduced amount of peppermint acreage in the Midwest in 2018, but Idaho may see an increase in acreage, possibly 200 acres or more. Canada may increase acreage of peppermint in 2018. Yakima Peppermint will remain difficult to find. Idaho Peppermint increased production by about 12%.

Idaho, 16,450 acres
LaGrande, 5,200 acres
Madras/Northern California, 2,120 acres
Midwest, 12,390 acres
Montana/Canada, 195 acres
Washington, Boardman, Hermiston, 14,900 acres
Willamette, 11,125 acres

2018 MARKET PREDICTIONS

Pacific Northwest precipitation is expected to be normal to above average in 2018, so there should be no water issues for the upcoming crop.

In 2018-2025, 40% of top producers are expected to see growth.

Farmers in India are increasing the acreage of peppermint and spearmint.

Native Pacific Northwest oil is in higher demand.

Long term US Peppermint demand weakens a bit.

Scotch Spearmint is plentiful.

Canadian Spearmint acreage estimated to be reduced to 4,500-4,700 acres from 5,700 acres in 2017.



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