

Canada is facing a potato shortage that is raising wholesale prices. Toronto-based McCain Foods will temporarily close seven processing plants in New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island (PEI), Manitoba, Wisconsin and Maine this summer because of the shortage, while J. R. Simplot also scaled back production at some of its facilities this spring because of a lack of potatoes. Unusually wet weather across much of Manitoba and Atlantic Canada last year led to one of the smallest potato crops in decades, with overall potato production down about 11% last year. In parts of New Brunswick and PEI, two of the major growing regions, the supply fell by more than 30%, reported *The Globe and Mail*.