

2005 POTASH TRADE

Shipments of potash from Thunder Bay, Ontario fell below 600,000 net tons in 2005, a decrease of 20 percent compared to 2004, and a drop of 7 percent compared to the trade's 5-year average.

Potash cargos used to top 1.5 million net tons a year, but rail delivery has increased, as fertilizer distributors need to restock for the coming growing season before the Soo Locks open on March 25.

**GREAT LAKES POTASH SHIPMENTS
CALENDAR YEARS 1996-2005
(net tons)**

CALENDAR YEAR	TOTAL
1996.....	595,194
1997.....	767,400
1998.....	801,829
1999.....	606,014
2000.....	688,858
2001.....	563,882
2002.....	587,296
2003.....	579,352
2004.....	728,701
2005.....	584,672
10-YEAR TOTAL.....	6,503,198