

Maine Wild Blueberries



NEW ENGLAND
Agricultural
Statistics



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A special "THANK YOU" goes to Maine wild blueberry growers and processors who have helped us by completing surveys throughout the year.

2010 CROP OUTLOOK GOOD

2010 Wild Blueberry Crop: At the start of the growing season, wild blueberry crop development was 2 to 3 weeks ahead of schedule due to an unusually warm spring. Mummyberry disease infection periods occurred early and fungicide applications were made to protect the plants. The crop suffered minimal damage. Bees were busy pollinating throughout May and into June. Cooler weather mid-May brought frosts to the region. Low lying fields in central Maine experienced injury as well as the fields in more northern areas of Washington County. Fields affected by the early frost will have significant losses. Throughout June, fruit set was reported in good condition. Berries began to show color by the beginning of July and some fields were 50 percent blue by the following week. Pesticide applications were made in July to combat the record numbers of fruit flies seen in fields. Development remains ahead of schedule, but the hot and dry weather was beginning to stress plants.

As of mid-July, Maine's wild blueberry crop was rated in good condition by crop specialist Dr. David Yarborough, with an average set and berry size.

Current information about the 2010 wild blueberry crop can be found in the Weekly Crop Progress and Condition report by visiting our website at www.nass.usda.gov or by calling the New England office at 1-800-642-9571.

2009 Final Price and Production: Maine's 2009 wild blueberry crop totaled 88.1 million pounds, 2 percent below 2008 output, but 14 percent higher than 2007 production. Processing berry prices averaged \$0.35 per pound in 2009, down \$0.25 from 2008 and \$0.72 below 2007, and the lowest price received since 2003. The processing value fell to \$30.6 million in 2009, the lowest on record since 2004.

MAINE WILD BLUEBERRIES: Production and Value, 2000 – 2009

Year	Total Production	All Price Per Pound	Total Value of Production	Fresh Wild Blueberries			Wild Blueberries for Processing		
				Production	Price per Pound	Value of Production	Production	Price per Pound	Value of Production
	1,000 Lbs	Dollars	1,000 Dollars	1,000 Lbs	Dollars	1,000 Dollars	1,000 Lbs	Dollars	1,000 Dollars
2000	110,990	0.403	44,732	420	1.200	504	110,570	0.400	44,228
2001	75,200	0.305	22,945	350	1.400	490	74,850	0.300	22,455
2002	62,400	0.286	17,860	400	1.250	500	62,000	0.280	17,360
2003	80,400	0.334	26,880	400	1.200	480	80,000	0.330	26,400
2004	46,000	0.456	20,970	300	1.350	405	45,700	0.450	20,565
2005	60,150	0.656	39,430	350	1.600	560	59,800	0.650	38,870
2006	74,600	0.805	60,040	400	1.700	680	74,200	0.800	59,360
2007	77,250	1.070	83,031	450	1.900	855	76,800	1.070	82,176
2008	89,950	0.610	54,850	550	2.200	1,210	89,400	0.600	53,640
2009 ¹	88,100	0.363	31,945	600	2.200	1,320	87,500	0.350	30,625

¹ Revised.

SOURCE: *Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts – 2009 Summary*, July 7, 2010, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

The wild blueberry estimating program is funded through a cooperative agreement with the Maine Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources as a service to growers and others in the industry. The next Maine Wild Blueberries report will be published and available on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/nh in late January 2011. It will contain the preliminary production and price statistics for the 2010 crop as collected by the Maine Department of Agriculture.

Blueberries: Price and Value by Crop, Selected States and United States, 2009 Crop

2009	Total Utilized Production	All Price per Pound	Total Value of Production	Fresh Blueberries			Blueberries for Processing		
				Production	Price per Pound	Value of Production	Production	Price per Pound	Value of Production
	1,000 Lbs	Dollars	1,000 Dollars	1,000 Lbs	Dollars	1,000 Dollars	1,000 Lbs	Dollars	1,000 Dollars
Wild Blueberries									
Maine	88,100	0.363	31,945	600	2.200	1,320	87,500	0.350	30,625
Cultivated Blueberries									
Alabama	300	1.640	492	300	1.640	492	(D)	(D)	(D)
Arkansas	500	1.710	855	500	1.710	855	(D)	(D)	(D)
California	24,200	2.940	71,148	24,200	2.940	71,148	(D)	(D)	(D)
Florida	13,500	5.400	72,900	13,500	5.400	72,900	(D)	(D)	(D)
Georgia	43,000	1.290	55,600	23,000	2.000	46,000	20,000	0.480	9,600
Indiana	3,700	1.510	5,584	2,700	1.920	5,184	1,000	0.400	400
Michigan	99,000	1.030	101,850	49,000	1.650	80,850	50,000	0.420	21,000
Mississippi	5,900	1.610	9,498	4,800	1.800	8,640	1,100	0.780	858
New Jersey	53,000	1.230	65,260	45,000	1.340	60,300	8,000	0.620	4,960
New York	2,100	2.170	4,558	2,050	2.210	4,531	50	0.540	27
North Carolina	32,700	1.570	51,330	25,500	1.900	48,450	7,200	0.400	2,880
Oregon	48,000	0.790	37,920	24,000	1.110	26,640	24,000	0.470	11,280
Washington	39,000	0.783	30,525	10,500	1.740	18,270	28,500	0.430	12,255
UNITED STATES	364,900	1.390	507,520	225,050	1.970	444,260	139,850	0.452	63,260

(D) Small quantities of processed blueberries are included in fresh to avoid disclosure of individual operations.
 SOURCE: *Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts – 2009 Summary*, July 7, 2010, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

