

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.

IMPROVED PROCESSING PRICES EXPECTED

MAINE WILD BLUEBERRY CROP: Maine's 2010 wild blueberry crop totaled 83.0 million pounds, 6 percent below 2009 output. The price growers receive for processing berries in 2010 is expected to average \$0.60 per pound, an increase of \$0.25 per pound from 2009, but on par with the price received in 2008. Improved prices would place the 2010 processing value of production at \$49.5 million, 62 percent above last year, but 8 percent below 2008.

The wild blueberry crop reached early bloom stage by the beginning of May, well ahead of schedule. The crop was impacted by heavy frosts during mid-May; damage was severe due to the early development of the berries. Warm, dry weather provided excellent pollinating conditions during May and early June. Hot and dry conditions during the early stages of summer followed causing considerable stress to some fields, forcing growers to irrigate. Although disease pressure was low, fruit fly captures were reported in record numbers. Harvest began ahead of schedule by mid-July in the mid-coast region. Favorable conditions prevailed throughout August and growers completed harvest by the first week of September, ahead of last year and normal. Crop yields varied widely across the region depending on the impact from the heavy frosts in May.

CANADIAN WILD BLUEBERRY CROP 2010: According to David Yarborough, Extension Wild Blueberry Specialist, "The wild blueberry crop in Canada was only 88 million pounds, which is considerably less than last year's crop of 137 million pounds and well below the 5-year average of 122 million pounds. Quebec's crop was a disappointing 14.5 million pounds, a crop failure because of a combination of both devastating frosts and drought. The average crop in Quebec is over 60 million pounds and had exceeded 70 million pounds in the last 2 years. The weather in Nova Scotia included some frost and was wet and cool during pollination which reduced fruit set. It was also dry in July and August, so Nova Scotia's crop was slightly below average at 30 million pounds compared to its 5-year average of 30.8 million pounds. The northeast part of New Brunswick had good growing conditions so the crop, at 32.5 million pounds, exceeded their 5-year average of 27 million pounds. The lack of winter kill, good pollination weather, and an adequate supply of bees and ample summer rainfall all contributed to the bumper crop of 12.4 million pounds in Prince Edward Island, which exceeded their 5-year average of 9 million pounds. This crop increase is also attributed to the growing number of acres coming into production which is expected to continue to increase the average crop in future years."

MAINE WILD BLUEBERRIES: Production and Value, 2001 – 2010

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
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	88,100	0.363	31,945	600	2.200	1,320	87,500	0.350	30,625
2010 ¹	83,000	0.611	50,750	500	2.500	1,250	82,500	0.600	49,500

¹ Preliminary Price per Pound and Value of Production. Final price statistics to be published July 7, 2011.

SOURCE: *Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts – Preliminary*, January 21, 2011, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

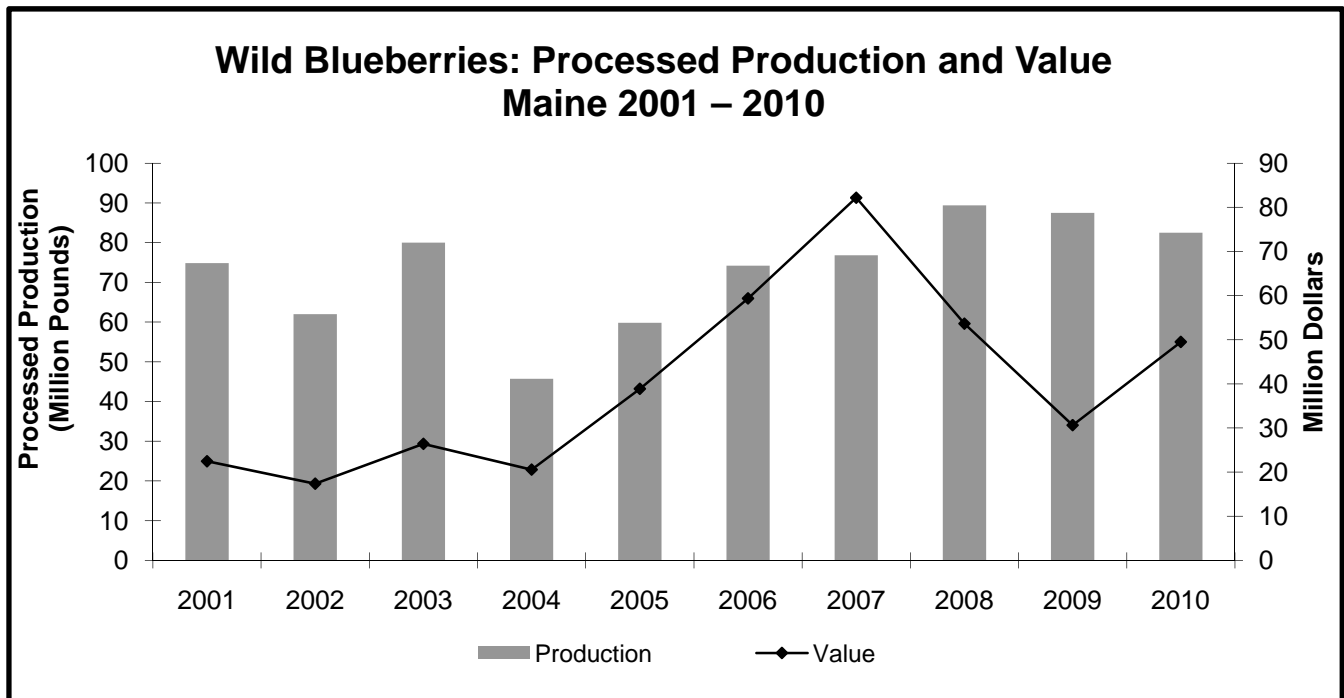
Blueberries: Price and Value by Crop, Selected States and United States, 2010 Crop

Crop and State	Total Utilized Production 1,000 Pounds	All Price per Pound Dollars	Total Value of Production 1,000 Dollars	Fresh Blueberries			Blueberries for Processing		
				Production 1,000 Pounds	Price per Pound Dollars	Value of Production 1,000 Dollars	Production 1,000 Pounds	Price per Pound Dollars	Value of Production 1,000 Dollars
2010									
Wild Blueberries									
Maine	83,000	0.611	50,750	500	2.500	1,250	82,500	0.600	49,500
Cultivated Blueberries									
Alabama ¹	430	1.760	757	430	1.760	757	(X)	(X)	(X)
Arkansas ¹	650	1.780	1,157	650	1.780	1,157	(X)	(X)	(X)
California ¹	28,000	2.710	75,980	28,000	2.710	75,980	(X)	(X)	(X)
Florida ¹	16,400	2.940	48,233	16,010	2.940	48,233	390	(X)	(X)
Georgia	58,000	1.240	72,040	36,000	1.610	57,960	22,000	0.640	14,080
Indiana	3,600	1.190	4,272	2,000	1.640	3,280	1,600	0.620	992
Michigan	115,000	1.210	139,400	49,000	1.700	83,300	66,000	0.850	56,100
Mississippi	8,000	1.100	8,800	3,000	1.600	4,800	5,000	0.800	4,000
New Jersey	49,000	1.280	62,510	42,000	1.340	56,280	7,000	0.890	6,230
New York ¹	2,100	2.150	4,521	2,000	2.150	4,521	100	(X)	(X)
North Carolina	39,050	1.490	58,165	27,350	1.870	51,145	11,700	0.600	7,020
Oregon	50,800	1.170	59,418	25,800	1.460	37,668	25,000	0.870	21,750
Washington	42,000	1.300	54,664	12,200	2.380	29,036	29,800	0.860	25,628
UNITED STATES	413,030	1.430	589,917	244,440	1.860	454,117	168,590	0.806	135,800

(X) Not applicable.

¹ Small quantities of processed blueberries are included in fresh to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

SOURCE: *Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts – Preliminary*, January 21, 2011, 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 July 2011. It will contain the final price statistics for the 2010 crop.