

Maine Wild Blueberries

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United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
New England Field Office



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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.

WILD BLUEBERRY PRODUCTION IS ON THE RISE

MAINE WILD BLUEBERRY CROP: Maine's 2011 wild blueberry crop totaled 83.1 million pounds, less than one percent above the 2010 output. The price growers expect to receive for processing berries in 2011 averaged \$0.85 per pound, an increase of \$0.25 per pound from 2010 and \$0.50 higher than 2009. Improved prices will place the 2011 processing value of production at \$70.1 million, 42 percent above last year.

Maine, ample moisture and cooler temperatures in August caused berry size and yields to be better than average. Harvesting activities were complete during the first week of September, on par with the average.

2011 CANADIAN WILD BLUEBERRY CROP: According to David Yarborough, Extension Wild Blueberry Specialist, "The wild blueberry crop in Canada was 132.3 million pounds, which is slightly more than last year's crop of 125 million pounds and just above the 125 million pound five-year average. The spring in Quebec was cooler than normal but they had ample sun and warm weather during pollination, so they had good fruit set. Quebec's crop was 64.9 million pounds, much better than last year's crop failure at 15 million pounds because of the frost and drought it experienced that year. About 15 million pounds of these berries were taken from the un-managed forest in 2011. The weather in Nova Scotia was cool and wet most of the summer so the crop was less than average at 28.5 million pounds compared to its five-year average of 32 million pounds. In the northeast part of New Brunswick, wet and cool weather conditions delayed bloom and increased mummy berry disease so the crop was reduced to 27.5 million pounds, just below the five-year average of 28.7 million pounds. The lack of winter kill, good pollination weather, an adequate supply of bees and ample summer rainfall all contributed to a good crop of 10.4 million pounds in Prince Edward Island, which just exceeds its five-year average of 10.2 million pounds. Newfoundland produced an estimated 1 million pounds, just above its five year average of 0.77 million pounds.

Wild blueberry fields in the mid-coast area of Maine sustained multiple mummy berry infection periods during spring 2011. Pollination and fruit set were observed to be uneven because of weather variations in different parts of the region during bloom. Some berry fields sustained damage after a hailstorm June 1. At the point that pollination was complete and bees were being moved out, it was believed that fruit set was not good in the mid-coast region because of cool, wet weather during bloom, but Downeast pollination was excellent and the crop appeared that it would be better than average. Some producers applied post emergence herbicides during the hot, humid weather in early June which caused damage to some plants. Later in June, cool, wet conditions conducive to weed growth pushed producers to spray more herbicide. Maine wild blueberry harvesting began during the first week in August, a week behind schedule, due to showers. When harvesting began, the crop was reported in fair to good condition in a number of areas due to inadequate precipitation. Some plants had leaf burn and leaf drop caused by the lack of rainfall. Mid-coast fields that had poor pollination reported some crop reductions. In Downeast

MAINE WILD BLUEBERRIES: Production and Value, 2002 – 2011

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
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	83,000	0.610	50,600	500	2.200	1,100	82,500	0.600	49,500
2011 ¹	83,100	0.859	71,355	600	2.050	1,230	82,500	0.850	70,125

¹ Preliminary Price per Pound and Value of Production. Final price statistics to be published July 6, 2012.

SOURCE: *Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts 2011 Preliminary Summary*, March 15, 2012, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

Blueberries: Price and Value by Crop, Selected States and United States, 2011 Crop

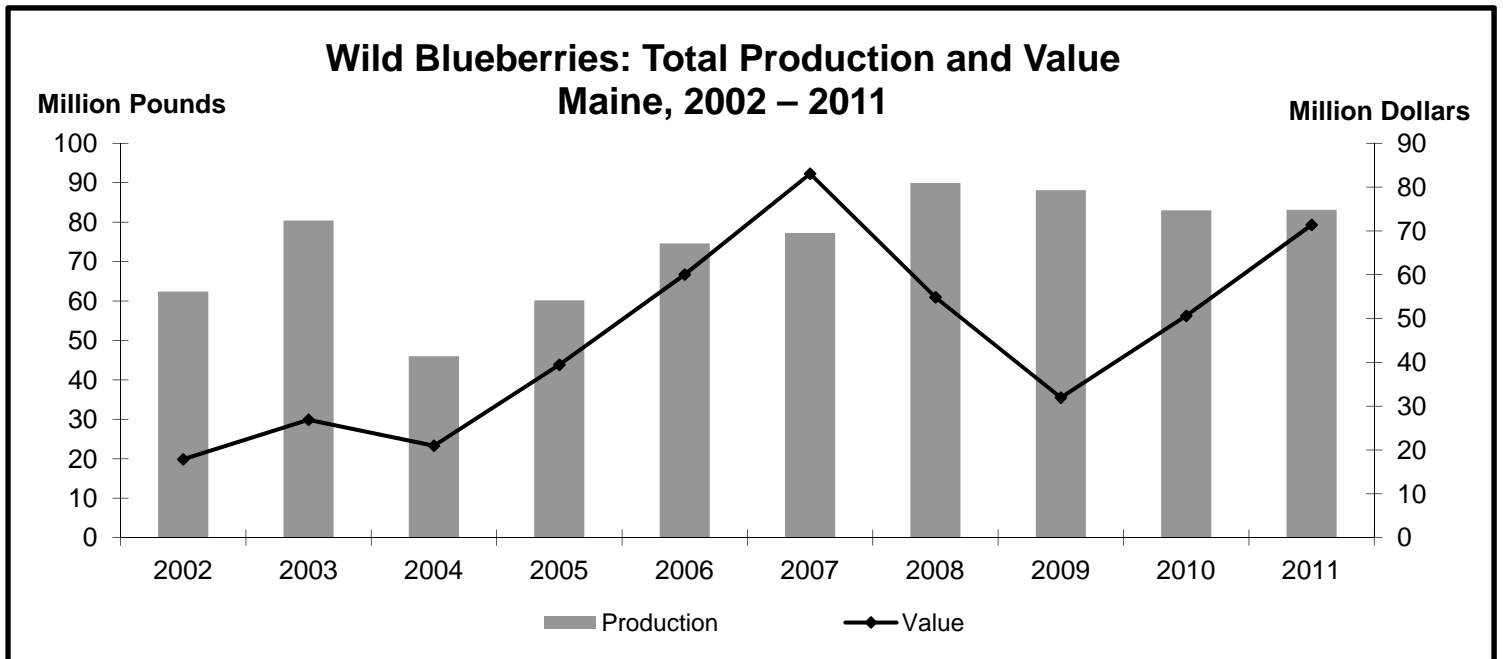
Crop and State	Total Utilized Production	All Price per Pound	Total Value of Production	Fresh Blueberries			Blueberries for Processing		
				Production	Price per Pound	Value of Production	Production	Price per Pound	Value of Production
	1,000 Lbs	Dollars	1,000 Dollars	1,000 Lbs	Dollars	1,000 Dollars	1,000 Lbs	Dollars	1,000 Dollars
Wild									
Maine	83,100	0.859	71,355	600	2.050	1,230	82,500	0.850	70,125
Cultivated									
Alabama ¹	500	1.700	850	500	1.700	850	—	(X)	(X)
Arkansas ¹	400	1.730	699	400	1.730	692	—	(X)	(X)
California ¹	33,000	2.500	82,650	33,000	2.500	82,650	—	(X)	(X)
Florida ¹	21,400	3.230	69,122	21,400	3.230	69,122	—	(X)	(X)
Georgia	62,000	1.510	93,310	39,000	1.850	72,150	23,000	0.920	21,160
Indiana	1,600	1.800	2,880	1,300	1.950	2,535	300	1.150	345
Michigan	72,000	1.650	118,700	34,000	2.150	73,100	38,000	1.200	45,600
Mississippi	10,500	1.600	16,775	4,000	2.000	8,000	6,500	1.350	8,775
New Jersey	62,000	1.530	94,700	47,000	1.600	75,200	15,000	1.300	19,500
New York ¹	1,800	2.200	3,957	1,800	2.200	3,957	—	(X)	(X)
North Carolina	36,200	1.830	66,320	28,600	2.000	57,200	7,600	1.200	9,120
Oregon	65,500	1.780	116,809	36,700	1.990	73,033	28,800	1.520	43,776
Washington	61,000	2.000	122,000	30,500	2.560	78,080	30,500	1.440	43,920
UNITED STATES	427,900	1.840	788,765	278,200	2.140	596,569	149,700	1.280	192,196

(X) Not applicable.

— Represents zero.

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

SOURCE: *Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts 2011 Preliminary Summary*, March 15, 2012, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.



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