

Maine Wild Blueberries

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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.

2012 WILD BLUEBERRY PRODUCTION UP 14 PERCENT

Wild blueberry production in Maine totaled 91.1 million pounds in 2012, up 14 percent from last year to the second highest level on record, behind 2000 when 111 million pounds were produced. The price growers expect to receive for processing berries in 2012 averaged \$0.75 per pound, down \$0.15 per pound from last year but \$0.15 per pound above the 2010 price. If realized, this would place the 2012 processing value at \$68.0 million, down 5 percent from the previous year.

An unusually warm spring pushed plant development about two weeks ahead of normal and allowed producers to get an early start on pruning and other fieldwork. Temperatures fell below freezing in late April, slowing crop development. There were multiple mummyberry infection periods during the first 2 weeks of

May and producers were busy applying fungicides to protect the plants. Some plant damage was evident. Cool, wet weather in mid-May delayed bloom in some areas. However, temperatures warmed and fields in the mid-coast area of Maine were in full bloom by May 21 while the Downeast fields were in full bloom by the end of May. Favorable pollination weather and bee activity promoted a good fruit set and pollination was complete in the most fields by early June, except those close to the ocean, which were about a week behind. Moisture conditions were good throughout most of June. However, dry conditions during July stressed plants. Early August rains and cooler night-time temperatures improved berry quality. Harvest began in the mid-coast region around July 23 and was completed by mid-August. Harvest continued Downeast through August.

MAINE WILD BLUEBERRIES: Production and Value, 2003 – 2012

Year	Total Production 1,000 Lbs	All Price per Pound Dollars	Total Value of Production 1,000 Dollars	Fresh Wild Blueberries			Wild Blueberries for Processing		
				Production 1,000 Lbs	Price per Pound Dollars	Value of Production 1,000 Dollars	Production 1,000 Lbs	Price per Pound Dollars	Value of Production 1,000 Dollars
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	79,900	0.910	72,690	600	2.200	1,320	79,300	0.900	71,370
2012 ¹	91,100	0.758	69,075	500	2.250	1,125	90,600	0.750	67,950

¹ 2012 data are preliminary. Final estimates will be published July 17, 2013 in the *Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts 2012 - Summary*, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. SOURCE: *Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts - Preliminary*, January 25, 2013, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

