

# Maine Wild Blueberries



NEW ENGLAND  
Agricultural  
Statistics



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**A special "THANK YOU" goes to the approximately 400 Maine wild blueberry growers and processors who have helped us by completing the wild blueberry surveys in May and July.**

## MAINE'S WILD BLUEBERRY CROP EXPECTED TO BE DOWN 12 PERCENT

Maine's 2007 wild blueberry (lowbush) crop is expected to total 66.0 million pounds, based on growers reported conditions of the crop through mid-July. If realized, this forecast places expected production 12 percent below last year's output of 74.6 million pounds, and four percent above the five year average of 64.6 million pounds.

Maine's wild blueberry growers reported minimal winter damage, due to cold conditions and little snow cover at the end of January and into February. A few growers reported mummyberry, and red leaf diseases in their fields. Growers reported this year's bloom was average on the July survey and some grower's reported frost damage during bloom. Dry conditions late in the growing season have hindered this crop's full potential.

However, timely rain showers in July should help increase berry size. Maine's wild blueberry growers expect their yield to decrease slightly from last year's crop; however, higher than 2005 crop.

**2006 Prices Revised:** The average price per pound for Maine wild blueberries sold for processing in 2006 was 80 cents, a 15 cent increase over a year earlier. The average fresh market price per pound for Maine wild blueberries was \$1.70 in 2006, 10 cents higher than in 2005. The total value of Maine's 2006 wild blueberry crop (fresh and processed) was placed at \$60.0 million, an increase of 52 percent from the 2005 value, due to increases in price and production.

**MAINE WILD BLUEBERRIES: Production and Value, 1998 – 2007**

Year	Total Production 1,000 Lbs	All Price Per Pound Cents	Total Value of Production 1,000 Dollars	Fresh Blueberries			Blueberries for Processing		
				Production 1,000 Lbs	Price per Pound Dollars	Value of Production 1,000 Dollars	Production 1,000 Lbs	Price per Pound Cents	Value of Production 1,000 Dollars
1998	62,981	46	29,166	360	1.00	360	62,621	46	28,806
1999	66,102	51	33,889	300	1.10	330	65,802	51	33,559
2000	110,990	40	44,732	420	1.20	504	110,570	40	44,228
2001	75,200	31	22,945	350	1.40	490	74,850	30	22,455
2002	62,400	29	17,860	400	1.25	500	62,000	28	17,360
2003	80,400	33	26,880	400	1.20	480	80,000	33	26,400
2004	46,000	46	20,970	300	1.35	405	45,700	45	20,565
2005	59,550	66	39,040	350	1.60	560	59,200	65	38,480
2006	74,600	81	60,040	400	1.70	680	74,200	80	59,360
2007 <sup>1/</sup>	66,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

<sup>1/</sup> Current year production forecast is based on growers' assessments as of mid-July.

The wild blueberry estimating program is funded through a cooperative agreement with the Maine Department of Agriculture 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 <http://www.nass.usda.gov/nh> in late January 2008. It will contain the final production and preliminary price statistics for the 2007 crop as collected by the Maine Department of Agriculture.

## CULTIVATED BLUEBERRIES: Price and Value, State, and United States, 2006

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
Alabama <sup>1/</sup>	320	1.380	442	320	1.380	442	—	—	—
Arkansas <sup>1/</sup>	1,600	1.550	2,486	1,600	1.550	2,486	—	—	—
California <sup>1/</sup>	10,000	3.280	32,800	10,000	3.280	32,800	—	—	—
Florida <sup>1/</sup>	7,000	4.700	32,900	7,000	4.700	32,900	—	—	—
Georgia	31,500	1.900	59,775	16,000	2.370	37,920	15,500	1.410	21,855
Indiana	3,400	1.480	5,020	1,900	1.600	3,040	1,500	1.320	1,980
Michigan	83,000	1.680	139,747	29,000	2.150	62,350	54,000	1.430	77,397
New Jersey	52,000	1.610	83,720	40,000	1.640	65,600	12,000	1.510	18,120
Mississippi	4,600	1.310	6,040	2,600	1.400	3,640	2,000	1.200	2,400
New York	2,000	1.400	2,796	1,950	1.410	2,750	50	0.920	46
North Carolina	25,500	1.910	48,745	17,900	2.150	38,485	7,600	1.350	10,260
Oregon	35,600	1.490	53,091	13,900	1.790	24,881	21,700	1.300	28,210
Washington	19,000	1.590	30,140	4,500	2.380	10,710	14,500	1.340	19,430
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	<b>275,520</b>	<b>1.810</b>	<b>497,702</b>	<b>146,130</b>	<b>2.170</b>	<b>316,690</b>	<b>129,390</b>	<b>1.400</b>	<b>181,012</b>

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

SOURCE: *Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts – 2006 Summary*, 3:00 pm July 6, 2007, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

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