

Growers Expecting Another Nice Cranberry Crop

The forecast for Wisconsin's 2008 cranberry crop is 3.85 million barrels. If realized, this would be 1 percent above last year. Growers reported vines sustained minimal winter damage and that water supplies were adequate. Cool spring conditions set the crop back one to two weeks, but recent warm, sunny weather has helped the crop catch up. Currently, growing conditions remain favorable, and most growers are anticipating an average or above average crop.

U.S. cranberry production is forecast at 6.89 million barrels, up 5 percent from 2007, but slightly below 2006. Wisconsin, the largest producer, is expected to grow 56 percent of the national crop in 2008.

The second-largest-producing state, Massachusetts, is forecast to produce 1.9 million barrels in 2008. This is 25 percent higher than last year and slightly above 2006. Massachusetts growers experienced less winterkill. In May, berries were irrigated for frost protection. Growers were worried that extended hot weather in early summer would reduce production, but later rains in July and August dispelled much of those concerns. New Jersey is anticipating a cranberry crop of 500,000 barrels, down 6 percent from 2007, but 3 percent above 2006. Growers reported minimal winterkill and an average fruit set, but were concerned about poor weather during bloom affecting pollination. Oregon is forecast to produce 490,000 barrels in 2008, a decrease of 1 percent from 2007, but 5 percent above 2006. Cool weather extended the bloom period and delayed the season two to three weeks. The Washington cranberry crop is forecast at 145,000 barrels, a decrease of 18 percent from last year, but 27 percent higher than 2006. Cool spring weather is expected to delay berry maturity and reduce berry size.

Cranberry Production

State	2006	2007	Ind. 2008
Barrels			
WI	3,940,000	3,830,000	3,850,000
MA	1,896,000	1,522,000	1,900,000
NJ	485,000	531,000	500,000
OR	465,000	495,000	490,000
WA	114,000	176,000	145,000
US	6,900,000	6,554,000	6,885,000

Source: USDA, NASS, WI FO