

Despite Lower Production, Growers Expect Good Crop

The forecast for Wisconsin's 2009 cranberry crop is 4.00 million barrels, down 11 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the second largest production level on record for Wisconsin. Growers are expecting a good crop, but one that will be lower as vines recover from last year's record production.

Berry size was reported to be smaller due to a late spring and lower summer temperatures, which also have the season behind normal. Frost damage and hail were reported to be minimal this year. Bloom and pollination varied throughout the growing regions.

U.S. cranberry production is forecast at 7.09 million barrels, down 10 percent from 2008, but 8 percent above 2007. Wisconsin, the largest producer, is expected to grow 56 percent of the national crop in 2009.

The second-largest-producing state, Massachusetts, is forecast to produce 1.90 million barrels in 2009. This is 20 percent lower than last year, but 22 percent higher than 2007. Growers in Massachusetts reported that cooler temperatures and above average rainfall during pollination would negatively impact yields. Late spring frosts damaged some bogs. New Jersey is anticipating a cranberry crop of 540,000 barrels, up 5 percent from 2008, and 2 percent above 2007. Growers reported minimal winter kill and adequate rainfall. Oregon is forecast to produce 490,000 barrels in 2009, up 23 percent from 2008, but slightly lower than 2007. Production should be up from last year as weather and pollination have been excellent, and several newly renovated marshes are coming into production. The Washington cranberry crop is forecast at 155,000 barrels, an increase of 42 percent from last year, but 12 percent lower than 2007. Warm temperatures and good pollination aided this year's cranberry crop.

Cranberry Production

State	2007	2008	Ind. 2009
	Barrels		
WI	3,830,000	4,470,000	4,000,000
MA	1,522,000	2,374,000	1,900,000
NJ	531,000	512,000	540,000
OR	495,000	400,000	490,000
WA	176,000	109,000	155,000
US	6,554,000	7,865,000	7,085,000

Source: USDA, NASS, WI FO