

Wisconsin Cranberry Production Down

Wisconsin cranberry production is forecasted at 3.56 million barrels for 2004. This is 1 percent below the 2003 crop of 3.61 million barrels, but 11 percent above the 2002 crop. Despite cool conditions, the crop has shown good berry set with little hail or frost damage. Weather conditions have caused the crop maturity to be one week behind the normal growing season. Rains throughout the spring and summer have provided adequate water supplies and created the potential for above average yields.

Cranberry production in the U.S. is forecasted at 6.58 million barrels in 2004, up 6 percent from 2003. Massachusetts, the second largest cranberry producer, expects production to increase 28 percent from last year to 1.80 million barrels. Good weather aided pollination and growing conditions causing most Massachusetts producers to expect increased production. Oregon expects production to be at 550,000 barrels, a 10 percent increase from 2003. Oregon producers have good fruit size and few insect or disease problems. Some are experiencing low water supplies, and harvest should be earlier than normal. New Jersey's cranberry production is expected to be unchanged from 2003, at 480,000 barrels. Growers reported average fruit set and size with heavy rains damaging dams and gates. Washington is forecasted to produce 185,000 barrels, a decrease of 3 percent from a year ago. Warm spring weather has put the Washington crop 2 weeks ahead of normal, but pest problems may affect the crop.

Cranberry Production

State	2002	2003	Ind. 2004
	Barrels		
Wisconsin	3,208,000	3,607,000	3,560,000
Massachusetts	1,452,000	1,406,000	1,800,000
New Jersey	430,000	480,000	480,000
Oregon	432,000	500,000	550,000
Washington	167,000	190,000	185,000
United States	5,689,000	6,183,000	6,575,000

Source: Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service.