New England Agricultural Statistics Service

a field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service
United States Department of Agriculture

NASS

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Cranberries

August 2002

August 20, 2002

A special "THANK YOU" goes to Massachusetts Cranberry growers and handlers who have helped us by completing the cranberry survey during July and August.

Massachusetts Cranberry Production Forecast Up 26 Percent, U.S. Up 7 Percent

The **United States** forecast for the 2002 cranberry crop is 5.72 million barrels, up 7 percent from 2001 and less than 1 percent above 2000. New Jersey is the only state forecasting a decrease in production from a year ago. The cranberry industry has no restrictive marketing order in effect for the 2002 cranberry crop unlike the 2001 and 2000 seasons when growers were restricted on the amount of processing berries that could be sold. Under last season's order, growers could only sell 65 percent of their historic average sales to the processors. These restrictions applied to all five of the major cranberry producing states. Due to the lack of the marketing restrictions in 2002 some growers increased acreage. This increased acreage combined with good growing conditions in most states has resulted in the higher forecasted cranberry production.

The **Massachusetts** cranberry crop is forecast at 1.78 million barrels, an increase of 26 percent from 2001, but a decrease of 9 percent from 2000's production. Growers' response to the survey indicated this year's crop had an above average bloom, an average set, and below average fruit size. Hot dry weather stressed the cranberry crop throughout most of the summer. Therefore, many growers were busy irrigating their crop. Despite their efforts, some growers were concerned about the cranberries not sizing up if rain showers were not received soon. Similar to last year, many growers continued to express concern about the relatively low price they expect to receive for their crop. Some of these growers applied a late spring and early summer flood to prevent their cranberries from budding.

New Jersey expects a crop of 410,000 barrels, down 28 percent from 2001 and 16 percent below two years ago. Growers reported bloom, fruit set, and fruit size to be mostly average. No significant weather damage was reported but some area was taken out of production due to low prices.

Production in **Wisconsin** is forecast at 2.91 million barrels, 2 percent above 2001 and 8 percent above 2000. Cranberry farmers in Wisconsin report having a fair to excellent growing season. No major crop losses were reported.

In **Oregon**, the crop is forecast at 455,000 barrels, 25 percent above last year's crop and up 14 percent from 2000. Conditions have been favorable for cranberry production.

The **Washington** crop is forecast at 168,000 barrels, 18 percent above last year but 7 percent below 2000. Washington had a very late spring but no frost damage was reported. Summer weather has been ideal. Some twig blight and black vine weevil damage has been reported but problems were isolated.

MASSACHUSETTS CRANBERRY PRODUCTION -- 2001

Cranberry production in Massachusetts during 2001 was 1.42 million barrels, 27 percent below 2000's output. Harvested acreage decreased from 13,900 acres in 2000 to 12,000 acres in 2001. Massachusetts' cranberry yield per acre in 2001 averaged 118.0 barrels. The average price per barrel increased from $17.90 in 2000 to $21.60 in 2001. Although 2001's average price per barrel of cranberries increased by over $3.00 from 2000's price, the 2001 total value of production decreased by 13 percent due to the lower production.

CRANBERRIES: Total Production, 2000 - 2002

STATE	2000	2001	2002 [1/] Forecast
		1,000 Barrels [2/]	
Massachusetts	**1,953**	**1,416**	**1,780**
New Jersey	489	566	410
Oregon	398	365	455
Washington	180	142	168
Wisconsin	2,692	2,840	2,907
United States	5,712	5,329	5,720

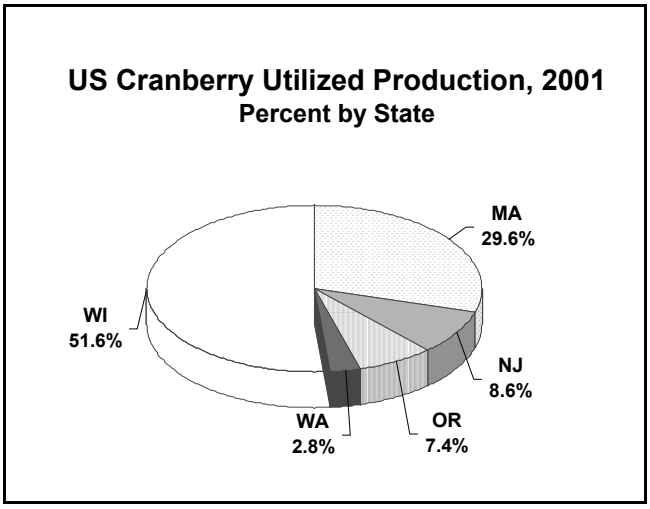
[1/] *Current year production is forecast as of mid-August assuming normal conditions for the remainder of the growing season.*
[2/] *Standard weight used for one barrel of cranberries is 100 pounds.*

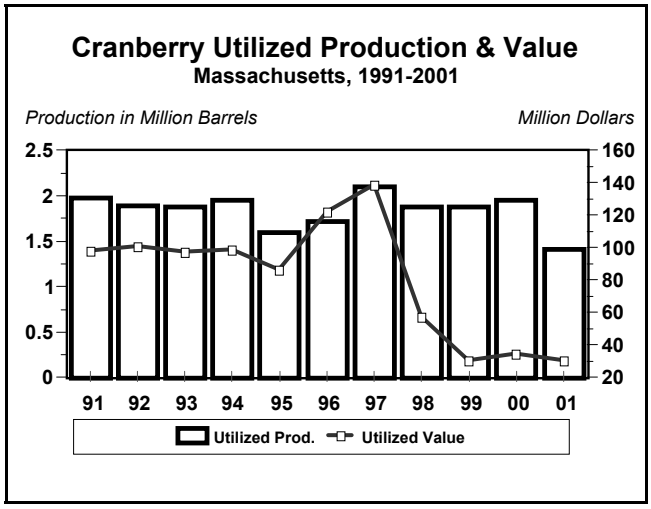
SOURCE: ***Cranberries***, 1:00 p.m., August 20, 2002, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

CRANBERRIES: Acres, Yield, Production, Utilization, Price and Value, by State, 2000 - 2001

STATE	Acres Harvested	Yield per Acre	Production		Utilization		Price per Barrel [1/]	Value of Utilized Production
			Total	Utilized	For Fresh	For Processing		
	Acres	Barrels[2/]	1,000 Barrels[2/]				Dollars	1,000 Dollars
2000								
Massachusetts	**13,900**	**140.5**	**1,953**	**1,953**	**214**	**1,739**	**17.90**	**34,950**
New Jersey	3,700	132.2	489	469	--	469	15.90	7,457
Oregon	2,400	165.8	398	394	4	390	15.20	5,990
Washington	1,500	120.0	180	165	37	128	20.90	3,445
Wisconsin	15,100	178.3	2,692	2,598	187	2,411	16.20	42,151
U.S.	36,600	156.1	5,712	5,579	442	5,137	16.80	93,993
2001								
Massachusetts	**12,000**	**118.0**	**1,416**	**1,414**	**176**	**1,238**	**21.60**	**30,542**
New Jersey	3,100	182.6	566	412	--	412	19.30	7,952
Oregon	2,400	152.1	365	355	7	348	19.90	7,061
Washington	1,600	88.8	142	136	34	102	24.30	3,305
Wisconsin	15,100	188.1	2,840	2,466	209	2,257	20.50	50,595
U.S.	34,200	155.8	5,329	4,783	426	4,357	20.80	99,455

[1/] Weighted average of co-op and independent sales. Co-op prices represent pool proceeds less returns for processing non-cranberry products, capital stock dividends, capital stock retains, and other retains. Included is cash paid in lieu of capital stock retains for growers who have the required level of capital stocks.
[2/] Standard weight used for one barrel of cranberries is 100 pounds.
SOURCE: ***Non-citrus Fruits & Nuts - 2001 Summary***, 3:00 p.m., July 8, 2002, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.





MAINE CRANBERRIES: Acres, Yield, Production, Utilization, Price and Value, 1999 - 2001

STATE & YEAR	Area Harvested	Yield per Acre	Production		Utilization		Price per Barrel	Value of Utilized Production
			Total	Utilized	For Fresh Market	For Processing		
	Acres	Barrels	1,000 Barrels				Dollars	1,000 Dollars
Maine								
1999	130.0	24.1	3.14	3.14	0.27	2.87	30.00	94
2000	137.7	65.5	9.02	9.02	0.87	8.15	32.50	293
2001	250.5	58.0	18.00	17.50	1.60	15.90	41.00	718

SOURCE: January, 2002, Cranberry Associate, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, 207-581-2940

Cranberry Comments July - August 2002, as reported on the grower survey

The bloom hung on so late that some of the berries will be so small, they will go through the screen. Lots of fruitworms. ✧ The berries need rain. ✧ When the price gets back up, they will harvest again. ✧ Did not do cranberries for the past two years because there is no money left after expenses. ✧ Converting to an organic cranberry operation. ✧ Just replanting bog. Frost this spring. Drought - need to irrigate every two days. ✧ Hit by one hail storm, and the weather has been too dry and too hot for the cranberries. ✧ Doesn't think there will be any harvest because it looks like a very bad year. ✧ Too dry and prices are too low. ✧ Lack of water hurting crop; 1/3 of the size. ✧ It's been just too dry - berries need lots of rain. ✧ No harvest in two years - stripped and replanted the entire bog. Drought a big problem. ✧ Still sizing up. Good crop because of good water supply - irrigating. ✧ The crop produced only about 75 percent of what an average crop should be. Nice looking crop; they have spring fed ponds so they have plenty of water. ✧ Very dry, crop down due to lack of rain; if money does not pick up will not be harvesting anymore. ✧ Due to no money in the crop, did not harvest any cranberries this year or last year. Did not harvest all the bogs because of a restriction on growing. There was a lot of rot in 2001. 2002 looks like a pretty good year. ✧ Production is way down due to dry conditions. They have done plenty of irrigating, but water table is very low right now. ✧ If it does not rain soon, will not have any crop. ✧ One of the worst years. Lack of rain, high humidity, high temperatures - adverse effects. ✧ Drought. Handlers don't want to pay. ✧ This year productions will be down. Still getting blooms - blooms vary. ✧ Watering like crazy. ✧ Price is low in past couple of years so some things got neglected. Lots of frost in spring. Drought. ✧ Worried about water, getting dry. ✧ New vines, lots of fruit rot and lots of bugs. ✧ Too dry for berries. ✧ Did not harvest any berries last year, due to market being so low. ✧ Price very low. ✧ The heat has been too much for the berries. ✧ Will have a very poor crop this year because of the lack of rain. Berries are really suffering. Doesn't know, at this time, if he will have any crop at all. ✧ Kind of dry. ✧ Excessive heat around July 4, killed most of his fruit -"cooked them." ✧ Bogs need to be reseeded, very dry and lots of weeds. ✧ It's been dry year; water table is low. ✧ Lost most of the crop last year; just rebuilt the fields. ✧ Can never tell what will happen. It has been dry this year. ✧ A poor year - mostly because of the drought - also some insect damage. ✧ The berries are suffering from lack of rain. ✧ Had to do a lot of irrigating this year. ✧ Cost more to harvest than its worth. ✧ Bugs this year and last year, too. May not get to harvest all of the acres. ✧ Drought – even with irrigation. Irrigation helps maintain berries but Mother Nature still needs to cooperate and that's what makes the berries grow. With heat and humidity, rot might be a problem. ✧ Very dry. ✧ No rain this year, they are drying up. ✧ July 4 - heat stressed vines and they lost a lot of berries -"heat stress." ✧ Dry weather affecting the crops. Last year weevils problem, but used different chemical this year and things are better. Had some frost in the spring. ✧ Very young bog, does not know what it will produce this year due to being so new. So far so good, only issue is they need to work on better weed control, done by hand. ✧ Prices low - can't put money into bogs. ✧ Very dry, lots of bugs. ✧ Too dry and hot, had a bout with bugs, still bothered by last year's drought. ✧ Need rain. Worms are a problem. ✧ Did dry picking and the bogs are not producing so well. Have had trouble with spag fruit worm - cut crop pretty bad. ✧ Too dry will not get anything. ✧ Very dry - water problems. ✧ Need rain. The prices are so low that he had to go back to outside work - now doesn't have time to maintain bogs - they are looking bad - Mother Nature is taking over. ✧ Bloom period extended this year, so getting size across range. Drought affects size. ✧ Could use some rain!! ✧ This crop does not look very good at all, doesn't think there is anything worth harvesting. ✧ Could use a little rain this time of the year. ✧ Drought, need water. ✧ Prices low - operating below cost of production. ✧ Fireworms and fruitworms are a problem. Hot and dry. In April had 14 - 15 nights of frost. ✧ Low due to early frost and rot problems. ✧ No water this year. Very dry, only had one inch of rain this summer. Low crop estimates due to lack of rain. ✧ A very poor year because there has been such a shortage of rain. ✧ Neither harvested any berries this year nor last because it is too expensive to do it with so little payment for their crop. ✧ Dry year. ✧ It's too dry for the berries. They need rain instead of well water. ✧ It's been too hot, and have had troubles with weevils. ✧ Looks good so far. ✧ Because I "summer flooded" last year, the crop is just coming back. Too many bugs this year, not cold enough during the past winters to kill them off. ✧ No problems except for the lack of rain. ✧ It was a bad year because of the weather. The weather has been too dry for the berries. ✧ Organic cranberry bogs, uses "late water method" so numbers are a lot lower. Okay crop, dry conditions. ✧ It's been very dry for the berries. ✧ Only concern is water, getting kind of dry. ✧ 2002 crop is somewhat low. ✧ Production low because price so low it doesn't make sense to put a lot of money into the production. ✧ Lack of water - drought not good and price is too low. ✧ Insect damage. Too hot during pollination. ✧ Due to the low prices this year, they are not picking. ✧ Keeping land up (irrigating), but not spraying and no harvesting this year or in 2001 because prices to produce and harvest crop above current crop price. Will harvest again when prices get better. ✧ Weed problems - not a full bog. Very dry - limited water supply. Pump "blew up" during a frost in April - nipped the vines/poor blossoms. ✧ Very dry. ✧ Lack of rain is going to hurt this year's crop especially in size. ✧ Drought conditions. Had to run pump and sprinkler system almost every three days at a terrible cost of electricity. ✧ No rain. ✧ Hot, dry drought. ✧ Fruitworms hard to control on account of the heat. ✧ Drought conditions - may not have enough water for harvest. Lack of rain a big concern. Size of berries is being affected. Not enough water to even irrigate on a proper schedule. ✧ Drought conditions - pond level is down making watering more difficult. ✧ Drought has limited possible irrigation. Need to improve water reservoir. ✧ Black-headed fireworms caused considerable damage to blossoms and new growth during mid-June. All published cranberry guidelines suggest these insects are only present during May and July. ✧ The extreme heat has caused plants to shut down and berries are not sizing up as of August 1. ✧ If the water supply holds up, we hope to harvest double of last year at least. ✧ Crop looks very good. No vine stress during winter allowed the plant to crop well. ✧ Good progress, good condition. ✧ Blooms spotty. Cranberry weevils problems and heat. ✧ Too dry. Multiple bug problems (especially weevils), worst fruitworms ever. ✧ Howe crop looks good so far, Early Blacks are spotty. Have had to deal with fireworms, resistant weevils, and now the drought. No rain since June 15. ✧ Lack of rain hurting fruit set and size. ✧ Some crop loss. ✧ Crop is down somewhat because of high winter kill damage and dry hot summer conditions. ✧ Drought is making it difficult to size up crop. Irrigations aren't enough...Mother Nature send us some rain!! Also, native bumble bees showed up on flowers later than usual due to drought. ✧ I have not looked at the crop. I put irrigation out end of June/July 1 to irrigate. I have not set foot on the bog. I will harvest any fruit that survives. ✧ Summer rain reduction may cause smaller berries and a reduced crop. ✧ Crop will be down a little due to lack of water. ✧ Weevils continue to be a problem. ✧ Fair. ✧ Very dry, need rain, reservoirs are getting low. ✧ Several acres lost to black-headed fireworms. ✧ Crop slightly late due to late water. ✧ Drought is tough. ✧ Very dry summer conditions to date. First application of Lorsban (fruitworms) not as successful as second. Fruitworms showing resistence to pesticides. ✧ Cautiously optimistic that we will have a decent crop after a very poor one last year. Insects and disease are under control so far. ✧ 2001 drought and insect damage are affecting the 2002 crop. In 2002 the drought has continued in southeast Massachusetts. Fruit keeping, quality predictions are low and insects are still a problem. At this time we still have a lot of small berries that may or may not grow. ✧ No summer rain, multiple heat waves, heavy bug infestations and poor keeping quality. ✧ Drought could have serious impact on size and

weight of crop. Could be record harvest with rainfall. ✧ Average year. ✧ Excessive fruitworms. ✧ Have used the "late-water technique" in both 2001 and 2002. It has resulted in a reduced crop but has several positive effects on the bog. ✧ Weather, bloom and set average too heavy. We need rain desperately. ✧ Generally optimistic. Lucky with frost, but drought is a problem. ✧ Good blooms 4th of July. Heat burned off a lot of blooms and some vine damage. Temperature of bog here 4th of July - 130+ degrees. ✧ No spring frost damage. Excellent pollination weather and to date, insect damage is small. ✧ The drought here in south Plymouth County is taking its toll on fruit size and causing some vine damage which will affect next year's crop. ✧ Crop is very spotty. Insect pressure (fruitworms) high. ✧ Infestation of weevils with no insecticide to control them. ✧ Lack of rain has hurt any weak areas. ✧ If lack of rain continues size will be small and harvest will be difficult. ✧ A very heavy bloom followed by an average set. Size to date is small due to lack of natural rainfall. Need substantial rain soon or we could face water shortages at harvest time. All in all, it looks like a good crop. ✧ The serious drought is taking its toll. ✧ Due to the lack of rain, we expect berries to be small. Heat to create scald. ✧ Crop this year is affected by cutbacks over the last two years. Dry weather affecting size and quantity. ✧ Good start. Lack of rain could hurt. ✧ Very good bloom, set very good, but lack of rain could reduce crop!! ✧ Due to so many golf courses in the area, the underground table is very low. Cliff Pond in State Park is the lowest I have seen in 50 years. With so much building and the likes, I doubt that they will ever return to the old-time levels. ✧ Factors equal no money, bog going down hill fast. ✧ We need rain in the mid-Cape area of Barnstable County. It has been over 30 days no rain. I run the irrigation every other day for 2-3 hours, but Mother Nature really has the last say. ✧ We need rain soon to start sizing the fruit. ✧ Drought. If rains don't come, may not be able to harvest. ✧ Still a lot of flowers on, even some hook. Expect these berries will not mature for usable fruit. Some mechanical damage and weeds. ✧ Lost Early Blacks to frost and some heat damage to some Howes. ✧ Looks pretty good. ✧ Lack of rain will result in small berries. ✧ Not enough rain!! Winter was too mild. ✧ Very hot and dry. Not much water in ponds. Prices too low and not rising. Low price equals low input equals low crop. ✧ The week of July 4 we recorded a temperature of 118 degrees on the bog. This resulted in berry and vine damage. ✧ Berries small to medium. Very little rainfall. ✧ Need water, fewer bugs and weeds. ✧ Small quantity of cranberries expected because bog was dry sanded in December 2001. It takes the vines at least 1-2 years to recover from buggy tracks, etc. ✧ Weevils infestation. Has been treated. ✧ Due to the poor price and cost of cultivating, I am not picking the bog this year. ✧ Drought - post-bloom - may impact the crop. Heavy insect pressure, especially with resistant weevils. Black-headed fireworms on the rise. ✧ Drought affecting size and set. Very heavy bloom. ✧

*This report is taken from the national **Cranberries** report published by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service at 1:00 p.m. on August 20, 2002. The **Cranberries** report is issued annually on the third Tuesday in August. Acreage, yield, production, and value of the 2001 crop was published in the **Non-Citrus Fruit and Nuts** report published on July 8, 2002. Preliminary acreage, yield, production, and value for the 2002 crop will be available in the **Non-Citrus Fruit and Nuts** report published in mid-January, 2003.*

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