

## TOBACCO

**Broadleaf tobacco** marketed production weighed in at 3.1 million pounds in the Connecticut River Valley in 2008, 44 percent below 2007 marketed output. The 2008 season was very challenging for tobacco growers. Hail, heavy rains and high winds late in the season decimated fields, leaving an estimated 1,070 acres unharvested across both states. Additional losses showed up in the sheds as the crop cured. Excessive moisture during curing resulted in a high incidence of pole sweat and spots on leaves, particularly at the lowest tiers. Broadleaf marketed yields averaged 1,398 pounds per acre in the two states in 2008, well below the 1,824 pounds per acre average a year earlier, and the lowest yield on record since 2000. Poor market conditions and less than

optimum quality at some locations translated into lower prices received for the 2008 crop. Broadleaf tobacco prices averaged \$5.81 per pound in 2008 across all grades, compared with \$6.47 per pound a year earlier.

Producers intend to market 1.4 million pounds of 2008 crop **shade tobacco** in Connecticut and Massachusetts, a 23 percent drop in marketed production from the previous year. Based on May 2009 assessments, yields were expected to average 1,292 pounds per acre, compared with the 1,499 pounds per acre average a year earlier. Value of the 2008 crop for the two states will be published in February 2010, after the bulk of the crop is marketed.

TOBACCO: Acreage, Yield, Production and Value, 1999 – 2008 <sup>1</sup>

State and Year	Broadleaf Tobacco (Type 51)					Shade Tobacco (Type 61)					All Tobacco			
	Area Harvested	Yield per Acre	Production	Price per Pound	Value of Production	Area Harvested	Yield per Acre	Production	Price per Pound	Value of Production	Area Harvested	Yield per Acre	Production	Value of Production
	Acres	Pounds	1,000 Pounds	Dollars	1,000 Dollars	Acres	Pounds	1,000 Pounds	Dollars	1,000 Dollars	Acres	Pounds	1,000 Pounds	1,000 Dollars
<b>Connecticut</b>														
1999	1,530	1,650	2,525	4.50	11,363	1,510	1,950	2,945	D	D	3,040	1,799	5,470	D
2000	650	1,500	975	4.90	4,778	1,000	1,550	1,550	D	D	1,650	1,530	2,525	D
2001	1,380	1,790	2,470	5.55	13,709	970	1,415	1,373	D	D	2,350	1,635	3,843	D
2002	1,350	1,820	2,457	5.45	13,391	650	1,320	858	D	D	2,000	1,658	3,315	D
2003	1,400	1,400	1,960	3.50	6,860	780	1,180	920	D	D	2,180	1,321	2,880	D
2004	1,500	1,530	2,295	5.25	12,049	860	1,595	1,372	D	D	2,360	1,554	3,667	D
2005	1,520	1,720	2,614	5.70	14,900	930	1,400	1,302	D	D	2,450	1,598	3,916	D
2006	1,650	1,760	2,904	6.50	18,876	850	1,140	969	D	D	2,500	1,549	3,873	D
2007	1,900	1,850	3,515	6.40	22,496	1,000	1,510	1,510	D	D	2,900	1,733	5,025	D
2008	1,700	1,380	2,346	5.90	13,841	900	1,300	1,170	D	D	2,600	1,352	3,516	D
<b>Massachusetts</b>														
1999	970	1,695	1,644	5.10	8,384	350	1,950	683	D	D	1,320	1,763	2,327	D
2000	250	720	180	5.00	900	260	1,000	260	D	D	510	863	440	D
2001	840	1,780	1,495	5.65	8,447	300	1,040	312	D	D	1,140	1,585	1,807	D
2002	850	1,840	1,564	5.25	8,211	310	950	295	D	D	1,160	1,603	1,859	D
2003	970	1,470	1,426	3.70	5,276	280	1,120	314	D	D	1,250	1,392	1,740	D
2004	920	1,600	1,472	5.40	7,949	320	1,390	445	D	D	1,240	1,546	1,917	D
2005	900	1,670	1,503	5.55	8,342	290	1,180	342	D	D	1,190	1,550	1,845	D
2006	950	1,610	1,530	6.75	10,328	200	1,310	262	D	D	1,150	1,558	1,792	D
2007	1,100	1,780	1,958	6.60	12,923	220	1,450	319	D	D	1,320	1,725	2,277	D
2008	500	1,460	730	5.50	4,015	190	1,250	238	D	D	690	1,403	968	D
<b>New England <sup>2</sup></b>														
1999	2,500	1,668	4,169	4.74	19,747	1,860	1,951	3,628	D	D	4,360	1,788	7,797	D
2000	900	1,283	1,155	4.92	5,678	1,260	1,437	1,810	25.30	45,793	2,160	1,373	2,965	51,471
2001	2,220	1,786	3,965	5.59	22,156	1,270	1,327	1,685	23.00	38,755	3,490	1,619	5,650	60,911
2002	2,200	1,828	4,021	5.37	21,602	960	1,201	1,153	22.50	25,943	3,160	1,637	5,174	47,545
2003	2,370	1,429	3,386	3.58	12,136	1,060	1,164	1,234	26.00	32,084	3,430	1,347	4,620	44,220
2004	2,420	1,557	3,767	5.31	19,998	1,180	1,540	1,817	25.30	45,971	3,600	1,551	5,584	65,969
2005	2,420	1,701	4,117	5.65	23,242	1,220	1,348	1,644	21.00	34,524	3,640	1,583	5,761	57,766
2006	2,600	1,705	4,434	6.59	29,204	1,050	1,172	1,231	21.70	26,712	3,650	1,552	5,665	55,916
2007	3,000	1,824	5,473	6.47	35,419	1,220	1,499	1,829	24.50	44,811	4,220	1,730	7,302	80,230
2008	2,200	1,398	3,076	5.81	17,856	1,090	1,292	1,408	*	*	3,290	1,363	4,484	*

<sup>1</sup> Any leaf that is not harvested, or harvested and destroyed for any reason, is excluded from production.

<sup>2</sup> New England includes Connecticut and Massachusetts.

<sup>D</sup> Data not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

\* 2008 Connecticut and Massachusetts shade price available February 2010.