

WILD BLUEBERRIES



Maine's 2009 wild blueberry crop totaled 88.5 million pounds, 2 percent below 2008 output, but 15 percent higher than 2007 production. During the beginning of May, growers

were active pruning fields and applying fertilizer and herbicides. Average to above average rainfall during the month kept growers busy monitoring for mummyberry and applying fungicides as necessary. Average temperatures and dry weather mid-May provided good pollinating conditions. Cooler temperatures and rain showers in June and throughout most of July delayed crop maturation.

Prolonged wet conditions kept growers on high alert for *Valdensinia* leaf spot disease. Although disease pressure was high, insect pressure was low with few outbreaks. Harvest began by the first week in August in the mid-coast region, about 1 week behind schedule. Excellent harvesting conditions prevailed throughout August and growers were able to complete harvest by Labor Day weekend, ahead of last year and on par with normal.

The price growers receive for processing berries in 2009 is expected to average \$0.35 per pound, down \$0.25 per pound from 2008, a \$0.72 per pound decrease from 2007, and the lowest price per pound received since 2003. If realized, this would place the 2009 processing value at \$30.8 million, the lowest value in the State since 2004.

MAINE WILD BLUEBERRIES: Production and Value, 2000 – 2009

Year	Total Production	All Price per Pound	Total Value of Production	Fresh Wild Blueberries			Wild Blueberries for Processing		
				Production	Price per Pound	Value of Production	Production	Price per Pound	Value of Production
	1,000 Lbs	Dollars	1,000 Dollars	1,000 Lbs	Dollars	1,000 Dollars	1,000 Lbs	Dollars	1,000 Dollars
2000	110,990	0.403	44,732	420	1.200	504	110,570	0.400	44,228
2001	75,200	0.305	22,945	350	1.400	490	74,850	0.300	22,455
2002	62,400	0.286	17,860	400	1.250	500	62,000	0.280	17,360
2003	80,400	0.334	26,880	400	1.200	480	80,000	0.330	26,400
2004	46,000	0.456	20,970	300	1.350	405	45,700	0.450	20,565
2005	60,150	0.656	39,430	350	1.600	560	59,800	0.650	38,870
2006	74,600	0.805	60,040	400	1.700	680	74,200	0.800	59,360
2007	77,250	1.070	83,031	450	1.900	855	76,800	1.070	82,176
2008	89,950	0.610	54,850	550	2.200	1,210	89,400	0.600	53,640
2009 ¹	88,500	0.362	32,025	500	2.450	1,225	88,000	0.350	30,800

¹ Preliminary price per pound and value of production. Final price statistics to be published in July 2010.

