

OATS and BARLEY

Growers in Maine started planting small grains during the second week of May, 1 to 2 weeks later than normal due to heavily saturated fields. As of May 22, only 25 percent of the State's oats and barley acreage was planted, compared with normal of 70 percent. Farmers battled significant rain from late May to mid-June in Aroostook County to get the crops all planted by June 19. The weather in the County was favorable throughout the month of July, boosting crop growth. Harvest was just getting underway in late August, well behind schedule, when the remnants of two tropical storms hit. The excessive rains delayed harvest even further, and heavy soils forced farmers to abandon some fields. Clover seeded as a nurse crop in some areas grew taller than the oats and barley, making harvest for grain impossible. Combining was complete by the first week of October.

Oats harvested for grain totaled 26,000 acres in 2011, down 4,000 acres from 2010. Oat yields averaged 45 bushels per acre, well below the previous 5-year average of 64 bushels per acre. Grain production, at 1.17 million bushels, was 40 percent below 2010 output, and the smallest oat crop harvested in the State since 1973.

Farmers harvested 14,000 acres of barley for grain in 2011, down 1,000 acres a year ago. Barley yields averaged 35 bushels per acre, compared with the previous 5-year average of 57 bushels per acre. Reduced acreage and yields placed grain production at 490,000 bushels, 46 percent below 2010 output, and the smallest crop harvested in the State since records began in 2000.

OATS: Acreage, Yield, Production, and Value, 2002– 2011

State and Year	Area		Yield per Acre	Grain Production	Price per Bushel ¹	Value of Production
	Planted for All Purposes	Harvested for Grain				
	1,000 Acres		Bushels	1,000 Bushels	Dollars	1,000 Dollars
Maine						
2002	28	27	85	2,295	1.45	3,328
2003	27	26	78	2,028	1.10	2,231
2004	34	32	80	2,560	1.20	3,072
2005	32	28	70	1,960	1.19	2,332
2006	29	28	55	1,540	1.38	2,125
2007	29	28	70	1,960	2.25	4,410
2008	32	31	65	2,015	2.30	4,635
2009	32	31	65	2,015	1.54	3,103
2010	31	30	65	1,950	1.60	3,120
2011	28	26	45	1,170	2.55	2,984

¹ Standard weight for one bushel of oats is 32 pounds.

BARLEY: Acreage, Yield, Production, and Value, 2002 – 2011

State and Year	Area		Yield per Acre	Grain Production	Price per Bushel ¹	Value of Production
	Planted for All Purposes	Harvested for Grain				
	1,000 Acres		Bushels	1,000 Bushels	Dollars	1,000 Dollars
Maine						
2002	28	27	80	2,160	1.70	3,672
2003	28	27	65	1,755	1.30	2,282
2004	23	22	60	1,320	1.58	2,086
2005	23	22	60	1,320	1.90	2,508
2006	18	17	50	850	1.85	1,573
2007	18	17	65	1,105	2.94	3,249
2008	20	19	55	1,045	3.55	3,710
2009	16	15	55	825	2.45	2,021
2010	16	15	60	900	2.50	2,250
2011	16	14	35	490	4.10	2,009

¹ Standard weight for one bushel of barley is 48 pounds.