

## WILD BLUEBERRIES

Maine's 2011 **wild blueberry** crop totaled 83.1 million pounds, fractionally above 2010 output. The price growers expect to receive for processing berries in 2011 averaged \$0.85 per pound, an increase of \$0.25 per pound from 2010 and \$0.50 higher than 2009. Improved prices will place the 2011 processing value of production at \$70.1 million, 42 percent above the previous year. Wild blueberry fields in the mid-coast area of Maine sustained multiple mummyberry infection periods during spring 2011. Pollination and fruit set were uneven because of weather variations in different parts of the region during

bloom. Some berry fields sustained damage after a hailstorm June 1. Fruit set was not good in the mid-coast region because of cool, wet weather during bloom, but Downeast pollination was excellent. Maine wild blueberry harvest began during the first week in August, a week behind schedule, due to showers. When harvest began, the crop was reported in fair to good condition in a number of areas due to inadequate precipitation during July. Some plants had leaf burn and leaf drop caused by the lack of rainfall. Harvest was complete during the first week of September, on par with the average.

MAINE WILD BLUEBERRIES: Production and Value, 2002 – 2011 <sup>1</sup>

Year	Total Production 1,000 Lbs	All Price per Pound Dollars	Total Value of Production 1,000 Dollars	Fresh Wild Blueberries			Wild Blueberries for Processing		
				Production 1,000 Lbs	Price per Pound Dollars	Value of Production 1,000 Dollars	Production 1,000 Lbs	Price per Pound Dollars	Value of Production 1,000 Dollars
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	88,100	0.363	31,945	600	2.200	1,320	87,500	0.350	30,625
2010	83,000	0.610	50,600	500	2.200	1,100	82,500	0.600	49,500
2011 <sup>1</sup>	83,100	0.859	71,355	600	2.050	1,230	82,500	0.850	70,125

<sup>1</sup> 2011 data are preliminary. Final estimates will be published July, 6 2012 in the *Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts 2012 Summary*, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

Wild Blueberries: Total Production and Value, Maine, 2002 – 2011

