

Maine Wild Blueberries



NEW ENGLAND
Agricultural
Statistics



53 Pleasant Street
Room 2100
Concord, NH 03301

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

Gary R. Keough, Director

Phone: 603-224-9639

Fax: 603-225-1434

www.nass.usda.gov/nh

nass-nh@nass.usda.gov

A special "THANK YOU" goes to Maine wild blueberry growers and processors who have helped us by completing surveys throughout the year.

PROCESSING PRICE DECLINES FOR SECOND STRAIGHT YEAR

MAINE WILD BLUEBERRY CROP: Maine's 2009 wild blueberry crop totaled 88.5 million pounds, two percent below 2008 output, but 15 percent higher than 2007 production. The price growers receive for processing berries in 2009 is expected to average \$0.35 per pound, a decrease of \$0.25 per pound from 2008 and 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 \$30.8 million, the lowest since 2004.

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. Mummyberry blight symptoms were apparent, however very little infection was seen on fields treated with fungicide. 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 one week behind schedule. With the presence of excellent harvesting conditions throughout August, growers were able to complete

harvest by Labor Day weekend, ahead of last year and on par with normal.

CANADIAN WILD BLUEBERRY CROP: According to David Yarborough, Extension Wild Blueberry Specialist, "The wild blueberry crop in Canada was 137 million pounds, which is less than last year's crop of 157 million pounds but well above the five-year average of 122 million pounds. Quebec's crop was approximately 70 million pounds, less than last year because there were fewer berries from the bush due to lower prices. The spring in Quebec was cooler than normal but they had ample sun and warm weather during pollination, so they had good fruit set. The weather in Nova Scotia was overcast and misty much of the summer so the crop was about average at 33 million pounds compared to its five-year average of 32.5 million pounds. In the northeast part of New Brunswick, they had wet and cold weather conditions during bloom so the crop at 24 million pounds was just below the five-year average of 25 million pounds. The lack of winter kill, good pollination weather, an adequate supply of bees and ample summer rainfall all contributed to the bumper crop of 10.3 million pounds in Prince Edward Island, which exceeds the five-year average of 8.9 million pounds. This crop increase is also attributed to the growing number of acres coming into production which is expected to continue to increase the average crop in future years."

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.

SOURCE: *Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts – Preliminary*, January 22, 2010, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

Blueberries: Price and Value by Crop, Selected States and United States, 2009 Crop

Crop and State	Total Utilized Production	All Price per Pound	Total Value of Production	Fresh Blueberries			Blueberries for Processing		
				Production	Price per Pound	Value of Production	Production	Price per Pound	Value of Production
2009	1,000 Pounds	Dollars	1,000 Dollars	1,000 Pounds	Dollars	1,000 Dollars	1,000 Pounds	Dollars	1,000 Dollars
Wild Blueberries									
Maine	88,500	0.362	32,025	500	2.450	1,225	88,000	0.350	30,800
Cultivated Blueberries									
Alabama	300	1.640	492	300	1.640	492	D	D	D
Arkansas	500	1.720	860	500	1.720	860	D	D	D
California	23,000	2.930	67,390	23,000	2.930	67,390	D	D	D
Florida	13,500	5.400	72,900	13,500	5.400	72,900	D	D	D
Georgia	43,000	1.290	55,600	23,000	2.000	46,000	20,000	0.480	9,600
Indiana	3,700	1.510	5,584	2,700	1.920	5,184	1,000	0.400	400
Michigan	99,000	1.030	101,850	49,000	1.650	80,850	50,000	0.420	21,000
Mississippi	6,500	1.610	10,490	5,400	1.800	9,720	1,100	0.700	770
New Jersey	53,000	1.230	65,260	45,000	1.340	60,300	8,000	0.620	4,960
New York	2,100	2.170	4,558	2,050	2.210	4,531	50	0.540	27
North Carolina	32,700	1.570	51,330	25,500	1.900	48,450	7,200	0.400	2,880
Oregon	48,000	0.777	37,280	23,000	1.110	25,530	25,000	0.470	11,750
Washington	36,000	0.776	27,925	9,500	1.740	16,530	26,500	0.430	11,395
UNITED STATES	361,300	1.390	501,519	222,450	1.970	438,737	138,850	0.452	62,782

D Small quantities of processed blueberries are included in fresh to avoid disclosure of individual operations.
 SOURCE: *Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts – Preliminary*, January 22, 2010, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

The wild blueberry estimating program is funded through a cooperative agreement with the Maine Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources as a service to growers and others in the industry. The next Maine Wild Blueberries report will be published and available on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/nh in late July 2010. It will contain the final price statistics for the 2009 crop.

Gary R. Keough, Director

A.I. Slosman, Office Automation

Ty Kalas, Deputy Director

Statisticians: Robin Helrich, Jennifer Zaleski

Statistical Assistant: Kathy Schmitt

