

**WILD BLUEBERRIES**



Maine's 2005 wild blueberry crop weighed 58.5 million pounds, an increase of 27 percent from 2004 output, and 27 percent below 2003 production. Winter kill appeared minimal on Maine's 2005 wild blueberry crop due to adequate snow cover throughout the winter. Cool weather in the spring delayed development and bloom by one to two weeks. Excessive rainfall in April and May created ideal conditions for blight and mummyberry, which were widespread across the state. Wet weather in May also caused poor, spotty pollination in many areas. Some growers reported good luck with pollination in early June when sunny weather finally arrived in conjunction

with a late bloom. By the end of July, the crop was under stress from lack of moisture. Berry size remained small and light yields were reported. Many small growers decided not to harvest at all in 2005, citing difficulty in finding rakers after the poor crop a year earlier. Based on December 2005 assessments, the price received for processed berries in 2005 is expected to average 60 cents per pound, and increase of 15 cents from a year earlier. If realized, this would place the 2005 processing value at \$34.9 million, compared with \$20.6 million the previous year.

**WILD BLUEBERRIES: Production and Value, 1996 – 2005**

State and Year	Total Production	All Price per Pound <sup>1/</sup>	Total Value of Production <sup>1/</sup>	Fresh Blueberries <sup>2/</sup>			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
<b>MAINE</b>									
1996	59,198	0.570	33,590	268	–	–	58,930	0.57	33,590
1997	73,816	0.430	31,622	276	–	–	73,540	0.43	31,622
1998	62,981	0.463	29,166	360	1.00	360	62,621	0.46	28,806
1999	66,102	0.513	33,889	300	1.10	330	65,802	0.51	33,559
2000	110,990	0.403	44,732	420	1.20	504	110,570	0.40	44,228
2001	75,200	0.305	22,945	350	1.40	490	74,850	0.30	22,455
2002	62,400	0.286	17,860	400	1.25	500	62,000	0.28	17,360
2003	80,400	0.334	26,880	400	1.20	480	80,000	0.33	26,400
2004	46,000	0.456	20,970	300	1.35	405	45,700	0.45	20,565
2005 <sup>3/</sup>	58,500	0.605	35,370	300	1.50	450	58,200	0.60	34,920

<sup>1/</sup> All Price per Pound and Total Value of Production for 1996 – 1997 does not include fresh market blueberries.

<sup>2/</sup> Fresh Blueberry Price per Pound and Value of Production are not available before 1998.

<sup>3/</sup> Preliminary Price per Pound and Value of Production are based on expectations as of December 2005.

