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Cranberries

August 2003

August 19, 2003

A special "THANK YOU" goes to Massachusetts Cranberry growers and handlers who have helped us by completing the cranberry survey during July and August.

Massachusetts Cranberry Production Forecast Up 17 Percent, U.S. Up 3 Percent

The **United States** forecast for the 2003 cranberry crop was 5.83 million barrels, up three percent from 2002 and nine percent above 2001. Wisconsin was the only State forecasting a decrease in production from a year ago. The cranberry industry has not had a restrictive marketing order in effect since the 2001 growing season. Under that order, growers could only sell 65 percent of their historic average sales to the processors. These restrictions applied to all five of the major cranberry producing States. The lack of marketing restrictions in 2002 and 2003 led some growers to increase acreage. This increased acreage combined with good growing conditions in most States resulted in the higher cranberry production forecast.

The **Massachusetts** cranberry crop was forecasted at 1.7 million barrels, an increase of 17 percent from 2002, and an increase of 20 percent from 2001. Growers' response to the survey indicated this year's crop had an above average bloom, slightly below average set, and below average size; however, rain showers during the first half of August should help the cranberries increase in size. At the time of the survey, water supplies were adequate for the harvest compared to the previous year. Many growers took advantage of the long cold winter to sand their bogs, which may slightly decrease their yields this year. Growers indicated the wet cold spring delayed the growing season. Although the price cranberry growers received for their crop has risen over the past couple of years, many growers expressed concern about the value of their crop this year.

New Jersey expects a crop of 470,000 barrels, up nine percent from 2002 but 17 percent below 2001. Growers reported bloom, fruit set, and fruit size to be mostly average. No significant weather damage was reported.

Production in **Wisconsin** was forecasted at 3.05 million barrels, five percent below 2002 but seven percent above 2001. Cranberry farmers in Wisconsin report having an average growing season with a good berry set. Rainfall has been mostly adequate, with some areas a little dry and in need of additional rain before harvest. Some winter damage was reported in northern and central areas of the State. Crop maturity was about one week behind normal.

In **Oregon**, the crop was forecasted at 440,000 barrels, two percent above last year's crop and up 21 percent from 2001. Weather conditions have been favorable for cranberry production. A cold, wet spring prolonged bloom but warm summer temperatures have helped fruit set and sizing.

The **Washington** crop was forecasted at 170,000 barrels, five percent above last year and 20 percent above 2001. Conditions for cranberry production in Washington have been very good this season. A mild winter followed by a wet spring and warm summer provided excellent bloom conditions. Many old vines have slowly been replaced with higher yielding vines as producers manage their bogs more intensively.

MASSACHUSETTS CRANBERRY PRODUCTION -- 2002: Cranberry production in Massachusetts during 2002 was 1.45 million barrels, three percent above 2001's output. Harvested acreage increased from 12,000 acres in 2001 to 14,500 acres in 2002. Massachusetts' cranberry yield per acre in 2002 averaged 100.1 barrels. The average price per barrel increased from \$24.00 in 2001 to \$33.20 in 2002, resulting in a 42 percent increase in the value of utilized production of \$48.2 million in 2002.

CRANBERRIES: Total Production, 2001 - 2003

State	2001	2002	2003 ^{1/} Forecast
	1,000 Barrels ^{2/}	1,000 Barrels ^{2/}	1,000 Barrels ^{2/}
Massachusetts	1,416	1,452	1,700
New Jersey	566	430	470
Oregon	365	432	440
Washington	142	162	170
Wisconsin	2,840	3,208	3,050
United States	5,329	5,684	5,830

^{1/} Current year production is forecast as of mid-August assuming normal conditions for the remainder of the growing season.

^{2/} Standard weight used for one barrel of cranberries is 100 pounds.

SOURCE: **Cranberries**, 1:00 p.m., August 19, 2003, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

CRANBERRIES: Acres, Yield, Production, Utilization, Price and Value, by State, 2001 - 2002

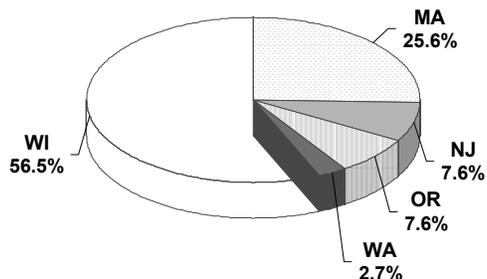
STATE	Acres Harvested	Yield per Acre	Production		Utilization		Price per Barrel ^{1/}			Value of Utilized Production
			Total	Utilized	Fresh	Processed	Fresh	Processed	All	
	Acres	Barrels	1,000 Barrels ^{2/}	1,000 Barrels ^{2/}	1,000 Barrels ^{2/}	1,000 Barrels ^{2/}	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	1,000 Dollars
2001										
Massachusetts	12,000	118.0	1,416	1,414	176	1,238	40.50	21.60	24.00	33,869
New Jersey	3,100	182.6	566	412	--	412	--	23.10	23.10	9,517
Oregon	2,400	152.1	365	355	7	348	43.30	22.10	22.50	7,994
Washington	1,600	88.8	142	136	34	102	43.30	23.20	28.20	3,838
Wisconsin	15,100	188.1	2,840	2,466	209	2,257	40.90	22.10	23.70	58,428
U.S.	34,200	155.8	5,329	4,783	426	4,357	41.00	22.10	23.80	113,646
2002										
Massachusetts	14,500	100.1	1,452	1,452	154	1,298	50.30	31.20	33.20	48,244
New Jersey	3,100	138.7	430	430	--	430	--	32.00	32.00	13,760
Oregon	2,600	166.2	432	432	8	424	48.40	32.60	32.90	14,209
Washington	1,600	101.3	162	155	30	125	53.80	32.00	36.20	5,614
Wisconsin	15,900	201.8	3,208	3,208	177	3,031	57.60	30.70	32.20	103,247
U.S.	37,700	150.8	5,684	5,677	369	5,308	54.00	31.10	32.60	185,074

^{1/} Weighted average of co-op and independent sales. Co-op prices represent pool proceeds less returns for processing non-cranberry products, capital stock dividends, capital stock retains and other retains.

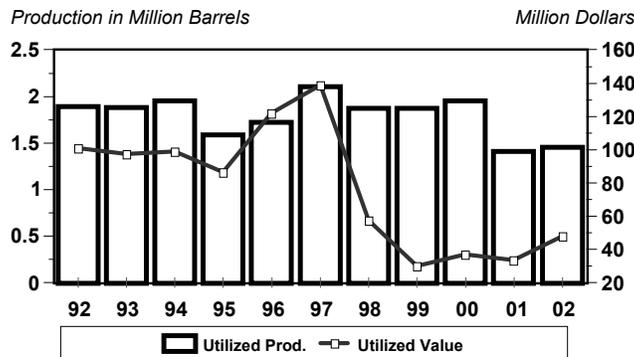
^{2/} Standard weight used for one barrel of cranberries is 100 pounds.

SOURCE: **Non-citrus Fruits and Nuts - 2002 Summary**, 3:00 p.m., July 8, 2003 National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

**US Cranberry Utilized Production, 2002
Percent by State**



**Cranberry Utilized Production and Value
Massachusetts, 1992-2002**



MAINE CRANBERRIES: Acres, Yield, Production, Utilization, Price and Value, 2001-2002

State and Year	Area Harvested	Yield per Acre	Production		Utilization		Price per Barrel	Value of Utilized Production
			Total	Utilized	For Fresh Market	For Processing		
	Acres	Barrels	1,000 Barrels	1,000 Barrels	1,000 Barrels	1,000 Barrels	Dollars	1,000 Dollars
Maine								
2001	250.5	58.0	18.00	17.50	1.60	15.90	41.10	719
2002	219.0	93.4	20.45	20.45	2.63	17.82	47.50	971

SOURCE: January, 2003, Cranberry Associate, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, 207-581-2940

CRANBERRY COMMENTS JULY - AUGUST 2003, AS REPORTED ON THE GROWER SURVEY

Good looking crop; no problems so far. Late bloom. Set July 7, 2003. Fireworms increasing the past two years. Wet spring, late growing season. Down from last year. Recovering well from drought last year. Cold winter, sanding, wet spring. First year in ten that we were able to sand on ice. That should help reduce crop. Should have a better crop next year. I'm seeing lots of new vegetative uprights right now. Cold spring, late bloom. Sanded bog during the winter. Good weather for bees and berry set. Timely rainfall. Some problems with weevil and fireworms. Not as big as last year. Pollination poor. Sanding hurt a lot of people. Bug pressure getting worse; many resistant to new sprays. Sanded this year. Bad insect infestation. Long cold winter! Then into 90 degree days for spring. Bloom was heavy but the majority passed very quickly. Not working bog this year due to market conditions; weeds and grass very heavy. Much later bloom due to cold spring could effect crop. Crop looks better than 2002 so far. Bogs renovated in 1997 and coming into full production. Much better crop than last year is expected. Natural rain is helping versus irrigation. Looks good! Last year looked good when I filled out this inquiry, but they weren't there in the fall. Drought really hurt in '02. PH problem. Very lush vines may encourage rot. Very hard to predict crop size. I got frosted one night while I was sprinkling core frost. I'm not sure how it happened, but I will be keeping a better eye on my pump pressure. Rebuilt three acres in 2001. Light crop the first time picking. Rebuilt four acres in 2002. Looks great. Heavy vining. Very light crop. Some mid-June frost damage. I had an apparent late frost kill. Wet, rainy spring delayed bloom. Average just starting to size up. We are still 10-14 days behind usual time frames, so not sure about size of berries. We sanded this spring, so do not expect a very large crop. Substantial color already. Heavy insect pressure (pre-bloom). Late bloom (1-2 weeks). Beneficial rains. Serious leaf drop on this particular bog due to winterkill caused by pump failure. A late wet cold spring has resulted in a later than normal and scattered bloom which could mean the fruit has less time to size before harvest which would reduce the weight. Lots of problems with bugs. Lack of heat units and excessive rain has hurt 2003 crop. Sanded many bogs heavily. Reduced crop in some areas. Large crop last year; expect reduction this year. Winter killed. No crop. Wonderful rain supplies this growing season. Very unusual. No monies to work with. Average crop. Quality is questionable at this time. Cold wet spring. Bad insect infestation. Insects may be a problem, especially fruitworms. Beneficial rainfall to date should improve yield. Snowy winter helped! A good set. Plenty of water, not like last year which the drought did damage to the vines, two acres did not produce. Lighter crop where sanded. Everything looks okay. Not setting up to what bloom we had. Looks good. Due to broken frost sensor, extensive damage occurred. Due to low returns, we have flowed out many areas. Bloom was heavy, but some damage from extensive sanding last winter affected crop adversely. Heavy early summer rains also contributed to excessive vine growth. Insects to date have been about average. Blossom and set are still about 7-10 days behind normal, resulting in smaller than normal size. Maybe will catch up! Wet weather during and after bloom will cut into crop. Lingering bloom. Uneven set. Unknown outcome. Not too bad with insects. Rains may increase crop. Lots of water and sanding seems to be working toward over vegetation before any fertilizer at all, if any. Strong insect pressure at bloom. Lots of sanding last winter. Bogs still recovering from drought. Stress at bud formation time last year. Winter damage. Good rain! High water table! Lots of weeds. Bloom actually above average. Size of berries is an estimate based on conditions weatherwise to date. Good bloom, decent set, but lack of sun, may make small fruit. Drought last year effected winter flood. Not enough water. Problem with fireworms. Set was very late. Some of sanded bogs had low blooms and therefore, light crop projection. In transition to Organic. Flood to destroy crop. Lack of income has prevented good agricultural practices, thus reducing the crop and causing the bog to go down hill. Insect populations high. Wet, cold spring. Late bloom. Doesn't give a long growing season for the berries to size up. Time will tell. Plenty of rain this spring, also continuing through the summer. Many bogs in this area look good. Won't be surprised if Massachusetts has a decent crop. Delayed bloom. Late spring affecting the soil temperature. Crop is behind about 1-2 weeks in

maturity. Very late spring could limit ultimate sizing if fall is early. Good rain and lack of heat has been positive. Bloom was late. We still have a lot of flowers. Later blooms. Crop behind normal year. May have smaller size, color? Sanded past winter. Crop somewhat decreased. Lost entire sections to green span worm. Newer bogs, not a heavy crop. Looks good so far!! Had light blooms. Believe to be stressed from 2002 crop. Looks good so far. Good weather for bees and berry sizing. New Stevens bog will produce this year. Heavy insect damage. (Weevils and fireworms) Late Bloom. Questionable set to fruit. Three years below cost and counting. Hard to grow a crop for free. Bogs suffering from three years of low prices. Can't grow crop without money. A lot of rain in spring made for a lot of top growth. Very slow start (no spring). Good pollination weather (keep our fingers crossed.) Had a good bloom. Dismal weather in June, bees did not pollinate. Seeing a lot of pinheads now. Had black headed fireworms (losing 1 - 1/2 acres). Berry production on light to medium side. Good so far. Vines look good. Hesitate on forecast because of previous rot, scald, grub damage. Crop will be light due to damage from dry harvesting in 2002. Late set about two weeks behind - cold spring. There are extreme insect counts this year. How it effects the crop remains to be seen. We are using IPM methods. A large amount of pinheads (about 75%). Also a lot of bloom didn't set. Stevens do better. Crop appears to be normal at this time. Cold weather and wet this spring. Bees didn't work. Fireworms caused quite a bit of damage. Reduced crop on 10 acres. Lingering bloom. Higher prices would be nice. Heavy weeding of bog. Winter damage and spring fireworms damage cut my crop by 50 percent. Looks good so far. Good pollination. Weather hot. Good timing of natural rainfall. High insect pressure this season. Some frost around. Late spring, too cold and wet, so thinks crop will be down. Fireworms damage during bloom. Crop late this year. Due to wet spring there is a lot of rot anticipated, and lots more bugs, need lots of fertilizer. Looking good. 2002 weevils ate the berries. This year looks a lot better than last year! 2002 was a terrible year - hit by drought. Had a bad drought last year that killed the cranberries. This years crop looks good. Some of the berries are small but hopefully they will catch up and become big like the others. Looks pretty good so far.... Good sun, frequent rain, equals good crop this year! Hope it's a bigger crop than last year.. Bad year! Too much rain and too cold. Yield will be very low, oxygen deficiency; too much rain. Berries are rotting fast. Fireworm hurt crop. Problems with equipment, hopes to harvest next year. Disappointed in the set of fruit. All different sizes. It is a horrible year. Bad bug/weevil situation. 2002 was a dismal year - drought/ insects. Wet spring and summer. Looks okay. 2002 very poor due to the drought. New bog. Bugs got to the crop this year, too much rain. Bloom has held on - strange year. Crop has heavy vines, so not sure of yield. A very bad year last year because at harvest time he had a fireworm attack. Not harvesting any berries this year because of the condition of the bog. Was late fertilizing so that will effect the crop this year but other than that everything looks good. Certified organic. Having problems with rot and worm because of all the rain. The weather is funny. Three weeks behind with the crop (bloom was late, set was late, etc...) Everything looks good. Bad weather, can't even estimate problems with blight and fungus. The heavy rain has been good for this crop. Looks poor - problems at the bog. Had too much rain at the wrong time. Water did not drain off so the crop will be light this year. The drought killed many of the berries. Good rain but not turning out as good of a crop as thought during bloom. Berries are doing okay. Sanded in the winter of 2002/03, so not sure how the crop will be doing. It's a bad year because of worms. Looks okay... Berries are running about 2 weeks behind normal development this year. Late start, cold wet spring. This year looks good but there has been too much rain. A lot better than last year. It was a very bad year, last year because of the drought. Good until heat damaged. Too wet this year which has cause some cranberries to rot. This year hit by weevils. Last year, hit by worms. Hope it's worth something. Good moisture - good size. Heavy rain right now is plumping up the berries - time will tell. Late water in 2003. Had lots of problems since mid July. Also had a lot of bees die off. Normal pods have 4-5 berries - this years have maybe 2. Anything is better than last year. Not looking too great - A bad year for

insects-usually after a tough winter there are fewer insects. ✧ Looks better than last year, depends on weather, looks good right now. ✧ So far so good! Keeping their fingers crossed! ✧ There hasn't been any problems this year and expect a good crop. ✧ Worms are out in

full force. ✧ Things aren't looking too good -hit hard with green span worm, also spag problems. ✧ This year is very wet. ✧ Pollinators got in 2 weeks late.

*This report is taken from the national **Cranberries** report published by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service at 1:00 p.m. on August 19, 2003. The **Cranberries** report is issued annually on the third Tuesday in August. Acreage, yield, production, and value of the 2002 crop was published in the **Non-Citrus Fruit and Nuts** report published on July 8, 2003. Preliminary acreage, yield, production, and value for the 2002 crop will be available in the **Non-Citrus Fruit and Nuts** report published in mid-January, 2004.*

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