

WILD BLUEBERRIES

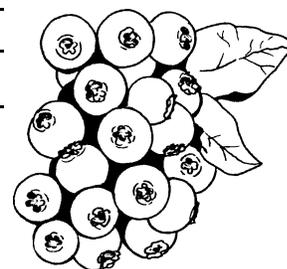
Maine is the leading wild blueberry producing state in the nation. According to the 1997 Census of Agriculture, New Hampshire and Massachusetts rank a very distinct second and third, respectively. In comparison, Maine's wild blueberry production exceeded production in the top cultivated blueberry producing state, Michigan, by almost 14 percent in 1998.

Maine's lowbush blueberry production totaled 63 million pounds in 1998, 15 percent below the 1997

production, but 6 percent above production two years earlier. Bushes had little winter injury to plants and bloom was good; however, pollination was diminished due to fog, cold, and damp weather. Although less fruit was set, growing conditions were favorable with ample rain throughout most of the summer. Very dry conditions in August, though, prevented the berries from sizing up as expected. The value of processed production in 1998 was placed at \$28.8 million, an average of 46 cents per pound.

WILD BLUEBERRIES: Production and Value, 1989 - 1998

STATE & YEAR	Utilized Production ^{1/}	Blueberries for Processing		
		Production	Price per Pound	Value of Production
	1,000 Pounds		Cents	1,000 Dollars
Maine				
1989	27,050	26,838	51	13,687
1990	75,294	74,951	37	27,732
1991	39,464	39,255	46	18,057
1992	84,513	84,193	41	34,519
1993	64,562	64,212	28	17,979
1994	59,495	59,145	30	17,744
1995	65,944	65,639	32	21,004
1996	59,198	58,930	57	33,590
1997	73,816	73,540	43	31,622
1998	62,981	62,621	46	28,806



^{1/} Includes fruit used for both fresh and processed production.

