

Maine Wild Blueberries



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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 their wild blueberry surveys throughout the year.

2007 WILD BLUEBERRY PRODUCTION ABOVE AVERAGE, RECORD VALUE EXPECTED

MAINE WILD BLUEBERRY CROP: Maine's 2007 wild blueberry crop totaled 76.9 million pounds, an increase of three percent above 2006 output, and 28 percent higher than 2005 production. The price growers receive for processing berries in 2007 is expected to average 93.5 cents per pound, an increase of 13.5 cents from 2006. If realized, this would place the 2007 processing value at a record \$71.5 million, compared with \$59.4 million the previous year.

Maine's wild blueberry crop survived the winter with minimal damage. Mummy berry and red leaf disease were evident in some fields, however overall disease pressure was light and there were few insect problems. A good bloom in early June, accompanied by excellent pollinating conditions resulted in above average fruit set in most areas. Dry conditions late in the growing season initially kept berry size small. Showers and cool nights arrived in August to improve berry size, and the season ended with average to above average sized fruit. Maine's wild blueberry harvest was complete by the beginning of September and crop condition ranged from good to fair across the state.

NORTH AMERICAN WILD BLUEBERRY CROP: According to David Yarborough, Extension Blueberry Specialist, "The wild blueberry crop in Canada was 105 million pounds, which is

slightly above the five-year average of 97.3 million pounds. Quebec's crop was 44 million pounds. Despite the winter kill and frost, which both contributed to the reduction in yield, the crop was only slightly below its five-year average of 47 million pounds. Injury was uneven with some fields being severely affected and others with much less injury. The crop in Nova Scotia was well below average for the second year in a row at 26.4 million pounds compared to its five-year average of 32 million pounds. Both winter kill and cold, wet weather during pollination reduced the crop set and increased losses from Monilinia and Botrytis disease.

In contrast, the crop in New Brunswick was 26.1 million pounds which was the largest blueberry crop harvested in the Province and above the five year average of 22 million pounds. The crop increase was attributed to the increase in the number of acres coming into production which is expected to increase the average crop. The lack of winter kill, good pollination weather, an adequate supply of bees and ample summer rainfall all contributed to the bumper crop. Prince Edward Island had a crop of 8.3 million pounds, which is close to average. Figures for Newfoundland were not available but it is assumed they had a less than average crop of 0.5 million pounds, the decrease is attributed to the lack of labor for harvest."

MAINE WILD BLUEBERRIES: Production and Value, 1998 – 2007

Year	Total 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
	1,000 Lbs	Dollars	1,000 Dollars	1,000 Lbs	Dollars	1,000 Dollars	1,000 Lbs	Dollars	1,000 Dollars
1998	62,981	0.463	29,166	360	1.000	360	62,621	0.460	28,806
1999	66,102	0.513	33,889	300	1.100	330	65,802	0.510	33,559
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 ¹	76,850	0.939	72,141	350	1.750	613	76,500	0.935	71,528

¹ Preliminary Price per Pound and Value of Production. Final price statistics to be published in July, 2008.

SOURCE: *Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts – Preliminary*, 3:00 pm January 23, 2008 National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

Blueberries: Preliminary Price and Value by Crop, Selected States and United States, 2007 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
2007	1,000 Pounds	Dollars	1,000 Dollars	1,000 Pounds	Dollars	1,000 Dollars	1,000 Pounds	Dollars	1,000 Dollars
Wild Blueberries									
Maine	76,850	0.939	72,141	350	1.750	613	76,500	0.935	71,528
Cultivated Blueberries									
Alabama ¹	260	1.590	413	260	1.590	413			
Arkansas ¹	70	1.640	115	70	1.640	115			
California ¹	16,500	1.830	30,175	14,500	1.950	28,275	2,000	0.950	1,900
Florida ¹	7,800	5.000	39,000	7,800	5.000	39,000			
Georgia	9,000	2.540	22,860	6,000	3.100	18,600	3,000	1.420	4,260
Indiana	1,400	1.920	2,690	800	2.200	1,760	600	1.550	930
Michigan	93,000	1.780	165,456	30,000	2.050	61,500	63,000	1.650	103,956
Mississippi	9,500	1.820	17,250	5,000	2.100	10,500	4,500	1.500	6,750
New Jersey	54,000	1.670	90,240	41,000	1.700	69,700	13,000	1.580	20,540
New York	2,300	1.470	3,373	2,250	1.470	3,308	50	1.300	65
North Carolina	14,500	2.110	30,570	9,800	2.400	23,520	4,700	1.500	7,050
Oregon	45,000	1.440	64,950	16,800	1.600	26,880	28,200	1.350	38,070
Washington	29,600	1.680	49,656	11,200	2.150	24,080	18,400	1.390	25,576
UNITED STATES	282,930	1.830	516,748	145,480	2.110	307,651	137,450	1.520	209,097

¹ Small quantities of processed blueberries are included in fresh to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

SOURCE: *Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts – Preliminary*, 3:00 pm January 23, 2008 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 <http://www.nass.usda.gov/nh> in late July 2008. It will contain the final price statistics for the 2007 crop and the production forecast for the 2008 crop.

Gary R. Keough, Director
Jennifer M. Zaleski, Statistician

Alexander I. Slosman, Office Automation

Gerald D. Tillman, Deputy Director
Deirdre Davis, Statistical Assistant

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
ROOM 2100
53 PLEASANT STREET
CONCORD, NH 03301

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