

OATS

Maine's oat production totaled 2.3 million bushels in 2003, down 10 percent from the previous year's output. It was still the second highest level since 1989. Oat yields averaged 78 bushels per acre in 2003, down 12 bushels from 2002 average. Grain prices per bushel fell 40 cents to \$1.05. With both production and prices down, the value of production, at \$2.46 million, decreased 35 percent. The value of production in 2003 was more in line with the last ten years as the value only decreased four percent from 2001 and was higher than 1997 through 2000.

Cool, rainy spring weather delayed small grain planting in Maine from one to two weeks in 2003, but by early June, seeding was on schedule. The right combination of moisture and heat provided ideal conditions for Maine's small grain crops until tropical conditions arrived in August. Heavy winds and rain caused excessive lodging at many location.

OATS: Acreage, Yield, Production and Value, 1994 - 2003

State and Year	Area		Yield per Acre	Grain Production	Price per Bushel	Value of Production
	Planted for All Purposes	Harvested for Grain				
	1,000 Acres		Bushels ^{1/}	1,000 Bushels	Dollars	1,000 Dollars
Maine						
1994	25	22	70	1,540	1.02	1,571
1995	29	26	60	1,560	1.34	2,090
1996	31	28	75	2,100	1.57	3,297
1997	26	23	73	1,679	1.20	2,015
1998	25	24	73	1,752	.97	1,699
1999	30	27	80	2,160	.90	1,944
2000	32	30	70	2,100	.90	1,890
2001	33	31	75	2,325	1.10	2,558
2002	30	29	90	2,610	1.45	3,785
2003	31	30	78	2,340	1.05	2,457

^{1/} Standard weight used for one bushel of oats is 32 pounds.

BARLEY

Maine growers harvested 1.8 million bushels of barley in 2003, a decrease of 16 percent from 2002, but only four percent below the total production for 2001. Barley yield averaged 65 bushels per acre in 2003, down 15 bushels per acre from last year and down five bushels per acre from 2001 and 2000. The value of the 2003 crop was placed at \$2.02 million, down 43 percent from previous year. Most of the decrease was due

to lower prices, going from \$1.70 in 2002 to \$1.15 in 2003.

As with oats, seeding was delayed due to the cool and moist spring. The excess moisture also reduced barley yield and decreased the quality in many locations.

BARLEY: Acreage, Yield, Production and Value, 2000 - 2003^{1/}

State and Year	Area		Yield per Acre	Grain Production	Price per Bushel	Value of Production
	Planted for All Purposes	Harvested for Grain				
	1,000 Acres		Bushels ^{2/}	1,000 Bushels	Dollars	1,000 Dollars
Maine						
2000	25	24	70	1,680		
2001	27	26	70	1,820	1.50	2,730
2002	27	26	80	2,080	1.70	3,536
2003	28	27	65	1,755	1.15	2,018

^{1/} Estimates began in 2000.

^{2/} Standard weight used for one bushel of barley is 48 pounds.

