

WILD BLUEBERRIES



Maine's 2007 wild blueberry crop totaled 76.9 million pounds, three percent above 2006 output, and 28 percent higher than 2005 production. The preliminary average price growers expect to receive for processed berries in 2007 is 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. The next price update for the 2007 crop will be published in the *Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts Summary* scheduled for release on July 8, 2008.

Maine's wild blueberry crop survived the winter with minimal damage. Mummyberry 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.

MAINE WILD BLUEBERRIES: Production and Value, 1998 – 2007

Year	Total Production 1,000 Lbs	All Price per Pound Dollars	Total Value of Production 1,000 Dollars	Fresh Wild Blueberries			Wild Blueberries for Processing		
				Production 1,000 Lbs	Price per Pound Dollars	Value of Production 1,000 Dollars	Production 1,000 Lbs	Price per Pound Dollars	Value of Production 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	76,850	0.939	72,141	350	1.750	613	76,500	0.935	71,528

