

### WILD BLUEBERRIES

Maine's 2004 wild blueberry crop weighed 46 million pounds, a decrease of 43 percent from 2003 output, 26 percent below 2002 production, and the lowest output in the state since 1991. Excessively cold winter conditions and the absence of snow cover resulted in extensive winter kill to the wild blueberry stems. A wet spring followed, providing less than optimum pollinating conditions, and the excessive moisture increased the incidence of blight from

the mummyberry fungus. Rainfall in August was above normal and helped increase fruit sizing on the remaining berries. Based on December 2004 assessments, the price received for processed berries in 2004 is expected to average 40 cents per pound, an increase of seven cents from a year earlier. If realized, this would place the 2004 processing value at \$18.3 million, compared with \$26.4 million the previous year.

**WILD BLUEBERRIES: Production and Value, 1995 - 2004**

State and Year	Total Production	All Price per Pound <sup>1/</sup>	Total Value of Production <sup>1/</sup>	Fresh Blueberries <sup>2/</sup>			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
<b>Maine</b>									
1995	65,944	0.320	21,004	305	--	--	65,639	0.32	21,004
1996	59,198	0.570	33,590	268	--	--	58,930	0.57	33,590
1997	73,816	0.430	31,622	276	--	--	73,540	0.43	31,622
1998	62,981	0.463	29,166	360	1.00	360	62,621	0.46	28,806
1999	66,102	0.513	33,889	300	1.10	330	65,802	0.51	33,559
2000	110,990	0.403	44,732	420	1.20	504	110,570	0.40	44,228
2001	75,200	0.305	22,945	350	1.40	490	74,850	0.30	22,455
2002	62,400	0.286	17,860	400	1.25	500	62,000	0.28	17,360
2003	80,400	0.334	26,880	400	1.20	480	80,000	0.33	26,400
2004 <sup>3/</sup>	46,000	0.406	18,670	300	1.30	390	45,700	0.40	18,280

<sup>1/</sup> All Price per Pound and Total Value of Production for 1995 - 1997 does not include fresh market blueberries.

<sup>2/</sup> Fresh Blueberry Price per Pound and Value of Production are not available before 1998.

<sup>3/</sup> Preliminary Price per Pound and Value of Production are based on expectations as of December 2004 .

