

### WILD BLUEBERRIES

Maine is the leading wild blueberry producing state in the nation. The lowbush blueberry production for Maine totaled a record 111 million pounds in 2000, 68 percent above the 1999 production total and 76 percent above production two years earlier. The wet and windy conditions at the start of the 2000 growing season promoted infection from mummyberry disease and hindered pollination, but the cool temperatures helped the crop by reducing insect activity and extending the bloom. As of mid-July, growers reported

that crop prospects were above average, but development was about a week behind normal. Adequate moisture provided excellent growing conditions for the berries, and cool temperatures maintained berry quality and hindered disease throughout the growing season. The extended harvest period allowed sufficient time for most berries to be picked. The value of processed production in 2000 was placed at \$44.2 million, an increase of 32 percent from the previous year.

#### WILD BLUEBERRIES: Production and Value, 1991 - 2000

| STATE & YEAR | Total Production<br>1,000 Lbs | All Price per Pound<br>Cents | Total Value of Production<br>1,000 Dollars | Fresh Blueberries       |                            |                                      | Blueberries for Processing |                          |                                      |
|--------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|--|-------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|              |                               |                              |  | Production<br>1,000 Lbs | Price per Pound<br>Dollars | Value of Production<br>1,000 Dollars | Production<br>1,000 Lbs    | Price per Pound<br>Cents | Value of Production<br>1,000 Dollars |
| <b>Maine</b> |                               |                              |  |                         |                            |                                      |                            |                          |                                      |
| 1991         | 39,464                        | 46                           | 18,057                                     | 209                     | 1/                         | 1/                                   | 39,255                     | 46                       | 18,057                               |
| 1992         | 84,513                        | 41                           | 34,519                                     | 320                     | 1/                         | 1/                                   | 84,193                     | 41                       | 34,519                               |
| 1993         | 64,562                        | 28                           | 17,979                                     | 350                     | 1/                         | 1/                                   | 64,212                     | 28                       | 17,979                               |
| 1994         | 59,495                        | 30                           | 17,744                                     | 350                     | 1/                         | 1/                                   | 59,145                     | 30                       | 17,744                               |
| 1995         | 65,944                        | 32                           | 21,004                                     | 305                     | 1/                         | 1/                                   | 65,639                     | 32                       | 21,004                               |
| 1996         | 59,198                        | 57                           | 33,590                                     | 268                     | 1/                         | 1/                                   | 58,930                     | 57                       | 33,590                               |
| 1997         | 73,816                        | 43                           | 31,622                                     | 276                     | 1/                         | 1/                                   | 73,540                     | 43                       | 31,622                               |
| 1998         | 62,981                        | 46                           | 29,166                                     | 360                     | 1.00                       | 360                                  | 62,621                     | 46                       | 28,806                               |
| 1999         | 66,102                        | 51                           | 33,889                                     | 300                     | 1.10                       | 330                                  | 65,802                     | 51                       | 33,559                               |
| 2000         | 110,990                       | 40                           | 44,732                                     | 420                     | 1.20                       | 504                                  | 110,570                    | 40                       | 44,228                               |

<sup>1/</sup>Fresh Blueberry data is not available for 1991 - 1997.

