

Maine Wild Blueberries



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United States Department of Agriculture

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A special "THANK YOU" goes to Maine growers and processors who have helped us by completing the Wild Blueberry surveys in May and July.

2008 WILD BLUEBERRY FORECAST

Maine's 2008 wild blueberry (lowbush) crop is expected to total 75.0 million pounds, based on data reported by growers in mid-July. If realized, this forecast places expected production three percent below last year's output of 77.3 million pounds, and 11 percent above the five year average of 67.7 million pounds.

Maine's wild blueberry growers reported minimal winter damage due to the large amount of snow coverage this winter. A few growers reported finding traces of mummyberry and red leaf diseases in their fields and insect damage has been minimal. Weather conditions for the most part were good for pollination although some growers reported fog and cool conditions at the end of May. The majority of growers who completed the survey indicated this year's bloom was slightly above average

with an average set. Dry conditions in early July hindered the crop's full potential, with lack of rain the main concern of growers. Berry size was rated as small to medium. Rain arrived later in the month which helped to increase berry size. At month's end, the 2008 harvest was getting underway.

2007 Prices Revised: The average price per pound for Maine wild blueberries sold for processing in 2007 was \$1.07, a 27 cent increase over a year earlier. The fresh market price per pound for Maine wild blueberries averaged \$1.90 in 2007, 20 cents higher than in 2006. The total value of Maine's 2007 wild blueberry crop (fresh and processed) was placed at \$83.0 million, an increase of 38 percent from the 2006 value, due to increases in both price and production.

MAINE WILD BLUEBERRIES: Production and Value, 1999 – 2008

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
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	77,250	1.070	83,031	450	1.900	855	76,800	1.070	82,176
2008 ¹	75,000								

¹ Current production forecast is based on growers' assessments as of mid-July.

SOURCE: *Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts – 2007 Summary*, 3:00 pm July 8, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

Blueberries: Price and Value by Crop, Selected States and United States, 2007

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	77,250	1.070	83,031	450	1.900	855	76,800	1.070	82,176
Cultivated Blueberries									
Alabama *	260	1.590	413	260	1.590	413	*	*	*
Arkansas *	70	1.640	115	70	1.640	115	*	*	*
California *	16,500	1.830	30,215	14,500	1.950	28,275	2,000	0.970	1,940
Florida *	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	1.500	67,488	16,800	1.600	26,880	28,200	1.440	40,608
Washington	29,600	1.680	49,656	11,200	2.150	24,080	18,400	1.390	25,576
UNITED STATES	282,930	1.840	519,326	145,480	2.110	307,651	137,450	1.540	211,675

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

SOURCE: *Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts – 2007 Summary*, 3:00 pm July 8, 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 January 2009. It will contain the final production and preliminary price statistics for the 2008 crop as collected by the Maine Department of Agriculture.

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