

The Council Letter

A Confidential Report to Directors, Members and Chairperson of Council
Committees Not for Publication • Not for Quotation

WEEKLY HIGHBUSH BLUEBERRY CROP REPORT May 08, 2019

MISSISSIPPI/LOUISIANA – *Eric Stafne*: Light harvest of Southern Highbush going on now. It looks like RabbitEye harvest is being pushed back some to late May. Mississippi harvest will overall be light with losses continue to be estimated at 60-70 percent. Have heard no problems about labor right now with most crews coming later in the month.

GEORGIA – *Alex Cornelius*: The Georgia harvest is in full swing with beautiful weather conditions. We are in the peak of Highbush with all varieties being harvested at this time. Farthing is the main producer with Legacy starting quickly behind it. Labor seems to be ok with some farms going to machines due to price. The USDA is reporting 11,950,000 pounds of conventional and 580,000 pounds of organic for a total of 12,530,000 pounds shipped so far this season.

FLORIDA – *Ken Patterson*: Florida is still picking small volumes but for the most part the season is coming to a close. The low prices have caused most conventional farms to end their harvest and some organic production is still continuing. Florida should completely wrap up by the end of next week. As of May 6, the USDA is reporting 21,053,676 pounds of conventional and 629,160 pounds of organic for a total of 21,682,836 total pounds shipped from Florida.

NORTH CAROLINA – *Neil Moore*: North Carolina has blue fruit showing on most early varieties. Most growers will start harvest the coming week. Crop still looks to be average at best. Warm weather and rain last weekend has bush health looking very good.

NEW JERSEY – *Denny Doyle*: New Jersey pollination is about 60 percent completed in the Duke, 50 percent completed in Blue crop, 40 percent late variety. Field operations on going. Weather holding ok for New Jersey.

INDIANA – *Pat Goin*: Early varieties are at 50 percent bloom, Blue crop about 10 percent. Bees are in the fields. Field conditions are extremely wet or flooded in certain areas where possible fungicides are being applied. We have been in a very wet pattern with rain forecasted for today and yet tomorrow. Slight chances for rain forecasted for the next 10 days. Temperatures are all over the place with daytime temperatures anywhere from mid 50's to mid 70's. Based on previous bloom, I think we are about a week behind normal, estimating start day June 25.



NORTH AMERICAN BLUEBERRY COUNCIL

1847 Iron Point Rd., Suite 100, Folsom, California 95630-8837 • (916) 983-2279
Fax (916) 983-9370 • E-mail: info@nabcblues.org • Web Site: www.nabcblues.org

MICHIGAN – *Dave Trinka*: Blueberries remain at pre-bloom stages over the entire production area. Last weekend was dry, but showers returned to the area Tuesday. Big story remains the slow bush development due to cool temperatures. Some reports of temperature injury to buds, but will need to wait until we get into bloom to assess further.

BRITISH COLUMBIA – *Anju Gill*: With warmer weather bloom is moving along steadily. There are regional variations, Duke ranging from 30 to 90 percent in bloom. Bees are active. Under these conditions, pollination is expected to be good. Considerable early fruit has been noted in Duke, Bluecrop and Reka, appearing to be sizing rapidly. Disease pressure is low. The season is expected to be typical, with early-mid July harvest start.

WASHINGTON – *Report not available this week*

OREGON – *Doug Krahmer*: The weather here has been perfect for pollination and we are well past peak bloom. Expecting some hot days the end of the week, but don't think it can hurt us this late in the bloom. The weather is helping move the crop along faster than normal and so we are gaining on some of the delay I have discussed in past reports. All other factors are looking good at this point.

CALIFORNIA – *Todd Sanders*: California is moving through the season but is still roughly 7-10 days behind average. The state has still been experiencing cooler than normal weather. California is still experiencing excellent quality but early varieties are not ripening as quickly as normal. The CBC had a crop forecast meeting and has adjusted the total volume number down from their initial assessment. Not a significant amount in total change but on Thursday of this week the CBC should be ready to publicly release a detailed number. The USDA reported California shipped 1,170,000 pounds of conventional fresh and 7,130,000 pounds of organic fresh blueberries this season so far this season.

MEXICO – The USDA reported that the U.S. imported a total this season through May 07, 2019 of 62,280,000 pounds of conventional fresh from Mexico.

CHILE - The USDA reported that the U.S. imported a total this season through May 07, 2019 of 100,610,000 pounds of conventional fresh from Chile.

ARGENTINA - The USDA reported that the U.S. imported a total this season through May 07, 2019 of 19,140,000 pounds of conventional fresh from Argentina.

PERU - The USDA reported that the U.S. imported a total this season through May 07, 2019 of 67,660,000 pounds of conventional fresh from Peru.

URUGUAY - The USDA reported that the U.S. imported a total this season through May 07, 2019 of 1,500,000 pounds of conventional fresh from Uruguay.

GUATEMALA - The USDA reported that the U.S. imported a total this season through May 07, 2019 of 40,000 pounds of conventional fresh from Guatemala