

The Council Letter

A Confidential Report to Directors, Members and Chairperson of Council
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WEEKLY Highbush Blueberry Crop Report

July 03, 2019

MISSISSIPPI/LOUISIANA – *Mississippi/Louisiana's harvest is officially over.*

GEORGIA – *no report available:* The USDA reported Georgia shipped 39,990,000 pounds of conventional fresh and 3,150,000 pounds of organic fresh blueberries this season so far.

FLORIDA – *Florida's harvest is officially over.*

NORTH CAROLINA – *Neil Moore:* North Carolina is still packing small quantities of Rabbiteyes for the fresh market. There is some processing of fruit as well. At this time of the season volumes are light. We probably have about two weeks left in our season. Weather continues to be hot and dry and rain is forecast for the weekend. The USDA reported North Carolina has shipped 21,170,000 pounds of conventional fresh and 80,000 pounds of organic fresh blueberries this season so far.

NEW JERSEY – *Denny Doyle:* New Jersey is now picking BC, Draper and Liberty, for fresh. Machines are moving into the Duke for the frozen market. Weather has been a challenge, but doable. The USDA reported New Jersey has shipped 17,150,000 pounds of conventional fresh and 420,000 pounds of organic fresh blueberries this season so far.

INDIANA – *no report available:*

MICHIGAN – *Dave Trinka:* The weather pendulum has swung. After a cold, wet spring we have turned the corner on summer. Michigan has been warm and muggy for the last 10 days. Even with the above normal temperatures, growing degree days are 150-250 behind the five-year average. Chances of rain remain in the forecast and growers Holland and northward did receive more rain this week. Early fruit sizing looks good, but we are noticing pollination issues on some varieties and green fruit drop on Draper. Early varieties are coloring up and a handful of growers will begin harvest this weekend. Bluecrop berries just beginning to show some blush. Don't expect to see midseason varieties begin to be harvested until the middle of the month.

BRITISH COLUMBIA - *Anju Gill:* Mild weather has slightly slowed down crop maturation. Duke and Reka being harvested, berry size and yields look promising for Reka. Duke harvest is sporadic, there appears to much uneven maturity between and within fields. The weather conditions are causing a concern for SWD and fruit rot. So far, the crop size/yield looks typical for British Columbia.



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

WASHINGTON – *Alan Schreiber*: In Eastern Washington growers are on the first or second pick of Duke. An estimated 25 percent of crop is coming off with the first pick. Quality is excellent, and labor is adequate. We have full color in Draper and estimate first pick of Draper by the end of next week. In Northwestern Washington the first hand pick of fresh blueberries started last week but was a bit of a false start and there is virtually no one is picking for fresh. The first significant harvest will start within a week. Machine harvest for processing will start in about two weeks. There is concern about whether there will be adequate labor. Growers are making SWD and fungicide applications. The USDA reported Washington shipped 1,230,000 pounds of organic fresh blueberries this season so far.

OREGON – *Doug Krahmer*: The weather in Oregon is cooperating by staying cloudy and pleasant. Most growers are getting done with their first round in the Dukes and will be starting the second round today or tomorrow. Some growers could be starting Draper as early as next week. Labor has been a moving target, but most are getting enough to get their crop off. Quality continues to be good. The USDA reported Oregon has shipped 3,540,000 pounds of conventional fresh this season so far.

CALIFORNIA – *Todd Sanders*: We are in the final stages of the California blueberry harvest. Production and harvest rates continue to drop as the season finalizes. Total crop numbers from California should be available soon as the California season looks as if it will last only a couple more weeks. The USDA reported California shipped 22,140,000 pounds of conventional fresh and 16,060,000 pounds of organic fresh blueberries this season so far.

MEXICO – The USDA reported that the U.S. imported a total this season through June 29, 2019 of 69,280,000 pounds of conventional fresh from Mexico.

CHILE - The USDA reported that the U.S. imported a total this season through June 29, 2019 of 100,840,000 pounds of conventional fresh from Chile.

ARGENTINA - The USDA reported that the U.S. imported a total this season through June 29, 2019 of 19,190,000 pounds of conventional fresh from Argentina.

PERU - The USDA reported that the U.S. imported a total this season through June 29, 2019 of 67,770,000 pounds of conventional fresh from Peru.

URUGUAY - The USDA reported that the U.S. imported a total this season through June 29, 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 June 29, 2019 of 40,000 pounds of conventional fresh from Guatemala