

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Committees Not for Publication • Not for Quotation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

July 17, 2019

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

GEORGIA – *Georgia's harvest is officially over.*

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

NORTH CAROLINA – *Neil Moore:* Harvest continues with late Rabbiteye varieties. Fresh for local fresh markets with some processing as well. Weather is hot, with temperatures around 100 degrees with afternoon showers and thunderstorms. The USDA reported North Carolina has shipped 21,350,000 pounds of conventional fresh and 80,000 pounds of organic fresh blueberries this season so far.

NEW JERSEY – *Denny Doyle:* New Jersey is fresh harvesting Draper and Elliot now; Blue Crop is going to the frozen market! Labor is moving to other areas. The USDA reported New Jersey has shipped 23,490,000 pounds of conventional fresh and 450,000 pounds of organic fresh blueberries this season so far.

INDIANA – *Pat Goin:* Harvest is in full swing. Blue crop is in its second pick, Jerseys are also ready. Early varieties are being machine harvested for the processed market. Fruit quality and size have been excellent thus far. We are heading into a very hot, humid period. Anyone behind in their harvest may have some difficulties. Irrigation has been running, the area received six tenths of an inch of rain over the last 24 hours.

MICHIGAN – *Dave Trinko:* Hot and humid in Michigan. Even the SWD are looking for air conditioning. Fresh volumes will begin to ramp up the latter half of the week. Growers in second harvest Duke and first harvest Bluecrop in southwest Michigan. Further north in Holland, lead berries starting to be picked on Bluecrop. Quality is very good. Some growers could use more harvest labor, but most in really good shape as we move into the midseason peak during the next three weeks. Irrigation pumps are running as we head into a very hot period Thursday-Sunday. Forecast temperatures are lower for next week. The USDA reported Michigan has shipped 1,240,000 pounds of conventional fresh this season so far.

BRITISH COLUMBIA – *Anju Gill:* Weather continues to be wet and cooler than normal. More rain is in the forecast. Machine harvest of Dukes is under way in significant volumes and high volumes are likely to continue for the 10 days. Machine pick for Draper, Reka, Bluecrop is approximately 10-12 days away. So far, the quality is very good and SWD issues appear to be minimal. However, wet, cool and at times humid conditions are causing greater SWD pressure. Protective sprays continue. The USDA reported British Columbia has shipped 3,010,000 pounds of conventional fresh this season so far.

Blueberries

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WASHINGTON – *Alan Schreiber*: Eastern Washington is in the midst of picking Draper. Size of Draper berries reported as being very large and good quality. Aurora just turning blue. Most growers in eastern Washington target the fresh market, although the first machines run by fresh growers will start picking for processed next week. The weather has been very favorable for blueberry production and harvest. Skagit County is finishing first pick of Duke. Sizing is good. Quality is good. There is concern about rain in the forecast. In Whatcom County fresh harvest has been underway for about a week. Growers just started machine picking Duke. It is raining and there is significant rain in the forecast causing some concerns. The USDA reported Washington has shipped 150,000 pounds of conventional fresh and 5,180,000 pounds of organic fresh blueberries this season so far.

OREGON – *Doug Kraemer*: Oregon has been having cool mostly dry weather. Perfect for the SWD fly. Haven't heard of any blueberry growers having problems yet, but the population pressures are there. Duke are done being harvested for fresh, machines are picking the last of them for processed. Draper are in full swing with Liberty coming fast. Legacy are being harvested also but haven't seen any color in the Elliott or Aurora at this time. Weather forecast is for another week of cooler weather before we might see some hotter temperatures. The USDA reported Oregon has shipped 12,230,000 pounds of conventional fresh and 540,000 pounds of organic fresh blueberries this season so far.

CALIFORNIA – *Todd Sanders*: We are in the final stages of the California blueberry harvest. Probably not much more harvest remains here. The USDA reported California shipped 23,240,000 pounds of conventional fresh and 16,360,000 pounds of organic fresh blueberries this season so far.

MEXICO – The USDA reported that the U.S. imported a total this season through July 17, 2019 of 69,440,000 pounds of conventional fresh from Mexico.

CHILE - The USDA reported that the U.S. imported a total this season through July 17, 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 July 17, 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 July 17, 2019 of 67,820,000 pounds of conventional fresh from Peru.

URUGUAY - The USDA reported that the U.S. imported a total this season through July 17, 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 July 17, 2019 of 40,000 pounds of conventional fresh from Guatemala

NABC 2019 PRELIMINARY CROP REPORT

As Of July 17, 2017

Millions of Pounds

REGION	2016 FINAL CROP REPORT 03/01/17			2017 FINAL CROP REPORT 03/09/18			2018 FINAL CROP REPORT 08/28/18			2019 PRELIMINARY CROP REPORT 07/17/19		
	Fresh	Process	Total	Fresh	Process	Total	Fresh	Process	Total	Fresh	Process	Total
Highbush												
Western Region												
British Columbia	50.0	110.0	160.0	75.0	60.0	135.0	70.0	85.0	155.0	70.0	100.0	170.0
California	38.1	19.5	57.6	51.3	10.8	62.1	52.2	11.2	63.4	50.0	11.0	61.0
Oregon	51.0	65.1	116.1	54.0	53.0	107.0	59.8	74.2	134.0	60.0	70.0	130.0
Washington	29.0	91.0	120.0	36.0	80.0	116.0	40.0	90.0	130.0	40.4	94.5	134.9
Mexico	34.1	0.9	35.0	52.0	2.0	54.0	60.0	2.0	62.0	87.0	3.0	90.0
Sub-Total	202.2	286.5	488.7	268.3	205.8	474.1	282.0	262.4	544.4	307.4	278.5	585.9
Midwest Region												
Illinois	1.6	0.0	1.6	1.6	0.0	1.6	1.0	0.0	1.0	1.4	0.0	1.4
Indiana	1.2	0.4	1.6	1.0	0.3	1.3	1.0	0.3	1.3	3.2	0.3	3.5
Michigan	45.0	55.0	100.0	49.0	40.0	89.0	36.5	33.0	69.5	48.0	42.0	90.0
Others 1/	1.0	0.0	1.0	0.7	0.0	0.7	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.7	0.0	0.7
Sub-Total	48.8	55.4	104.2	52.3	40.3	92.6	39.0	33.3	72.3	53.3	42.3	95.6
Northeast Region												
New Jersey	30.0	5.5	35.5	36.0	4.0	40.0	30.0	8.0	38.0	37.0	7.0	44.0
New York	1.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	1.0
Ontario	2.0	0.0	2.0	2.0	0.0	2.0	2.0	0.0	2.0	2.0	0.0	2.0
Others 2/	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.3
Sub-Total	33.1	5.5	38.6	39.2	4.0	43.2	33.5	8.0	41.5	40.3	7.0	47.3
Southern Region												
Alabama	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.2
Arkansas	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1
Florida	13.0	0.5	13.5	19.8	0.0	19.8	19.8	0.0	19.8	22.7	0.0	22.7
Georgia	45.0	22.0	67.0	25.0	5.0	30.0	30.0	20.0	50.0	60.0	25.0	85.0
Louisiana	1.0	0.0	1.0	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.4	0.0	0.4
Mississippi	4.5	2.0	6.5	2.5	0.5	3.0	4.0	1.0	5.0	1.0	0.1	1.1
North Carolina	34.0	11.0	45.0	21.1	3.8	24.9	25.0	8.0	33.0	32.0	8.0	40.0
Texas	0.3	0.0	0.3	1.5	0.0	1.5	2.1	0.0	2.1	1.3	0.0	1.3
Others 3/	1.3	0.0	1.3	1.0	0.0	1.0	1.2	0.0	1.2	1.2	0.0	1.2
Sub-Total	99.4	35.5	134.9	71.7	9.3	81.0	82.9	29.0	111.9	118.9	33.1	152.0
HIGHBUSH TOTAL:	383.5	382.9	766.4	431.5	259.4	690.9	437.4	332.7	770.1	519.9	360.9	880.8