

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Committees Not for Publication • Not for Quotation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 24, 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 – *North Carolina's harvest is officially over.*

NEW JERSEY – *Denny Doyle:* New Jersey is on its second round of late season variety for the fresh market, machine picking blue crop for the frozen market. The season is winding down, most growers are reporting the end will be around the first week of August. The USDA reported New Jersey has shipped 24,400,000 pounds of conventional fresh and 450,000 pounds of organic fresh blueberries this season so far.

INDIANA – *Pat Goin:* Harvest is beginning to wind down. Growers are machine harvesting for the processed market. The heat has taken a toll on those growers that were behind in their picking rotation forcing them into the processed market. The weather forecast for the week is pleasant with daytime temperatures in the lower 80's and nighttime temperatures in the 50's. Leader berries on the Elliot are starting to turn.

MICHIGAN – *Dave Trinka:* Continue to track a week later than 2018, although expect late varieties to overlap more as the season progresses. Great harvest weather this week as no rain expected until early next week. Most growers are in second pick Bluecrop or will be by week's end. Duke, Bluejay, Bluegold, Draper and Nelson round out the variety mix for this week. Fruit quality continues to be excellent. Our cool weather reprieve has allowed growers to stay up on the pick. Processing should start ramping up by the end of the week. The USDA reported Michigan has shipped 3,610,000 pounds of conventional fresh this season so far.

BRITISH COLUMBIA – *Anju Gill:* Weather continues to be warm, humid with sporadic rain. The conditions have caused some concern for fruit rot and SWD, growers continue with protective sprays. Some softness has also been noted. In majority of the Duke fields, machine pick is underway. For Reka, Bluecrop, Draper and 1613, hand and machine pick continue. Due to overlap between early-mid varieties and higher volumes, processing and packing facilities are reaching full capacity. The USDA reported British Columbia has shipped 4,420,000 pounds of conventional fresh this season so far.

Blueberries

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*: The state of Washington is in full swing of harvest with all growing regions picking heavily. Western Washington. Processed growers are heavy into machine pick of Duke in Whatcom and Skagit counties. Weather in northwest Wa has been cool and ideal for ripening and sizing of fruit. Fruit is coming off in relatively large size. The quality is very good. Conditions have been favorable for disease but growers that with good spray programs should not have problems. Eastern Washington is doing the final machine picking of Duke and is wrapping up the second pick of Draper. Liberty and Aurora is next to be picked. We are seeing the first blue color in Last Call. Yields for Duke and Draper has been good and quality has ranged from good to excellent. SWD pressure has been low. The USDA reported Washington has shipped 880,000 pounds of conventional fresh and 6,540,000 pounds of organic fresh blueberries this season so far.

OREGON – *Doug Kraemer*: We are into a little warmer weather although still mild by summer standards. Growers are still picking mid-season varieties, but Liberty in particular is on and being picked also. Some are fighting quality issues from SWD to decay. Fruit is coming off heavy and most packers and processors are slugged. The USDA reported Oregon has shipped 17,450,000 pounds of conventional fresh and 590,000 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 23,790,000 pounds of conventional fresh and 16,630,000 pounds of organic fresh blueberries this season so far.

MEXICO – The USDA reported that the U.S. imported a total this season through July 23, 2019 of 69,510,000 pounds of conventional fresh from Mexico.

CHILE - The USDA reported that the U.S. imported a total this season through July 23, 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 23, 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 23, 2019 of 67,870,000 pounds of conventional fresh from Peru.

URUGUAY - The USDA reported that the U.S. imported a total this season through July 23, 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 23, 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	74.0	2.0	76.0	102.0	3.0	105.0
Sub-Total	202.2	286.5	488.7	268.3	205.8	474.1	296.0	262.4	558.4	322.4	278.5	600.9
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	451.4	332.7	784.1	534.9	360.9	895.8