

# 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Committees Not for Publication • Not for Quotation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 31, 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 winding down its 2019 harvest season. Very light volume going to the fresh market, machine picking the late varieties for the frozen market. In the next two weeks we will review our estimate. The USDA reported New Jersey has shipped 24,600,000 pounds of conventional fresh and 450,000 pounds of organic fresh blueberries this season so far.

**INDIANA** – *Pat Goin:* Harvest is winding down in Indiana. Most growers are finishing up with machine picked for the processed market. We are in first pick Elliot and anticipate a few weeks yet to go. The weather has cooled down significantly and there has been little rain. Growers are irrigating. Fruit quality has been good and no significant pest issues. Weed control has been challenging this season.

**MICHIGAN** – *Dave Trinka:* Much cooler temperatures across the region resulted in a lull in fruit ripening. The cooler weather combined with a long, cooler-than-normal bloom period has resulted in a more strung out ripening period. Harvest of midseason varieties continues; second and third pick Bluecrop, Draper, and Nelson. A few lead berries starting to be harvested on Liberty this week in the south and next week in the north. Keepsake also being harvested. Rubel being harvested for process. A few Jersey fields to see a harvester late week. Processing volumes increasing, but much of the frozen crop remains in the field. The USDA reported Michigan has shipped 7,050,000 pounds of conventional fresh this season so far.

**BRITISH COLUMBIA** - *Anju Gill:* Throughout this season, the weather pattern has been rain followed by dry days and moderate temperatures. More showers are expected by the end of the week. Despite frequent showers, soils remain dry. Growers continue with irrigation and protective sprays for SWD and fruit rot. Overall, plant condition and fruit size are good. Yields are higher than previous years. There is considerable overlap between early/mid variety harvesting, putting pressure on packing/processing facilities. Duke harvesting is nearly complete. Working on Reka, Bluecrop, Draper and Top Shelf. Later varieties- Elliot, Aurora and Last Call are ripening and harvest is likely start in approximately 10 days. The USDA reported British Columbia has shipped 5,580,000 pounds of conventional fresh this season so far.

*Blueberries*

NORTH AMERICAN BLUEBERRY COUNCIL

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**WASHINGTON** – *Alan Schreiber*: In Whatcom County growers are finishing up the last of the Duke for both fresh and processing, some growers are starting to pick Draper. Yields so far range from good to excellent. Due to close to ideal growing conditions, mild weather, consistent rainfall, the quality is excellent. Conditions have been very positive for fruit sizing across a broad range of varieties indicating continued high yields. Growers are making applications for SWD and fruit diseases. Skagit County has relatively similar conditions as Whatcom but is more advanced in timing and will be starting Liberty by the end of the week. Eastern Washington is on third pick of Draper and it looks like there will be a 4<sup>th</sup> pick. Yields have been good. Volumes are starting to slow as the harvest of Duke and Draper are largely behind us. Starting first pass of Aurora. Harvest of Last Call will begin in a week. Temperatures, weather and general growing conditions have been near ideal. The USDA reported Washington has shipped 1,710,000 pounds of conventional fresh and 7,680,000 pounds of organic fresh blueberries this season so far.

**OREGON** – *Doug Kraemer*: Oregon continues to experience mild weather which is great for harvest and plant growth. Volume continues high both to the processors and the packing sheds. The Draper's are coming to an end but later varieties are taking their place. Haven't heard of Elliot's being harvested but if not they are close. The USDA reported Oregon has shipped 22,420,000 pounds of conventional fresh and 1,230,000 pounds of organic fresh blueberries this season so far.

**CALIFORNIA** – *Todd Sanders*: The USDA reported California shipped 23,840,000 pounds of conventional fresh and 16,770,000 pounds of organic fresh blueberries this season so far.

**MEXICO** – The USDA reported that the U.S. imported a total this season through July 30, 2019 of 69,550,000 pounds of conventional fresh from Mexico.

**CHILE** - The USDA reported that the U.S. imported a total this season through July 30, 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 30, 2019 of 20,030,000 pounds of conventional fresh from Argentina.

**PERU** - The USDA reported that the U.S. imported a total this season through July 30, 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 30, 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 30, 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
<b>Highbush</b>												
<b>Western Region</b>												
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
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>202.2</b>	<b>286.5</b>	<b>488.7</b>	<b>268.3</b>	<b>205.8</b>	<b>474.1</b>	<b>296.0</b>	<b>262.4</b>	<b>558.4</b>	<b>322.4</b>	<b>278.5</b>	<b>600.9</b>
<b>Midwest Region</b>												
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
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>48.8</b>	<b>55.4</b>	<b>104.2</b>	<b>52.3</b>	<b>40.3</b>	<b>92.6</b>	<b>39.0</b>	<b>33.3</b>	<b>72.3</b>	<b>53.3</b>	<b>42.3</b>	<b>95.6</b>
<b>Northeast Region</b>												
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
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>33.1</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>38.6</b>	<b>39.2</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>43.2</b>	<b>33.5</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>41.5</b>	<b>40.3</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>47.3</b>
<b>Southern Region</b>												
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
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>99.4</b>	<b>35.5</b>	<b>134.9</b>	<b>71.7</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>81.0</b>	<b>82.9</b>	<b>29.0</b>	<b>111.9</b>	<b>118.9</b>	<b>33.1</b>	<b>152.0</b>
<b>HIGHBUSH TOTAL:</b>	<b>383.5</b>	<b>382.9</b>	<b>766.4</b>	<b>431.5</b>	<b>259.4</b>	<b>690.9</b>	<b>451.4</b>	<b>332.7</b>	<b>784.1</b>	<b>534.9</b>	<b>360.9</b>	<b>895.8</b>