

# 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Committees Not for Publication • Not for Quotation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

August 7, 2019

**NEW JERSEY** – *Denny Doyle*: New Jersey will finish the fresh pack this week for the year. What little remains will be completed next week for the frozen market. Most growers are doing post-harvest field work. 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*: Most growers have completed their seasons for fresh and U-pick. Still a few in the northern areas near the lake are open. Weather continues to be dry but seasonable. Machine harvesting is continuing to wind down. We are in second pick Elliot. Quality is good, no pest issues to report.

**MICHIGAN** – *Dave Trinka*: Fresh harvest is going strong. We are in the overlap period when almost all cultivars are being harvested somewhere in the state. Duke is still in harvest in the far northern sites and Elliott harvest is beginning in the south. Most areas received some rain on Tuesday which kept pickers out of the field or shortened the harvest day. Another chance at rain on Thursday, but overall the upcoming weather trend is for cooler and drier conditions. Looks like we will continue with a consistent, prolonged harvest window for all varieties. Process volumes warming up a bit in the southern half of the state. The USDA reported Michigan has shipped 11,070,000 pounds of conventional fresh this season so far.

**BRITISH COLUMBIA** - *Anju Gill*: The season is progressing along - early variety harvest nearly complete, second pick underway for most mid varieties and late varieties are advancing. Soft fruit has been a concern for early to mid varieties in some fields, but later varieties are looking very promising for fresh quality. After a few days of warm and dry days, cooler weather is in forecast again. Irrigation, SWD and fruit rot sprays continue. The USDA reported British Columbia has shipped 7,010,000 pounds of conventional fresh this season so far.

**WASHINGTON** – *Alan Schreiber*: Growing conditions in Eastern and Western Washington continue to be ideal. Eastern Washington fresh blueberry harvest is beginning to wind down. Western Washington harvest is entering its midpoint. Crop yield and quality appear to be good. The Washington State Department of Employment Services has set the piece rate for hand harvested blueberries at .75cents/pound. This has the potential to devastate the H2A fresh market blueberry industry in Washington and if allowed to continue it could potentially have a serious and negative impact on the entire Washington blueberry industry. Washington fresh blueberry growers are organizing a response. The USDA reported Washington has shipped 2,540,000 pounds of conventional fresh and 8,600,000 pounds of organic fresh blueberries this season so far.

**OREGON** – *Doug Kraemer*: Oregon got some warmer weather this week, but still no hot spells. Getting into the late season varieties now and volumes will go down accordingly. Those still harvesting are using SWD sprays every week now. Lots of post-harvest work being done also. The USDA reported Oregon has shipped 26,120,000 pounds of conventional fresh and 1,970,000 pounds of organic fresh blueberries this season so far.



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**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.*

**CALIFORNIA** – *California’s Harvest is officially over.*

**MEXICO** – The USDA reported that the U.S. imported a total this season through August 8, 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 August 8, 2019 of 101,690,000 pounds of conventional fresh from Chile.

**ARGENTINA** - The USDA reported that the U.S. imported a total this season through August 8, 2019 of 20,040,000 pounds of conventional fresh from Argentina.

**PERU** - The USDA reported that the U.S. imported a total this season through August 8, 2019 of 89,140,000 pounds of conventional fresh from Peru.

**URUGUAY** - The USDA reported that the U.S. imported a total this season through August 8, 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 August 8, 2019 of 60,000 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>