

# 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Committees Not for Publication • Not for Quotation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 21, 2019

**MICHIGAN** – *Dave Trinka*: A few fields of midseason varieties still being harvested for fresh, but most are going to the freezer. Overall, fresh harvest continues at a steady pace. Still a few Draper to harvest in the north; Liberty harvest just starting in that same area. Elliott volumes increasing this week in the Holland area as many fields see their first harvest. Process fruit volumes will remain steady for the next week. There have been a few spotty showers, but most locations have been rain-free. Cooler and less humid air is set to arrive in the region in the short term, making for great picking conditions. The USDA reported Michigan has shipped 17,740,000 pounds of conventional fresh this season so far.

**BRITISH COLUMBIA** - *Anju Gill*: The weather pattern of dry days, followed by showers and cool days continues. Later varieties like Elliot and Aurora are in full pick, mid varieties are nearly done in most areas. Overall, volumes are winding down. Growers continued with protective sprays for SWD. In earlier varieties post-harvest activities are underway. The USDA reported British Columbia has shipped 8,780,000 pounds of conventional fresh this season so far.

**WASHINGTON** – *Alan Schreiber*: Growing conditions continue to be favorable for production and harvest of blueberries across Washington. Harvest in eastern Washington is entering its final stages with the growers picking the late varieties. Draper harvest is over in western Washington and growers are starting to pick the late varieties of blueberries. Disease and insect pressure is moderate. Please remember to make your reservations to attend the NABC and USHBC Meetings in Richland Washington the first week of October. The Tour will be on October 1. Tour stops will include organic blueberry field with examples of picking machines that can harvest fresh berries, a tented blueberry field, tours of a hop yard, a vineyard, winery and wine tasting. The USDA reported Washington has shipped 4,780,000 pounds of conventional fresh and 10,390,000 pounds of organic fresh blueberries this season so far.

**OREGON** – *Doug Kraemer*: Oregon is getting rain today like most of the Pacific Northwest. We are definitely into the late season varieties at this time. Oregon has less than 10% of our crop left and depending on weather we will see how much can go fresh. Still fighting SWD, soft and fruit rot depending where your field is and how much rain. We should have fruit for about another 30 days. The USDA reported Oregon has shipped 31,830,000 pounds of conventional fresh and 3,520,000 pounds of organic fresh blueberries this season so far.

**INDIANA** – *no report available this week*

**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** – *New Jersey harvest is officially over.*

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

*Blueberries*

NORTH AMERICAN BLUEBERRY COUNCIL

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**MEXICO** – The USDA reported that the U.S. imported a total this season through August 21, 2019 of 69,650,000 pounds of conventional fresh from Mexico.

**CHILE** - The USDA reported that the U.S. imported a total this season through August 21, 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 21, 2019 of 20,060,000 pounds of conventional fresh from Argentina.

**PERU** - The USDA reported that the U.S. imported a total this season through August 21, 2019 of 89,810,000 pounds of conventional fresh from Peru.

**URUGUAY** - The USDA reported that the U.S. imported a total this season through August 21, 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 21, 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>