

Frozen Blueberry Report

Food Institute Report - March 18, 2013

Wild blueberries are holding well with prices being seen between \$1.65 and \$1.75

Food Institute Report - January 14, 2013

The 2012 blueberry harvest will be another record one for both highbush and lowbush/wild, according to one Food Institute source. Generally the trading activity occurred late, relative to prior seasons, with mid-August through September active as buyers and sellers awaited assessment of the harvest. Price settlements were in a wide range; for highbush \$1.25 to \$1.60; lowbush \$1.65 - \$1.80. Activity in the fall of 2012 remained slow with highbush prices easing, although there is little evidence of dramatic changes.

Food Institute Report - November 26, 2012

The blueberry market is weak and soft, according to one source. There is little to no activity, but prices were seen between \$1.25 and \$1.30 (cultivated).

Food Institute Report - October 29, 2012

Wild blueberries are being seen at \$1.75 per pound Grade A quality, fob Northeast. Frozen blueberry cold storage stocks, Sept. 30/12 (000s lbs): 233,896 (2012); 174,802 (2011) ; 155,105 (2010); 189,628 (2009); 182,478 (2008)

Food Institute Report - September 24, 2012

Blueberry markets are soft, with little activity, according to a source. Cultivated prices are seen between \$1.30 and \$1.40, depending on region. Northwest is reporting \$1.35 and Michigan \$1.45 - \$1.50. New Jersey and Georgia are reporting between \$1.40 - \$1.50 (no prices quoted for wild).

Food Institute Report - September 10, 2012

The wild blueberry industry is reporting excellent 2012 prospects, potentially a more than 5% increase. Maine is strong, Maritimes are similar to 2011 and Quebec is off by 20%.

Food Institute Report - June 18, 2012

Sellers are seeing prices for cultivated between \$1.45 - \$1.55 per pound. Wild varieties will not start until early August, with carryover priced around \$2.00 per pound.

Food Institute Report - April 16, 2012

Blueberries are being seen at \$1.60 to \$1.65 for cultivated varieties, and around \$2.00 for wild blueberry varieties.

Food Institute Report - March 26, 2012

Blueberries are experiencing a lull due to Chilean product and carryover. Prices are \$1.60-\$1.65 for cultivated and around \$2.00 for wild.

Food Institute Report - March 5, 2012

US Frozen Blueberry Exports (Bureau of Census
2011: Wild 8.6 million lbs, Cultivated 8.72 million lbs
2010: Wild 7.3 million lbs, Cultivated 8 million lbs
2009: Wild 3.5 million lbs, Cultivated 6 million lbs
2008: Wild million 7.74lbs, Cultivated 5.96 million lbs
2207: Wild million 7.92lbs, Cultivated 6.93million lbs

Food Institute Report - January 30, 2012

Frozen Blueberry cold storage stocks (in millions), at December 31, 2011: 138,178; 2010: 116,485; 2009: 141,883; 2008:153,445; 2007: 114,114

Food Institute Report - January 16 & 23, 2012

Wild blueberries are limited, and what is available is prices between \$2.09 and \$2.15 per pound, fob Maine or Canada.

Food Institute Report - December 5, 2011

Wild bluberries are limited and what is available is priced between \$2.09 and \$2.15 per pound, fob Maine or Canada. Cultivated blueberry supplies are weakening, with prices between \$1.75 and \$1.85, according to one source.

Food Institute Report - November 14, 2011

Cultivated frozen bluberries are priced at about \$1.75 per pound, fob North Carolina and Georgia,.IQF Grade A size blueberries from Michigan are priced between \$2.05 and \$2.10 per pound. Wild blueberries are priced about \$2.15 fob the plant.

Food Institute Report - October 24, 2011

Frozen cultivated blueberries are having a new resistance at \$2.00 per pound, with very few sales about the \$2.00 mark, prices are expected to lower, fob California. Frozen wild prices are experiencing possible shortages, and are priced slightly higer at \$2.10 per pound.

Food Institute Report - October 3, 2011

Prices depend on region, between \$1.85 - 2.05 per pound. Blueberries are cheaper on the east coast, particularly Georgia, North Carolina and New Jersey, due to resale. NW and Canada regions can expect prices upward of \$2.00 per pound.

Food Institute Report - September 26, 2011

Prices from California and Northwest are firm at \$2.00 per pound. Wild blueberry prices are also close to \$2.05 per pound, f.o.b. Maine. Crops are short, with less fruit harvested than projected.

Food Institute Report - September 12, 2011

Prices from Michigan and the Northwest (highbush) are firm at \$2.05 to 2.10 per pound, and wild blueberry prices are also close to \$2.05 per pound f.o.b. Maine.

Food Institute Report - August 29, 2011

Prices from Michigan and the Northwest (highbush) are firm at \$2.05 - \$2.10 per pound. Many processors are reported to only be selling to existing customers but there are instances of buyers balking at the higher opening price. The crop was around three weeks late this year and short. Wild blueberry prices are also close to \$2.05 per pound, f.o.b. Maine. One of the main reasons attributed to this season's high opening price is that the majority of the crop was going towards fresh with processors having to pay a higher price for berries destined to be frozen, according to industry sources.

Food Institute Report - June 6, 2011

No prices have been quoted for frozen wild blueberries, but frozen cultivated are reported lower at \$1.45 - \$1.48, fob North Carolina, with leftover 2010 crop berries higher from Michigan higher at close to \$1.65 per pound.

Food Institute Report - May, 2011

No prices have been quoted for frozen wild blueberries, but frozen cultivated blueberries are steady at \$1.50 - \$1.60 per pound.

Food Institute Report - April 4, 2011

Prices for frozen wild blueberries are \$1.65 - \$1.70 out of Maine and Canada

Food Institute Report - February 28, 2011

Frozen blueberry cold storage stocks, February 1: 2011: 104.5 million lbs; 2010: 123.6 million lbs; 2009: 141.3 million lbs

Food Institute Report - February 14, 2011

Prices for frozen wild blueberries are \$1.65 - \$1.70 out of Maine and Canada

Food Institute Report - December 20, 2010

Prices for wild blueberries out of Maine and Canada are between \$1.60 - \$1.65 per pound.

Food Institute Report - November 8, 2010

Prices for frozen wild blueberries out of Maine and Canada are between \$1.60 - \$1.65 per pound.

Food Institute Report - September 27, 2010

Prices for frozen cultivated blueberries are between \$1.55 - \$1.65. Prices for high quality berries have been reported as high as \$1.45-\$1.55. Meanwhile, prices for wild blueberries out of Maine and Canada are between \$1.60 - \$1.65 per pound.

Food Institute Report - September 13, 2010

Frozen blueberry prices have risen considerably over the past few months. The Michigan pack is over and the majority of product has been sold. This has caused prices for frozen cultivated blueberries to rise to between \$1.40- \$1.45. Prices for high quality berries have been reported as high as \$1.45-\$1.55. There have also been reports that product out of the Pacific Northwest is short and that few sales have been made. Meanwhile, prices for wild blueberries out of Maine and Canada are between \$1.60 - \$1.65 per pound.

Food Institute Report - September 6, 2010

Prices for wild blueberries out of Maine and Canada are between \$1.60 - \$1.65 per pound.

Food Institute Report - August 16, 2010

Prices for wild blueberries out of Maine and Canada are around \$1.40 per pound with conflicting reports of quality.

Food Institute Report - March 22, 2010

IQF cultivated blueberry prices out of Michigan are quoted at or around 95 cents per pound. 2010. Northwest blueberries are priced close to 76 cents per pound. Wild Blueberries are

priced at 85 cents per pound coming out of Nova Scotia.

Food Institute Report - November 23, 2009

IQF cultivated blueberry prices out of Michigan are quoted at or around 70 cents per pound, but offers can be found in the 65 – 68 cent range. Cultivated Argentine blueberries in 30-lbs. cases are priced at 68 cents per pound, f.o.b. West Coast. Northwest blueberries are priced close to 68 cents per pound. Meanwhile, New Jersey blueberries are around 70 cents per pound, but can be had for close to 65 cents.

Food Institute Report - November 19, 2009

There is currently little to no market for frozen blueberries, according to industry sources. Many buyers seem to be full with inventory, and according to recent cold storage statistics, this looks to be the case. IQF cultivated blueberry prices out of Michigan are quoted at or around 70 cents per pound, but offers can be found in the 65 – 68 cent range. Cultivated Argentine blueberries in 30-lbs. cases are priced at 68 cents per pound, f.o.b. West Coast. Northwest blueberries are priced close to 68 cents per pound. Meanwhile, New Jersey blueberries are around 70 cents per pound, but can be had for close to 65 cents.

Food Institute Report - November 2, 2009

IQF cultivated blueberry prices out of Michigan are quoted at or around 72 cents per pound. Wild blueberries are priced close to 94 cents per pound, f.o.b. East Coast.

Food Institute Report - October 19, 2009

Prices out of Michigan right now have cultivated frozen blueberries priced 68 cents up to 70 cents per pound for 2009 crop grade A. Meanwhile, cultivated blueberries from New Jersey are priced at 69 cents per pound. Wild blueberries in 30-lb. cartons are priced at around 95 cents, f.o.b. East coast.

Food Institute Report - October 5, 2009

Prices out of Michigan right now have cultivated frozen blueberries priced 67 cents up to 72 cents per pound for 2009 crop grade A. Meanwhile, cultivated blueberries from New Jersey are priced at 69 cents per pound. Wild blueberries in 30-lb. cartons are priced at around 95 cents, f.o.b. East coast.

Food Institute Report - September 21 & 28, 2009

Prices out of Michigan right now have cultivated frozen blueberries priced 67 cents up to 72 cents per pound for 2009 crop grade A. Meanwhile, cultivated blueberries from New Jersey are priced at 65 cents per pound. Wild blueberries in 30-lb. cartons are priced at around 97 cents,

f.o.b. East coast.

Food Institute Report - August 17, 24 and 31, 2009

Wild blueberries from the East coast are \$1.10 per pound.

Food Institute Report - July 27, 2009

Wild blueberries from the East coast are \$1.10 per pound.

Food Institute Report - May 11, 2009

Wild blueberry imports are down dramatically for the first two months of 2009. As of Mar. 1 last year, imports of wild blueberries totalled 17.2 million pounds. For the first two months of 2009, imports of wild blueberries totalled only 4.2 million pounds, a decrease of 75%.

Food Institute Report - April 13, 2009 Wild blueberries are priced at \$1.50 for 30 lb cartons, f.o.b. Maine

Food Institute Report - December 15, 2008 Wild blueberries are priced at \$1.50 for 30 lb cartons, f.o.b. Maine

Food Institute Report - October 27, 2008 Wild blueberries are priced at \$1.45 for 30 lb cartons, f.o.b. Maine.

Food Institute Report - September 8, 2008 Wild blueberries are priced at \$1.50 per pound for 30 lb cartons, f.o.b. Maine. Recent heavy rains throughout Maine have reduced the crop yield and caused production to decrease which may effect pricing in the future.

Food Institute Report - September 1, 2008 Wild blueberries are priced at \$2.30 f.o.b East coast.

Food Institute Report - August 18, 2008 Wild blueberries are priced at \$1.75 f.o.b Canada.

Food Institute Report - July 14, 2008 Wild blueberries were \$2.25- \$2.30 f.o.b east coast.

Food Institute Report - March 24, 2008 Wild blueberries were priced between \$2.25 - \$2.30 fob east coast.

Food Institute Report - November 27, 2006 Wild blueberries traded around \$2.15, depending on availability

Food Institute Report - October 9, 2006 Wild Blueberry exports (from US) saw a decrease of 39% compared to last year at this time. Exports of wild blueberries totaled 6.2 million pounds as of Aug. 1. There was a 61% decrease of wild blueberry exports to Canada compared to this time in 2005. Wild berries are trading around \$2.15, depending on availability.

Food Institute Report - October 2, 2006 As of Aug. 1, imports into the US of both wild and cultivated blueberries are down from last year at this time, due to a decrease in exports from Canada. The wild crop was affected by poor weather, including frost that came early to Quebec and the Maritimes. Wild berries are trading around \$2.15, depending on availability

Food Institute Report - May 29, 2006

Trades began in the southern states, with stocks priced around \$1.75 per pound, fob East Coast, compared to approximately \$1.05 per pound, this time last year.

Food Institute Report - March 13, 2006

Very few trades are occurring, spot trades have been reported as high as \$2.50 per pound, fob East Coast, compared to \$1.10 to \$1.40 this time last year. Exports (from US) of Wild Blueberries for 2005 totaled 17.9 million pounds, down 23% from 2004. Canada and Japan are the top importers. Shipments to Canada were down 17% from 2004 to 8.1 million pounds. Shipments to Japan, at 6.8 million pounds, decreased 19% over 2004.

Food Institute Report - November 14, 2005

Tight supplies, if any, are available. When available, prices are reported from \$1.87- \$1.95 per pound for IQF quality berries, fob West Coast.

Food Institute Report - October 10, 2005

Imports (to US) are up 21% as of Aug. 1 but high demand and limited stocks have driven the price up even further, up 53%. The majority is coming from Canada and China, which have both increased their exports to the US. Chinese imports, as of Aug. 1, are up to 121,000 pounds from 36,000 lbs this last year, despite no stocks being received in July. No carryover this year, which has kept supplies further down this year. Historically high prices, asking are around \$1.80 per pound, fob the East Coast.

Food Institute Report - October 3, 2005

Wild supplies are short. Asking prices range from \$1.65 to \$1.75 per pound fob Maine, and some buyers are reporting having orders prorated this year. There is speculation that manufactureres will reformulate their products that use blueberries and promote other fruits in reponse to high prices

Food Institute Report - September 19, 2005

While the wild harvest is winding up, there really is no clear pricing picture. Asking prices seem to be \$1.60 per pound and higher, but no selling prices have been reported. The Maine crop for processing was down from what processors expected earlier this season, but was up from last year's disastrous 45.7 million pounds. The major Canadian provinces all realized processing crops that were smaller than expected earlier in the season. Nova Scotia's crop is said to be down about 15% from last year, while Quebec is expected to be down 5% to 7% and New Brunswick is down 19%, according to industry sources.

The last time wild pricing was near the levels of today was in April of 1999, when asking prices approached \$1.50 due to a frost damaged Quebec crop of just 5 million pounds in 1998, down from 31.3 million in 1997. However, that was eight months after the pack was completed.

Food Institute Report - August 15, 2005

Maine's 2005 wild blueberry crop is expected to total 70 million pounds, based on grower reported condition of the crop through mid-July, according to *New England Agricultural Statistics Maine Wild Blueberries* report. If realized, this forecast places expected production 52% above last year's output of 46 million pounds, but 13% below 2003 final production.

The average prices per pound for Maine wild blueberries sold for processing in 2004 was 45 cents, a 12 cent increase over a year earlier. The average fresh market price per pound for Maine wild blueberries was \$1.35 in 2004, 15 cents higher than in 2003. The total value of Maine's 2004 wild blueberry crop (fresh and processed) was placed at \$21 million, down 22% from the 2003 value, due to decreased production.

Food Institute Report - April 4, 2005

U.S Imports of wild blueberries through March 1 totaled 5.1 million pounds, a 50% increase from this time last year. Imports of cultivated blueberries totaled 1.4 million pounds, a 48% increase over 2004. Holdings in New England, mostly wild blueberries, decreased 37% to 8.8 million pounds.

Food Institute Report - February 28 and 21, 2005

Feb 28: Supplies of cultivated blueberries are extremely tight, despite the reported increase in cold storage holding, which includes available and purchased stocks. When available trades are in the \$1.25 to \$1.35 per pound range, fob NW

Feb 21: Through Dec. 1, 2004, US exports of wild blueberries for 2004 totaled 21.2 million

pounds, up from 16.7 million pounds in 2003. Shipments to Canada were up 4% and to Japan up 13%. Shipments to China increased substantially from 250,022 pounds in 2003 to 2.7 million pounds in 2004.

Food Institute Report - January 24, 2005

Michigan cultivated straight pack in 30 lb cases trade between \$1.15-\$1.16 per pound, fob MI
 Cultivated IQF whole blueberries in 30 lb cases are between \$1.12-\$1.15 per pound, fob N.C.

Food Institute Report - November 29, 2004

Wild Blueberries - Wild and cultivated exports as of October 1 were 42% and 18% higher than the same point in 2003, respectively.

REGIONAL HOLDINGS OF FROZEN BLUEBERRIES, Nov. 1/04 in 1,000 lbs			
Source: USDA/NASS			
	2004	2003	% CHANGE
New England	11,373	15,903	-28.5%
Middle Atlantic	8,725	11,815	-26.2%
East North Central	43,817	30,251	44.8%
West North Central	1,515	2,569	-41.0%
South Atlantic	4,048	2,590	56.3%
Pacific	32,943	21,900	50.4%
Other	1,170	1,043	12.2%
Total U.S.	103,591	86,071	20.4%

While overall cold storage holdings were 20% higher on November 1 than a year ago, a 29% decline in New England confirms good movement on wild varieties, and that packers are replacing cultivated with wild for sales. However, packers report lack of supply on all varieties. The rise in imports suggests that much of the remaining supply is market for export, rather than domestic customers. In addition, the cold storage figures include both sold and unsold product.

Selected U.S. Frozen Fruit Exports Jan. 1 - Oct. 1, 2004

Source: Bureau of Census

Pounds	2004	2003	% CHANGE
Wild Blueberries	17,961,449	12,627,053	42.2%
Canada	7,673,678	6,657,011	15.3%
Japan	6,404,417	4,923,441	30.1%

Food Institute Report - September 6, 2004

Wild Blueberries - The North American crop is expected to be about 55 million pounds below last year's crop, leading to extremely tight supplies and high prices. The 2003 processed total was 198.6 million pounds. Some packers are reporting they cannot fill orders. Pricing is reported at \$1.15-\$1.20/lb.

Food Institute Report - June 7, 2004

Wild Blueberries - Growers have concerns of Mummyberry disease in Maine fields due to prevailing cool, moist conditions.

Meanwhile, U.S. exports continued to be strong through April 1, at 6.1 million pounds, 10% higher than the same point in 2003. Shipments have been sent to six new countries, including China, which is the third highest export market of the year thus far.

Food Institute Report - May 17, 2004

Wild Blueberries - Several grower/packers are reporting winter damage in Maine due to a lack of snow cover. Official damage has not been assessed yet, but grower/packers are expecting a reduced crop. Quebec growers report a good snow cover experienced, and do not expect damage. The total wild crop is expected to be about 175-180 million pounds, down from about 200 million pounds last year.

Food Institute Report - March 15, 2004

Wild Blueberries - Total U.S. (Maine) processed production in 2003 was 79.8 million pounds, 29% higher than 2002.

Farmers received an average of \$0.35 per processed pounds, 25% more than they received in

2002. The total value of the processed crop was \$28.5 million, compared to \$17.9 million pounds one year earlier.

Food Institute Report - November 24, 2003

Wild Blueberries - U.S. cold storage stocks as of November 1 totalled 86.0 million pounds, down 23% from this point last year. This is due to the tight supplies that far exceed demand, as just about all available product is exhausted. The small stocks have also led to the high prices. At \$1.10 per pound, Wild blueberries are 30 cents higher than at this point last year. Cultivated, as high as \$1.15 per pound, are 25 cents higher than this point last year.

Food Institute Report - November 17, 2003

Wild Blueberries - The market is in better shape than Cultivated. Supplies are more readily available, and sales are being conducted that would normally be Cultivated. Pricing is from \$1.00-\$1.10 per pound.

Food Institute Report - November 17, 2003

Wild Blueberries - FROZEN FRUITS - Blueberries Voted 'Best Fruit' - SELF magazine asked a panel of nutritional experts - including Dr. Andrew Weil, author of *Eating Well for Optimum Health*, Sharon Tyler Herbst, author of *The Food Lover's Companion*, and 34 members of the American Dietetic Association, to come up with a "dream team" of super foods that would give them "more energy for fewer calories - and a body built to last," reported the Wild Blueberry Association of North America.

Despite stiff competition from the likes of the kiwi, cranberry, orange and cantaloupe, blueberries were voted "best fruit" by the survey respondents.

While all blueberries have high antioxidant capacity and anti-inflammatory properties, new research shows that Wild blueberries are even higher in antioxidants than Cultivated varieties.

The article cited the blueberry's high level of anthocyanin, a potent antioxidant concentrated in the berry's blue pigments. The article also quoted Joanne Shearer, R.D., a dietician at Heart Hospital of South Dakota, who said blueberries also "contain phytonutrients like lutein and fiber, which reduce the risk of diabetes and circulatory problems."

The article also touted the high nutritional value of frozen blueberries, which according to the FDA are just as healthy as fresh, and may even hold their nutritional value longer.

Food Institute Report - October 20, 2003

Wild Blueberries - Pricing is on the rise. Some reports are as high as \$1.00.

Food Institute Report - September 29, 2003

Wild Blueberries - The total North American crop is about 170-175 million pounds. All areas produced good volumes except for Quebec, which produced about 25-30 million pounds, down from 45 million pounds last year. Pricing is in the high 90's.

Food Institute Report - June 23, 2003

Wild Blueberries - Recent cold weather and wind in Quebec have reportedly damaged the crop. The weather, combined with a lack of snowcover has caused damage to 30%-40% of the crop, according to growers. The total crop is expected to be about 25% less than last season. Pricing is 85-90 cents per pound out of New England.

Food Institute Report - May 26, 2003

Wild Blueberries - Faced with an oversupply, Maine growers have instituted a marketing campaign to increase consumer demand by distinguishing wild berries from the larger cultivated variety. Wild blueberries are being featured everywhere from Martha Stewart's show and in an 18-page spread in her magazine, to *Time Magazine* and *The Wall Street Journal*. The campaign appears to be working, as annual retail sales of frozen wild blueberries have jumped from the \$3 million range to \$20 million during the past six years. At the same time, volume sales have increased from about one million pounds a year to 7 million a year, according to *Maine Today*.

Food Institute Report - March 24, 2003

Wild Blueberries - Pricing is about 84-88 cents per pound in New England.