

## **NORTH CAROLINA BLUEBERRIES 2008 SEASON**

North Carolina blueberry growers produced a record crop in 2008. This phenomenon was caused by a significant increase in bearing acreage, but was also due to unique weather conditions during the previous year – the 2007 Easter freeze resulted in a reduced crop that year, so bushes produced more vegetative growth and an abundance of flower buds going into the 2008 season. Most cultivars performed well in 2008. The southern highbush cultivars O’Neal, Star and Legacy were high producers, as well as the rabbiteye cultivar Premier. Early southern highbush harvest started the week of May 12, while early rabbiteye harvest (cv. Premier) began the week of June 9.

The larger-than-normal crop posed a problem for smaller growers in the Piedmont and Foothills. Bushes tended to overcrop and berry size was significantly reduced in many small locally-marketed or pick-your-own fields. In some fields the overabundance of berries resulted in poor leafing and poor flower bud formation in the late summer and fall of 2008, thus the 2009 crop may be reduced on those bushes.

Price and volume data were obtained from six major shippers in the 2008 season. The first price reported for flats of 12-1 pint cups with lids was on May 19. Prices ranged mostly \$24-\$25. The last f.o.b. price report was issued on July 08, with prices ranging mostly \$14-\$15. Approximately 18.7 million pounds, an equivalent of 2.1 million 12 1-pint flats, were shipped for fresh market. There was also an additional 9.8 million pounds processed (frozen). This total (fresh + processed) of 28.5 million pounds represents record-high production levels for the state.

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<b>FOB DATE</b>	<b>FLATS SHIPPED (1-pint cups)</b>	<b>PRICE PER FLAT (12 1-pint cups)</b>	
		<b>Low</b>	<b>High</b>
13-May	660	-	-
14-May	4,413	-	-
15-May	3,364	-	-
16-May	5,951	-	-
17-May	4,120	-	-
18-May	564	-	-
19-May	25,067	24.00	25.00
20-May	39,742	24.00	25.00
21-May	31,245	24.00	25.00
22-May	24,948	24.00	24.50
23-May	32,483	24.00	24.50
24-May	19,830	-	-
25-May	8,050	-	-
26-May	53,198	20.00	21.00
27-May	50,962	20.00	21.00
28-May	77,750	20.00	21.00
29-May	62,197	-	-
30-May	72,546	-	-
31-May	60,563	-	-
01-Jun	31,133	-	-
02-Jun	82,041	20.00	21.00
03-Jun	92,777	20.00	21.00
04-Jun	102,021	20.00	22.00
05-Jun	83,572	20.00	22.00
06-Jun	74,489	20.00	22.00
07-Jun	58,864	-	-
08-Jun	30,094	-	-
09-Jun	62,733	20.00	22.00
10-Jun	81,550	20.00	20.00
11-Jun	65,394	20.00	21.00
12-Jun	61,699	20.00	21.00
13-Jun	55,798	20.00	20.50
14-Jun	60,166	-	-
15-Jun	12,857	-	-
16-Jun	44,693	18.00	20.00
17-Jun	51,567	18.00	20.00
18-Jun	44,480	18.00	20.00
19-Jun	34,838	18.00	20.00
20-Jun	48,616	16.50	18.50
21-Jun	21,037	-	-

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FOB DATE	FLATS SHIPPED (1-pint cups)	PRICE PER FLAT (12 1-pint cups)	
		LOW	HIGH
22-Jun	14,000	-	-
23-Jun	23,608	16.00	16.00
24-Jun	19,664	16.00	16.00
25-Jun	18,276	16.00	16.00
26-Jun	33,217	14.00	14.00
27-Jun	18,120	14.00	14.00
28-Jun	35,909	-	-
29-Jun	8,000	-	-
30-Jun	9,704	14.00	14.00
01-Jul	11,750	-	-
02-Jul	11,746	14.00	15.00
03-Jul	7,176	14.00	15.00
04-Jul	8,760	-	-
05-Jul	7,608	-	-
06-Jul	3,000	-	-
07-Jul	5,023	-	-
08-Jul	6,339	14.00	15.00
09-Jul	5,023	-	-
10-Jul	7,438	-	-
11-Jul	2,431	-	-
12-Jul	2,143	-	-
13-Jul	3,295	-	-
14-Jul	5,383	-	-
15-Jul	2,143	-	-
16-Jul	5,275	-	-
17-Jul	2,143	-	-
18-Jul	4,732	-	-
19-Jul	3,415	-	-
20-Jul	2,143	-	-
21-Jul	2,149	-	-
22-Jul	1,429	-	-
23-Jul	1,986	-	-
24-Jul	1,429	-	-
25-Jul	1,429	-	-
26-Jul	1,429	-	-
27-Jul	1,429	-	-
<b>TOTAL FLATS</b>	2,076,816		