

FRUITS and VEGETABLES PRICE and YIELD DATA, 2002

The New England Agricultural Statistics Service began a five-year study of fruit and vegetable prices and yields in 2002 at the request of USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA). Funding was provided by the State Departments of Agriculture in Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont. This new data series will be valuable for growers to use in making production and marketing decisions; for state FSA offices to administer farm programs based on individual state yield and price data; for Cooperative Extension to provide needed outreach and education programs; and for the State Departments of Agriculture to assist growers.

Over 3,800 tree fruit, berry and vegetable growers were contacted in October and November of 2002 in the six-state region; approximately 3,000 producer responses were tabulated. The survey was designed to provide state and regional prices and yields for selected fruit and vegetable commodities which were not in the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) estimating program. Producers in Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont were asked to provide acreage, production, wholesale and retail price information for tree fruits, berries and 28 selected vegetable crops.

The success of this project is credited to the cooperation of the thousands of growers across New England. We sincerely appreciate their time and efforts in supplying crop information. As with all NASS survey work, individual grower information is kept strictly confidential and is exempt from requests under the Freedom of Information Act. The individual reports were only used in combination with other reports to establish state and regional estimates. Items that could have disclosed individual farmer data or had insufficient reports to establish reliable yield or price estimates were recorded as a "D."

Fresh Market Vegetables: Less than optimal weather during 2002 resulted in poor growing conditions for vegetable crops in New England. Cool, wet weather early in the season slowed emergence, and an early May frost forced replanting at some locations. Drought conditions followed, placing severe stress on most vegetable crops. Water supplies were tight throughout the summer and growers struggled to supply needed moisture to parched fields. Scattered showers arrived in September; too late for many crops to recover. Lack of heavy frost in September extended vegetable harvest beyond normal.

Survey Specifics: The "All Price Per Pound" column includes fresh market vegetables only, and represents the average price received by growers at the point of first sale, including both retail and wholesale sales. New England agriculture's proximity to large populations have encouraged farmers to market directly to the public through roadside stands and "Pick Your Own" (PYO) ventures; thus, commanding the higher retail price at many farm locations. Differences in average prices between states for an individual crop are

largely attributed to the amount of crop sold retail or wholesale in that state. Most vegetable growers were able to provide price data. The lack of adequate farm records hindered many producers from responding to the production questions. The yield data series was modified from providing a yield that would represent a total state average, to publishing the average yield from reports tabulated.

Tree Fruits: The wet, cold spring followed by a summer-long drought caused poor growing conditions for tree fruit crops in New England. Cold, wet weather through the end of May caused unfavorable conditions for pollination, and damage from frost in May caused complete losses in many areas. Thunderstorms brought localized hail damage. By mid-June, the 2002 peach crop was reported in fair to good condition with the return of warmer temperatures and sunshine. Dry conditions persisted through mid-September, reducing fruit size on some varieties. Mild fall weather led to excellent harvest conditions through October, encouraging marketing at farm stands and PYO operations.

Survey Specifics: Yield per bearing acre for all tree fruit crops is based on total production, which includes unharvested production and fruit harvested but not sold due to market restrictions. Yield also includes reports from orchards with bearing acreage and no production in 2002. Peach data are based on reports from orchards with ten or more peach trees. Pear data are based on reports from orchards with ten or more pear trees. The price per bushel published for peaches and pears in Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island represents the fresh market average price received by growers at the point of first sale. There were insufficient sales to establish a processed price for peaches and pears for these states.

Fresh Market Berries: Cool, wet spring weather caused less than optimum growing conditions for the 2002 strawberry crop in New England. Heat and humidity arrived in time for harvest, but yields were affected from earlier frost and cool temperatures. Highbush blueberry growers reported a good crop at most locations, with irrigation used, if available, to combat dry summer conditions.

Survey Specifics: Price and yield data are published for cultivated blueberries, raspberries and strawberries sold for fresh market only. There was an insufficient number of reports received to publish a fresh wild blueberry price for Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont. The "All Price Per Pound" published includes fresh market berries only and represents the average price received by growers at the point of first sale, which includes both retail and wholesale sales. Most berry growers were able to provide price data; however, production figures were unavailable from the majority of contacts made. The yield data series was modified from providing a yield that would represent a total state average, to publishing the average yield from reports tabulated.

FRESH MARKET BERRIES: Yield and Price, 2002

CROPS	Number of Reports ^{1/}	Yield per Acre ^{2/}	Number of Reports ^{3/}	All Price per Pound ^{4/}
	Number	Pounds	Number	Dollars
Blueberries, Cultivated (High Bush)				
Maine	22	3,100	37	1.25
Massachusetts	71	2,600	97	1.75
New Hampshire	35	4,000	47	1.60
Rhode Island	9	2,800	16	1.40
Vermont	28	3,700	35	1.70
NEW ENGLAND ^{5/}	165	3,100	232	1.60
Raspberries, All				
Maine	21	2,000	33	2.85
Massachusetts	39	1,750	67	3.15
New Hampshire	24	2,500	29	2.85
Rhode Island	D	D	D	D
Vermont	14	2,100	21	3.10
NEW ENGLAND ^{5/}	D	2,000	D	3.00
Strawberries				
Maine	30	6,150	54	1.50
Massachusetts	46	5,500	71	1.65
New Hampshire	24	6,200	38	1.55
Rhode Island	D	D	D	D
Vermont	24	5,900	37	1.70
NEW ENGLAND ^{5/}	D	5,800	D	1.60

^{1/} Number of farms reporting production or yield.

^{2/} Total tabulated pounds produced per bearing acre harvested.

^{3/} Number of farms reporting a berry price.

^{4/} Average price per pound received at point of first sale; fresh market average of retail and wholesale sales.

^{5/} New England includes ME, MA, NH, RI, and VT.

D - Data withheld to avoid disclosing information for individual farms.

PEACHES and PEARS: Yield and Price, 2002

STATE	Peaches ^{1/} (48-lb bu)		Pears ^{2/} (50-lb bu)	
	Yield per Bearing Acre ^{3/}	Fresh Market Price per Bushel ^{4/}	Yield per Bearing Acre ^{3/}	Fresh Market Price per Bushel ^{4/}
	Bushels	Dollars	Bushels	Dollars
Maine	45	38.40	65	32.50
Massachusetts ^{5/}	130	38.40	30	30.00
New Hampshire	110	43.20	D	D
Rhode Island	120	45.60	D	D
Vermont	D	D	40	25.00
NEW ENGLAND ^{6/}	124	40.80	40	30.75

^{1/} Peach data are based on production from orchards with ten or more peach trees. Production from trees grown on wire excluded.

^{2/} Pear data are based on production from orchards with ten or more pear trees. Production from trees grown on wire excluded.

^{3/} Yield per bearing acre is based on total production, which includes unharvested production and fruit harvested but not sold due to market restrictions.

Yield includes reports from orchards with bearing acreage and no production in 2002.

^{4/} Average fresh market price received by farmers at point of first sale. Insufficient sales to establish a processed price.

^{5/} Massachusetts Peach Source: **Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts - Preliminary**, 3:00 p.m., January 24, 2003, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

^{6/} New England includes ME, MA, NH, RI, and VT.

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FRESH MARKET VEGETABLES: Yield and Price, 2002 ^{1/}

CROPS	Number of Reports ^{2/}	Yield per Acre ^{3/}	Number of Reports ^{4/}	All Price per Pound ^{5/}
	Number	Pounds	Number	Dollars
Asparagus				
Maine	5	700	11	2.45
Massachusetts	17	1,400	40	1.80
New Hampshire	D	D	8	2.65
Rhode Island	D	D	D	D
Vermont	14	2,400	21	2.45
NEW ENGLAND ^{6/}	39	1,500	D	1.95
Beans, Snap (Bush & Pole)				
Maine	13	2,000	94	1.35
Massachusetts	41	2,750	101	1.15
New Hampshire	8	2,250	53	1.60
Rhode Island	D	D	D	D
Vermont	12	2,650	56	1.50
NEW ENGLAND ^{6/}	D	2,750	D	1.20
Beets				
Maine	D	D	60	1.00
Massachusetts	20	11,500	52	0.80
New Hampshire	6	17,300	31	1.20
Rhode Island	D	D	D	D
Vermont	D	D	39	0.65
NEW ENGLAND ^{6/}	38	13,000	D	0.85
Broccoli				
Maine	7	2,750	37	1.15
Massachusetts	23	2,650	49	1.40
New Hampshire	5	2,500	27	1.50
Rhode Island	D	D	6	1.50
Vermont	5	4,550	32	1.20
NEW ENGLAND ^{6/}	D	2,750	151	1.20
Cabbage (All)				
Maine	16	16,000	51	0.30
Massachusetts	21	26,000	46	0.20
New Hampshire	5	14,500	23	0.55
Rhode Island	D	D	6	0.30
Vermont	5	17,300	20	0.35
NEW ENGLAND ^{6/}	D	26,000	146	0.25
Cantaloupe & Muskmelons				
Maine	7	24,200	27	0.65
Massachusetts	17	3,300	42	0.55
New Hampshire	8	13,100	32	0.60
Rhode Island	D	D	D	D
Vermont	5	8,500	21	0.60
NEW ENGLAND ^{6/}	D	10,700	D	0.60
Carrots				
Maine	13	8,900	53	0.95
Massachusetts	16	3,000	45	0.65
New Hampshire	D	D	24	1.15
Rhode Island	D	D	D	D
Vermont	13	12,800	41	0.60
NEW ENGLAND ^{6/}	48	7,000	D	0.70
Cauliflower				
Maine	D	D	18	1.50
Massachusetts	D	D	15	1.10
New Hampshire	D	D	9	1.70
Rhode Island	D	D	D	D
Vermont	D	D	9	1.10
NEW ENGLAND ^{6/}	10	3,000	D	1.25
Cucumbers (Excludes Pickles)				
Maine	15	7,550	36	0.70
Massachusetts	39	12,500	74	0.70
New Hampshire	7	4,100	23	0.85
Rhode Island	D	D	6	0.65
Vermont	8	10,300	32	0.50
NEW ENGLAND ^{6/}	D	10,700	171	0.70

FRESH MARKET VEGETABLES: Yield and Price, 2002 ^{1/}

CROPS	Number of Reports ^{2/}	Yield per Acre ^{3/}	Number of Reports ^{4/}	All Price per Pound ^{5/}
	Number	Pounds	Number	Dollars
Eggplant				
Maine	7	5,500	27	1.20
Massachusetts	36	16,000	93	0.45
New Hampshire	6	1,800	28	1.10
Rhode Island	D	D	12	0.50
Vermont	D	D	17	1.70
NEW ENGLAND ^{6/}	54	14,000	177	0.70
Lettuce, Head				
Maine	D	D	D	D
Massachusetts	D	D	12	1.20
New Hampshire	D	D	D	D
Rhode Island	D	D	D	D
Vermont	D	D	7	1.00
NEW ENGLAND ^{6/}	8	6,500	30	1.25
Lettuce, Leaf				
Maine	D	D	25	2.65
Massachusetts	15	13,800	33	1.20
New Hampshire	D	D	11	1.50
Rhode Island	D	D	D	D
Vermont	7	9,800	19	1.00
NEW ENGLAND ^{6/}	30	12,500	D	1.20
Lettuce, Romaine				
Maine	D	D	D	D
Massachusetts	D	D	16	1.10
New Hampshire	D	D	D	D
Rhode Island	D	D	D	D
Vermont	D	D	D	D
NEW ENGLAND ^{6/}	12	11,500	30	1.20
Onions, Dry				
Maine	10	7,250	46	0.85
Massachusetts	11	20,500	29	0.30
New Hampshire	6	6,800	16	0.80
Rhode Island	D	D	D	D
Vermont	5	7,200	33	0.75
NEW ENGLAND ^{6/}	D	15,000	D	0.50
Onions, Green				
Maine	D	D	14	1.55
Massachusetts	8	4,000	19	1.40
New Hampshire	D	D	13	1.05
Rhode Island	D	D	D	D
Vermont	D	D	14	0.85
NEW ENGLAND ^{6/}	14	4,500	D	1.20
Peas, Green (Fresh Only)				
Maine	10	1,900	72	1.55
Massachusetts	18	6,000	55	1.70
New Hampshire	8	2,350	37	2.00
Rhode Island	D	D	7	2.10
Vermont	8	3,900	42	2.40
NEW ENGLAND ^{6/}	D	3,400	213	1.80
Peppers, Bell				
Maine	11	5,200	52	0.95
Massachusetts	50	17,700	124	0.60
New Hampshire	10	12,500	39	0.90
Rhode Island	D	D	D	D
Vermont	9	16,000	35	0.85
NEW ENGLAND ^{6/}	D	16,000	D	0.60
Peppers, Other (Excludes Bell)				
Maine	D	D	13	1.40
Massachusetts	21	21,000	52	0.40
New Hampshire	7	10,000	17	1.30
Rhode Island	D	D	D	D
Vermont	D	D	14	2.50
NEW ENGLAND ^{6/}	33	20,500	D	0.55

FRESH MARKET VEGETABLES: Yield and Price, 2002 ^{1/}

CROPS	Number of Reports ^{2/}	Yield per Acre ^{3/}	Number of Reports ^{4/}	All Price per Pound ^{5/}
	Number	Pounds	Number	Dollars
Potatoes ^{7/}				
Maine	N/A	265	N/A	8/
Massachusetts	N/A	255	N/A	8/
New Hampshire	12	180	8/	8/
Rhode Island	N/A	180	N/A	8/
Vermont	D	D	D	D
NEW ENGLAND ^{6/}	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pumpkins				
Maine	30	18,750	85	0.30
Massachusetts	114	8,400	211	0.30
New Hampshire	38	13,850	77	0.30
Rhode Island	D	D	17	0.40
Vermont	19	12,000	61	0.20
NEW ENGLAND ^{6/}	D	10,700	451	0.30
Rutagaba				
Maine	D	D	15	0.25
Massachusetts	D	D	10	0.30
New Hampshire	D	D	D	D
Rhode Island	D	D	D	D
Vermont	D	D	D	D
NEW ENGLAND ^{6/}	14	14,200	33	0.35
Spinach				
Maine	D	D	26	2.05
Massachusetts	5	2,400	23	1.45
New Hampshire	D	D	11	2.00
Rhode Island	D	D	D	D
Vermont	5	2,450	27	2.05
NEW ENGLAND ^{6/}	14	2,000	D	1.80
Squash, Summer				
Maine	20	6,000	78	0.50
Massachusetts	48	13,900	139	0.40
New Hampshire	13	13,000	68	0.80
Rhode Island	D	D	16	0.40
Vermont	11	16,300	54	0.60
NEW ENGLAND ^{6/}	D	13,600	355	0.50
Squash, Winter				
Maine	31	5,800	98	0.40
Massachusetts	86	10,900	172	0.25
New Hampshire	24	6,400	69	0.50
Rhode Island	D	D	14	0.20
Vermont	20	9,750	67	0.35
NEW ENGLAND ^{6/}	D	10,500	420	0.30
Tomatoes				
Maine	15	8,200	88	1.45
Massachusetts	78	11,400	172	1.45
New Hampshire	23	11,600	71	1.50
Rhode Island	7	10,600	26	1.15
Vermont	13	6,700	60	1.50
NEW ENGLAND ^{6/}	136	10,400	417	1.45
Watermelon				
Maine	D	D	20	0.50
Massachusetts	16	7,600	31	0.40
New Hampshire	6	7,300	18	0.50
Rhode Island	D	D	5	0.40
Vermont	D	D	19	0.55
NEW ENGLAND ^{6/}	31	7,350	93	0.45

^{1/} Fresh market vegetable yield and price data are based on production from farms with 1/10 or more acres harvested of specified crop.^{2/} Number of farms reporting production or yield.^{3/} Total tabulated pounds produced per acre harvested.^{4/} Number of farms reporting the specified vegetable price.^{5/} Average price per pound received at point of first sale. Fresh market average of retail and wholesale sales.^{6/} New England includes ME, MA, NH, RI, and VT.^{7/} Yield represents production harvested for all uses, fresh and processed.Source ME, MA, RI: **Crop Production - Annual Summary**, 8:30 a.m. January 10, 2003, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.^{8/} Preliminary fall potato prices for ME, MA, and RI will be available February 13, 2003 in the **Crop Values** report. Preliminary NH potato price will be published at that time.

D - Data withheld to avoid disclosing information for individual farms.