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2002 Cranberry Production Up 7 Percent

The forecast for the 2002 cranberry crop is 5.72 million barrels, up 7 percent from 2001 and less than 1 percent above 2000. New Jersey is the only State forecasting a decrease in production from a year ago.

The cranberry industry has no restrictive marketing order in effect for the 2002 cranberry crop unlike the 2001 and 2000 seasons when growers were restricted on the amount of processing berries that could be sold. Under last season's order, growers could only sell 65 percent of their historic average sales to the processors. These restrictions applied to all five of the major cranberry producing States. Due to the lack of the marketing restrictions in 2002 some growers increased acreage. This increased acreage combined with good growing conditions in most States has resulted in the higher cranberry production.

Production in Wisconsin is forecast at 2.91 million barrels, 2 percent above 2001 and 8 percent above 2000. Cranberry farmers in Wisconsin report having a fair to excellent growing season. No major crop losses were reported.

The Massachusetts crop is forecast at 1.78 million barrels, up 26 percent from 2001, but 9 percent below 2000. The Massachusetts cranberry crop had a good pollination period with above average bloom and average set. Dry summer conditions have reduced fruit size to below medium. New Jersey expects a crop of 410,000 barrels, down 28 percent from 2001 and 16 percent below two years ago. Growers reported bloom, fruit set, and fruit size to be mostly average. No significant weather damage was reported but some area was taken out of production due to low prices.

In Oregon, the crop is forecast at 455,000 barrels, 25 percent above last year's crop and up 14 percent from 2000. Conditions have been favorable for cranberry production. The Washington crop is forecast at 168,000 barrels, 18 percent above last year but 7 percent below 2000. Washington had a very late spring but no frost damage was reported. Summer weather has been ideal. Some twig blight and black vine weevil damage has been reported but problems were isolated.

Cranberries: Production by State and United States, 2000-01 and Forecasted 2002¹

State	Total Production		
	2000 <i>Barrels</i>	2001 <i>Barrels</i>	2002 <i>Barrels</i>
MA	1,953,000	1,416,000	1,780,000
NJ	489,000	566,000	410,000
OR	398,000	365,000	455,000
WA	180,000	142,000	168,000
WI	2,692,000	2,840,000	2,907,000
US	5,712,000	5,329,000	5,720,000

¹ A barrel weighs 100 lbs.

The next "Cranberries" report will be released in August 2003.

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