



February 2006

## 2005 Cranberry Production and Pollination Survey

Wisconsin cranberry producers shared information on their production and use of pollinations services with the Wisconsin Field Office of USDA/NASS during November 2005. Officials with the Wisconsin State Cranberry Growers Association (WSCGA) requested information about the prevalence and characteristics of pollination services in the cranberry industry. About 90 percent of the selected growers responded to this voluntary survey. We would like to thank the growers who took the time to complete this survey.

### Cranberry Production

Wisconsin cranberry production, in 2005, increased 11 percent to 3.66 million barrels. Producers harvested 17,400 acres, unchanged from 2004. Yields climbed from 189.7 per acre in 2004 to 210.3 barrels per acre in 2005. Prices also increased over previous levels. The 200,000 barrels sold on the fresh market brought a price of \$55.80 per barrel. Prices for processing cranberries rose \$1.60 to \$32.70 per barrel. Total U.S. production increased 1 percent to 6.23 million barrels. Wisconsin produced 59 percent of the U.S. crop in 2005. The average price for a barrel of cranberries in the U.S. was \$34.00 per barrel. Additional information on cranberry production and prices can be found at [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov).

### Cranberries: Area Harvested, Yield, Production by State and United States, 2003-2005

State	Harvested acres			Yield per acre barrels			Production barrels		
	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005
MA	14,400	14,100	14,200	97.6	128.2	98.9	1,406,000	1,808,000	1,405,000
NJ	3,200	3,100	3,100	150.0	129.7	171.9	480,000	402,000	533,000
OR	2,900	2,900	2,700	175.9	170.7	163.0	510,000	495,000	440,000
WA	1,700	1,700	1,700	111.8	100.0	110.0	190,000	170,000	187,000
WI	17,400	17,400	17,400	207.3	189.7	210.3	3,607,000	3,300,000	3,660,000
U.S.	39,600	39,200	39,100	156.4	157.5	159.2	6,193,000	6,175,000	6,225,000

### Pollination Services

In 2005, the use of pollination services was common in Wisconsin's cranberry marshes. Pollination services were used on 76 percent of operations, covering 94 percent of the state's cranberry acreage. The majority of growers used honeybees for pollination, and many of these were moved to multiple states during the year. Most producers were satisfied with their current pollination provider and had used their services for an average of 5 years. Growers used an average of 1.8 colonies per acre and paid \$50 per colony. Over half of the cranberry growers inspected the colonies when they arrived at their marshes, and only 19 percent said they had difficulty obtaining pollination services during 2005.

### Wisconsin Cranberry Producers' Use of Pollination Services

Size group	Used pollination services	Number of acres pollinated	Percent of acres pollinated	Number of colonies used	Rental fee
	Percent	Acres	Percent	Colonies/acre	Dollars/colony
1-89 acres	68	4,960	84	1.7	50
90+ acres	98	11,390	99	1.8	49
Total	76	16,350	94	1.8	50

- 76 percent of cranberry producers used pollination services
  - 7 percent of cranberry producers used both honeybees and bumblebees for pollination
  - 63 percent of cranberry producers used honeybees for pollination
  - 6 percent of cranberry producers used bumblebees for pollination
- 24 percent of cranberry producers did not use pollination services

### Wisconsin Cranberry Producers' Satisfaction with Pollination Services

Size group	Satisfied with current pollination services	Somewhat satisfied with current pollination services	Not satisfied with current pollination services
	Percent	Percent	Percent
1-89 acres	72	21	7
90+ acres	74	22	4
Total	73	22	5

### Characteristics of Wisconsin Cranberry Pollination Usage

Size group	Had difficulty obtaining pollination services	Grower performed an inspection of colonies	Years with current service
	Percent	Percent	Years
1-89 acres	21	63	4
90+ acres	14	50	8
Total	19	58	5

- 16 percent of all cranberry producers used bees that pollinated only in Wisconsin
- 47 percent of all cranberry producers used bees that pollinated in Wisconsin and other states
- 13 percent of all cranberry producers did not know if the bees they used also pollinated in other states

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