

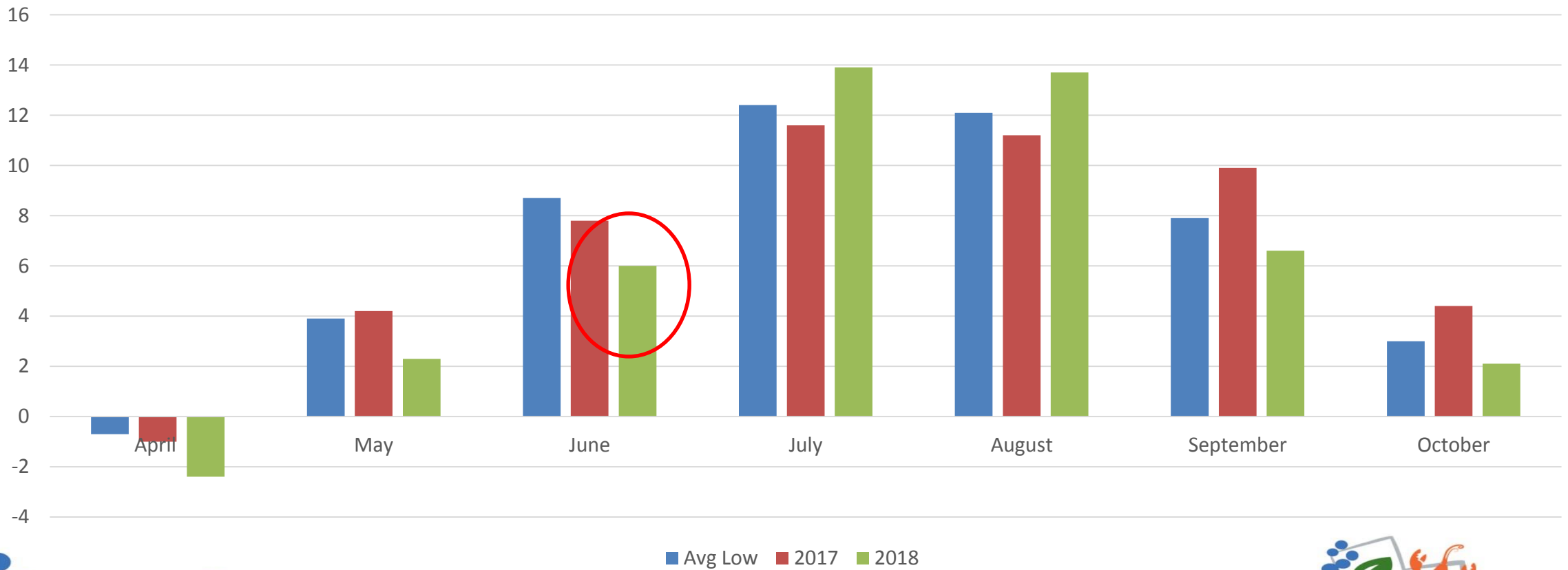


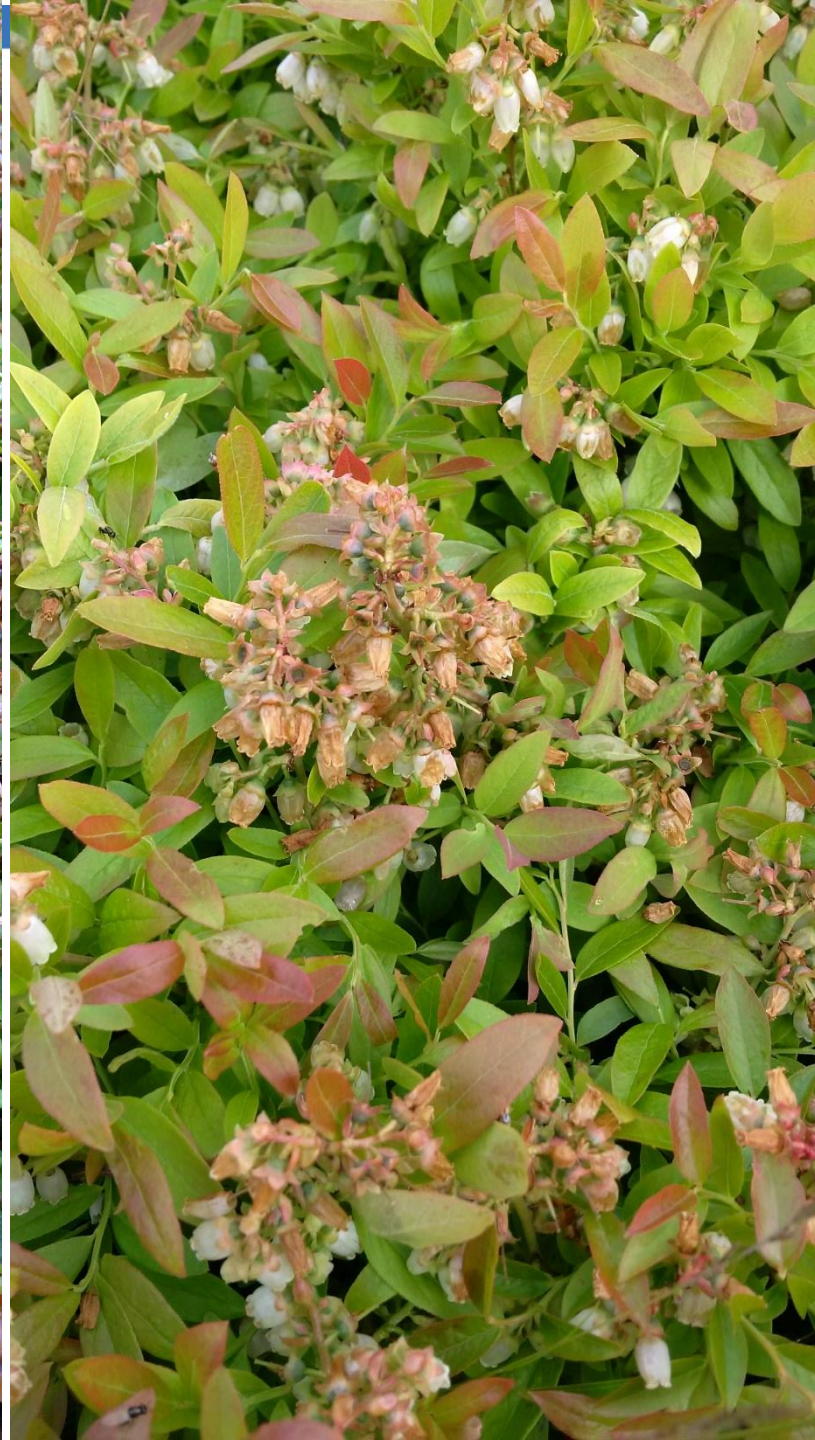
Wild Blueberry Update For NSBA

Peter Burgess, Perennia
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Weird year!

Average Low temperatures





June 3rd-4th Freeze Stats

- Parrsboro
 - (-0.8 C @ 11:00 pm through -2.9 C @ 5:00 am) low of -3.5 C
 - 6 hrs below 0 C
 - >4hrs below -2 C
- Debert
 - (-0.2 C @ 11:00 pm through -0.1 C @ 6:00 am) low of -3.2 C
 - 7 hrs below 0 C
 - >4hrs below -2 C

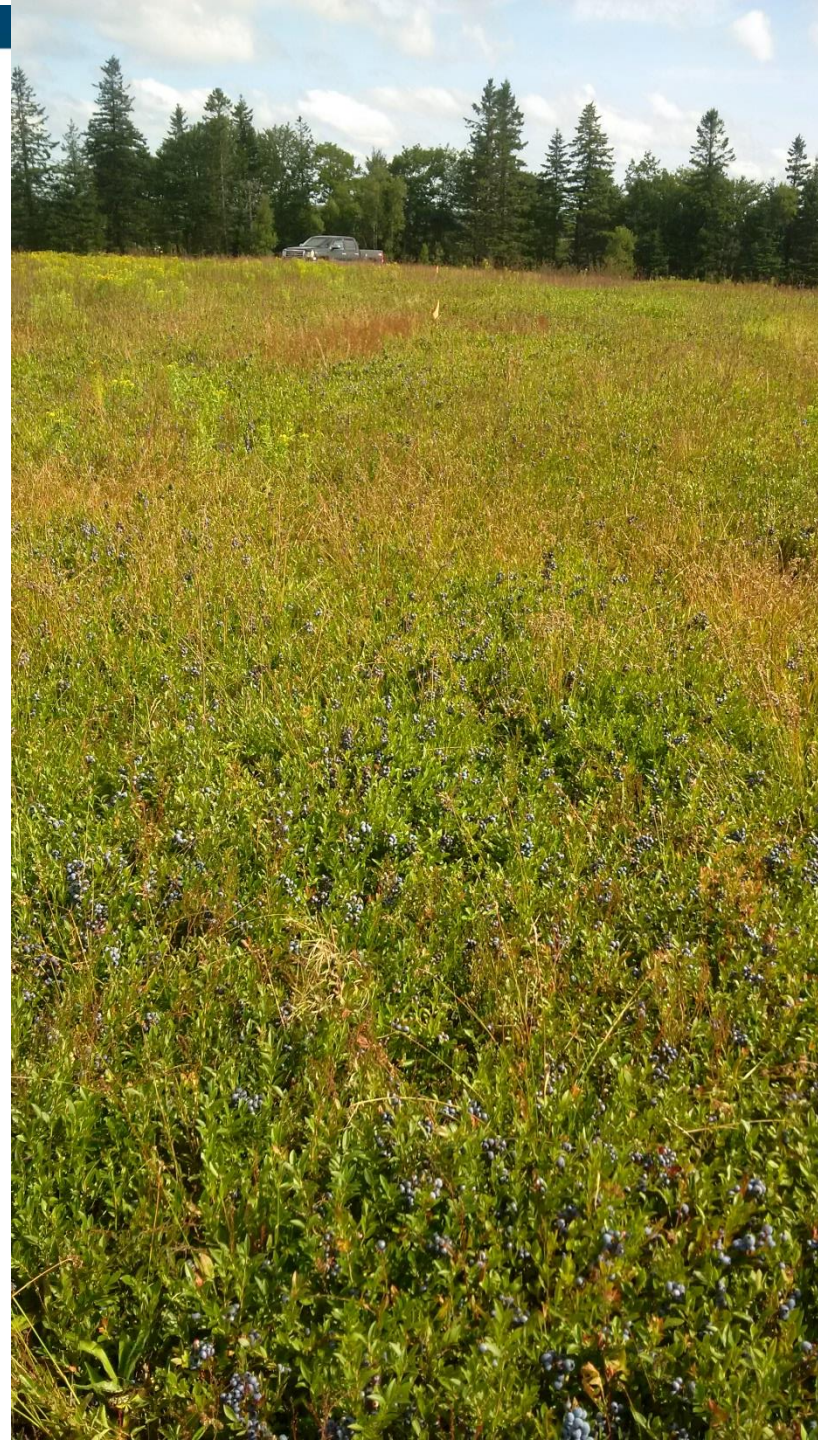




Variable Severity

- Duration of temperatures and temperature minimums varied based on micro-climate. (reports of below -5 C)
- Development stage at the time of frost
 - The more flowers that were open the greater the damage
- Field slope and orientation were major factors
- Treatment impacts?





2018 Crop for NS

- 22 million pounds
 - Less acres harvested in 2018
 - Five year rolling average is 51.8 million pounds
- Average yield per acre in 2018
 - 1100 lb/acre
- Good crops along Parrsboro shore



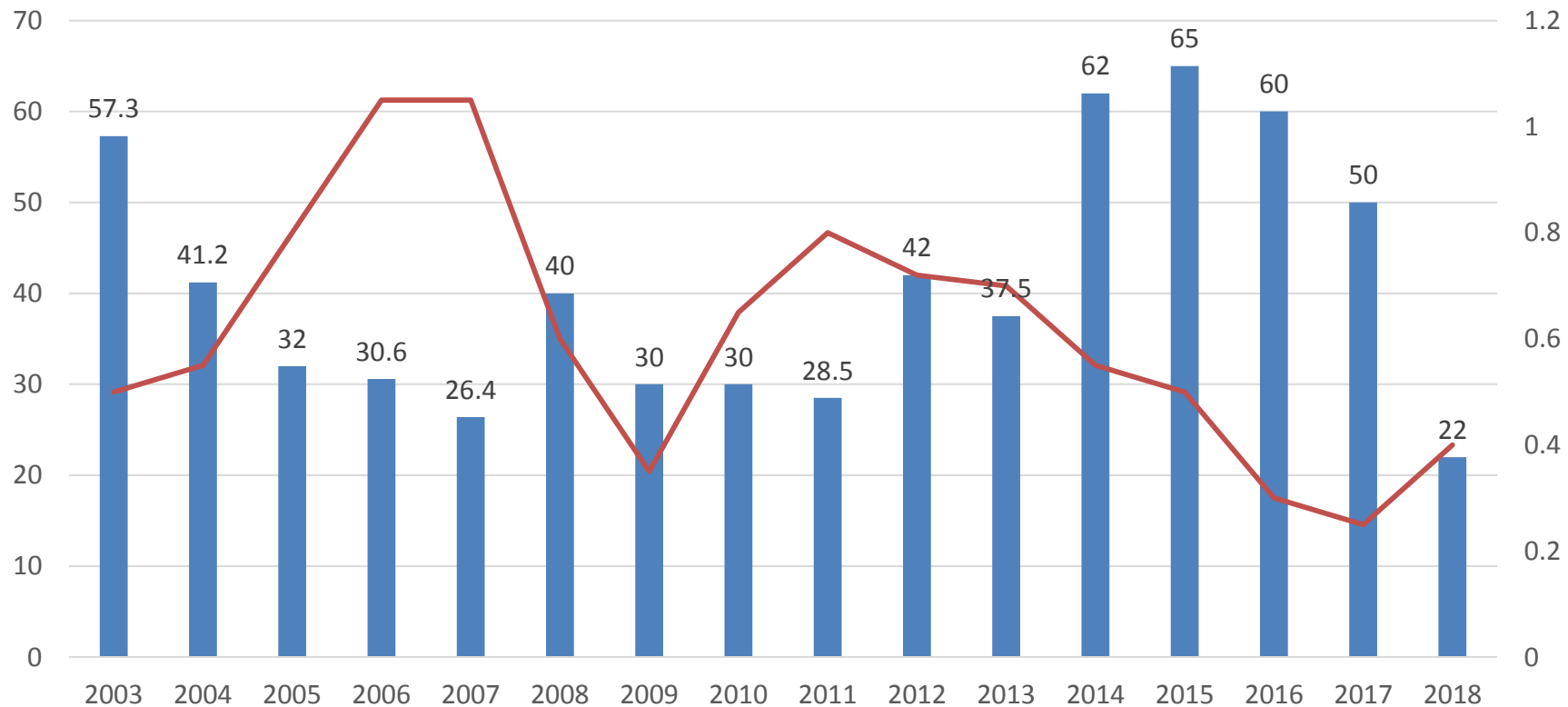
Poor Crop

- Nova Scotia's lowest overall yield since 1997 and 1998
 - 1989 last year yields were significantly lower than 22 million pounds
- The overall crop 208 million pounds was low (about half of 2016)
 - But this was the 5 year floating average in 2011.
 - 5 year floating average now – 303 million pounds



NS Yields - last 16 years

Millions of pounds





Bloom/Pollination

- Many areas had very few flowers and poor pollination
- Areas like the Parrsboro shore were loaded with bees
 - Good pollination in this region
 - Hives were struggling when pollination was done



Mid-Season

- Very Cool June
 - Crop fields sat for 3+ weeks.
 - Sprout fields emerged very late
 - Short sprout fields heading into next season
- Hot July and August.





Harvest

- In-land fields were very poor in Central NS.
- If you could see the Bay of Fundy from the field or you had a slope, yields were better.
- Later flowering fields yielded better than early flowering ones.
- Later harvest fields tended to be better



Going forward

- Cash flow!!!
- Keeping good fields viable
 - Fescue, disease, plant density and plant health
- Cannot expect a good yield without inputs and effort
 - The effort and inputs need to be strategic!
- Risk of reduced yields next year



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