

AGRICULTURE

Days suitable for field work were 6.3. There were negligible amounts of rainfall during the week over most of the state. Temperatures were above normal in most areas for the week. Top soil moisture was rated 6% short, 62% adequate, and 32% surplus. Activities during the week were planting soybeans, cutting hay, side-dressing fertilizer, spraying pesticides and herbicides, cultivating, and thinning peaches and apples to boost fruit size. Clear and warm weather helped cure small grain fields and allow hay harvest activities to resume without interruption. Small grains and hay crops were rated fair to good. Some emerged corn stalks displayed nitrogen deficiencies due to heavy rainfall during June. Potatoes and sweet potatoes were rated in good condition. Irrigation of vegetables fields began in southern portions of the state. Tomato harvest activities began in a few localities. Snap beans condition was rated in good condition except in low areas of the field. Blueberry harvest activities continued in the south. Growers applied pest management practices to peach orchards.

SOIL MOISTURE TABLE

	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	PREVIOUS YEAR
VERY SHORT	0%	0%	0%
SHORT	6%	0%	25%
ADEQUATE	62%	0%	72%
SURPLUS	32%	100%	3%

RANGE AND PASTURE

	CURRENT	PREVIOUS WEEK	PREVIOUS YEAR
VERY POOR	0%	0%	0%
POOR	0%	0%	0%
FAIR	22%	36%	1%
GOOD	58%	38%	93%
EXCELLENT	20%	26%	6%

JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR JUNE 30, 2003*

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Arugula - Good quality and decreasing volume with the warmer temperatures.

Asparagus - The season is finishing up.

Beets - Good quantities of spring planted product available.

Blueberries - Things are late this year. Increasing quantities of the early Duke variety expected this week with volume building quickly. While Duke volume may be slightly down this year, the follow-up Bluecrop variety will have volume similar to last year.

Cabbage - Savoy, Green, and Red varieties being seen in good quantities.

Cilantro - Good quality and quantity of spring planted product available though in decreasing volume with the warmer temperatures.

Collards - Good quality and quantity.

Cucumbers - Good quality and quantity available now of tunnel started product. Volume will grow over the next several weeks.

Dandelions - Spring planted San Pasquale variety available in good quantities.

Dill - Great quality with good quantities available.

Escarole/Endive - Good quality and decreasing quantity with the warmer temperatures. Starting to taper off in the next few weeks.

Greens - Great quality and decreasing quantities seen of Kholrabi, Kale, Mustard, Broccoli Raab, and Swiss Chard with the temperatures increasing.

Leeks - Over-wintered product is available now and for some time.

Lettuce - Good, though decreasing, quantities of good quality Red and Green Leaf and Romaine and Boston. Starting to slow down each week as the weather warms.

Parsley - Good quality and quantity of spring seeded plain and curly varieties.

Pickles - Good quality and quantity of tunnel started product entering the market. Increasing volume entering the market over the next several weeks.

Radishes - Decreasing volume available.

Spinach - Good quality and decreasing quantity of spring planted available as the weather warms.

Strawberries - The season is finishing up this week. Our crop is mainly Chandlers.

Turnips - Volume continuing to increase.

Yellow Squash - Good quality and increasing quantity available now.

Zucchini - Good quality and quantity available now.

JERSEY FRESH FORECAST

Eggplant - Begin to become available towards late July. Volume increasing quickly after that.

Melons - Minimal quantity of cantaloupes started under plastic begins the week of July 14, 2003. Volume increasing quickly after that.

Peppers - Begin to become available by week of July 21, 2003. Volume increasing quickly after that.

Sweet Corn - Minor acreage grown under plastic will allow for some early product for road stands for the important July 4th holiday, look towards the following week for any quantity.

Tomatoes - Field grown harvest begins next week with minimal quantities. Volume available by week of July 14, 2003.

Yellow Peaches - Growers are looking forward to a season with very good quality and size. The early variety Sentry will begin to become available in mid to late July. Redhaven and John Boy varieties available in volume several weeks later.