



# AGRICULTURE

Days suitable for field work were 5.7. There were measurable amounts of rainfall during the week over most of the state. There was some hail damage last Sunday in southern parts of the state. Top soil moisture was rated 4% short, 73% adequate, and 23% surplus. Activities during the week were harvesting wheat, cutting hay, spraying pesticides and herbicides, and cultivating fields. Small grains and hay crops were rated in fair to good condition. Low wheat yields, in some areas, were attributed to glume blotch and head scab infestation. Leafhoppers population levels rose dramatically in some southern New Jersey alfalfa fields. Potato vines were down, in some fields, in preparation for harvest. Sweet potatoes were rated in good condition. Vegetables were in fair to good condition as harvest activities continued where conditions allowed. Some sweet corn fields began to show tassel. Tomato plants displayed noticeable fruit rot in some northern fields due to wet weather conditions. Blueberry harvest continues in most areas.

## SOIL MOISTURE TABLE

	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	PREVIOUS YEAR
<b>VERY SHORT</b>	0%	0%	0%
<b>SHORT</b>	4%	57%	54%
<b>ADEQUATE</b>	73%	43%	46%
<b>SURPLUS</b>	23%	0%	0%

## RANGE AND PASTURE

	CURRENT	PREVIOUS WEEK	PREVIOUS YEAR
<b>VERY POOR</b>	0%	0%	0%
<b>POOR</b>	0%	0%	13%
<b>FAIR</b>	16%	24%	31%
<b>GOOD</b>	52%	66%	56%
<b>EXCELLENT</b>	32%	10%	0%

### JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR JULY 14, 2003\*

**Arugula** – Good quality and decreasing volume with the warmer temperatures.

**Beets** – Good quantity and quality of spring planted product available.

**Blueberries** – Things are late this year. Good quantities of excellent quality and size Duke variety berries are expected this week. While Duke volume may be slightly down this year, the follow-up Bluecrop variety will have volume similar to last year. Minimal quantities of Bluecrop variety berries are being picked now with volume increasing by the end of the week.

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

**Cilantro** – Good quality and decreasing volume with the warmer temperatures.

**Collards** – Good quality and quantity.

**Cucumbers** - Good quality and quantity available with volume continuing to grow.

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

**Dill** – Good quality and quantity available.

**Escarole/Endive** – Good quality and decreasing quantity with the warmer temperatures. Starting to taper off quite a bit.

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

**Leeks** – Available in good quantity and quality.

**Lettuce** – Minimal, and decreasing, quantities of decreasing quality Red and Green Leaf and Romaine and Boston. Slowing down each week as the weather warms.

**Melons** – Minimal quantity of cantaloupes started under plastic begins later this week. Volume will increase each week though it will be several weeks before any kind of volume is in the marketplace.

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

**Pickles** – Good quality and quantity entering the marketplace with increasing volume.

**Radishes** – Minimal volume available.

**Spinach** – Decreasing quality and quantity available as the weather warms.

**Sweet Corn** – Increasing volume daily coming into the marketplace. Fair quantities available from South Jersey.

**Tomatoes** – Field grown harvest begins later this week with minimal quantities. Volume becoming more available next week though it will be several weeks before appreciable quantity is in the marketplace.

**Turnips** – Good volume and quantity available.

**Yellow Squash** – Good quality and quantity available.

**Zucchini** - Good quality and quantity available.

### JERSEY FRESH FORECAST

**Eggplant** – Minor quantities of Italian eggplant are starting to be seen. Eggplant will begin to become available towards late July. Volume increasing quickly after that.

**Peaches** – Growers are looking forward to a season with very good quality and size. The early yellow variety Sentry will begin to become available next week. Redhaven and John Boy varieties will be available in volume several weeks later. White peaches will begin at the end of the month or beginning of August with the White Lady variety. The new white peach varieties have the look and flavor that consumers desire and the shelf life that allows you to get the peaches to them.

**Peppers** - Begin to become available sometime late next week. It will still be several more weeks after that until quantity is available in the marketplace. Look towards the end of July.

\*Provided by the New Jersey State Department of Agriculture.