



## AGRICULTURE

Days suitable for field work were 6.6. There were measurable amounts of rainfall during the week over most of the state with some locations receiving over an inch. Temperatures were below normal for most of the week across most of the state. Top soil moisture was rated 35% short, 55% adequate, and 10% surplus. Activities during the week were harvesting wheat, cutting hay, spraying pesticides and herbicides, and cultivating fields. Showers and high humidity slowed drying of cut hay. Leafhoppers population levels continue to be over acceptable thresholds in some southern New Jersey alfalfa fields. Cantaloupe and pumpkin planting activities were drawing to a close. Vegetables were in poor to good condition as harvest activities continued. Gray leaf spot was reported on some cucumber plants in fields in northern New Jersey. Sweet corn, cucumber, and snap bean harvest began in localities in the north. Harvest of greens, green onions, tomatoes, sweet corn, green cabbage, Chinese cabbage, spinach, and snap beans continued in the south. Strawberry harvest was wrapping up in most localities. Blueberry harvest continues in most areas.

### SOIL MOISTURE TABLE

	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	PREVIOUS YEAR
<b>VERY SHORT</b>	0%	0%	20%
<b>SHORT</b>	35%	4%	50%
<b>ADEQUATE</b>	55%	73%	30%
<b>SURPLUS</b>	10%	23%	0%

### RANGE AND PASTURE

	CURRENT	PREVIOUS WEEK	PREVIOUS YEAR
<b>VERY POOR</b>	0%	0%	0%
<b>POOR</b>	8%	0%	22%
<b>FAIR</b>	32%	16%	51%
<b>GOOD</b>	49%	52%	27%
<b>EXCELLENT</b>	11%	32%	0%

### **JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR JULY 21, 2003**

Acorn Squash - Good quantity and quality available.

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

Beets - Good quantity and quality available.

Blueberries - Good quality and size Duke variety berries are finishing up. While Duke volume has been slightly down this year, the follow-up Bluecrop variety will have volume similar to last year. A second picking of the Bluecrop variety berries are being picked now with another week or two left for picking them. Elliott variety berries will start being picked next week and will run through the middle of August.

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 - Large quantity of good quality product available. We need to move product.

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.

Italian Eggplant - Fair quantities of good quality available. Volume increasing quickly.

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 - Fair quantity of cantaloupes started under plastic. Volume still increasing and it will be at least another week before any kind of volume is in the marketplace.

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

Peaches - Growers are looking forward to a season with very good quality and size. The early yellow variety Sentry is available this week in fair to good volume with volume increasing daily. Redhaven and John Boy varieties will be available in volume in several weeks. 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. We'll have peaches until the end of September.

Peppers - Available in good quality and fair quantities this week. It will be next week before quantity is available in the marketplace.

Pickles - Large quantity of good quality product available. We need to move product.

Radishes - Minimal volume available.

Spinach - Minimal quantity available as the weather warms.

Sweet Corn - Increasing volume daily coming into the marketplace. Good quantities of good quality corn available from South Jersey.

Tomatoes - South Jersey harvest began last week with minimal quantities and \$40/box prices at Swedesboro. Volume increasing each week though it will be at least another week before appreciable quantity of reasonably priced product is in the marketplace. Demand always exceeds supply for the first couple of weeks as road stand operators gobble up early supplies for their retail markets as customers have been seeking them out and are willing to pay as much as \$4/lb.

Turnips - Good volume and quantity available.

Yellow Squash - Good quality and quantity available.

Zucchini - Good quality and quantity available.

### **JERSEY FRESH FORECAST**

Eggplant - Will begin to become available towards the end of July. Volume increasing quickly after that.

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