

AGRICULTURE

Days suitable for field work were 5.8. Temperatures were above normal in most areas with measurable amounts of rainfall received during the week. Top soil moisture was rated 8% short, 89% adequate, and 3% surplus. Activities during the week were harvesting fruit and vegetables, re-seeding pasture and hay fields, harvesting corn silage, and spraying pesticides and herbicides. Warm and wet weather conditions enhanced corn stalk and ear development. Applied herbicide sprays were diluted by rainfall which produces high weed counts in some corn and soybean fields. Evidence of insect damage from Japanese beetles and grasshoppers were seen in some soybean fields. Soybean pods were filling out, but producers were concerned about potentially low yields from late planted fields. Wet weather conditions continued to make hay harvest difficult in many localities. Vegetables were rated in mostly good condition as harvest activities continued. Sporadic rainfall caused cantaloupes to crack in some fields. Reported tomato crop damage included cracks, scaring, and late blight. Rains caused fertilizer leaching in some pumpkin fields. Tuber discoloration and stem end rot was reported in some Atlantic variety potatoes. Some sweet potatoes were test dug for tuber size and development. Early season apple varieties were harvested in some northern orchards. Peach harvest continued in the north with the crop condition rated mostly good. Pasture forage supplies continued to be plentiful as less livestock supplemental feeding was required.

SOIL MOISTURE TABLE

	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	PREVIOUS YEAR
VERY SHORT	0%	0%	0%
SHORT	8%	13%	49%
ADEQUATE	89%	87%	51%
SURPLUS	3%	0%	0%

RANGE AND PASTURE

	CURRENT	PREVIOUS WEEK	PREVIOUS YEAR
VERY POOR	0%	0%	0%
POOR	0%	10%	79%
FAIR	24%	22%	21%
GOOD	76%	68%	0%
EXCELLENT	0%	0%	0%

JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR SEPTEMBER 2, 2003

Acorn Squash - Good quantity and quality available.

Beets - Good quantity and quality available.

Butternut Squash - Fair to good quantity of good quality available.

Cabbage - Savoy, Green, and Red varieties being seen in fair to good quantity and quality. Volume and quality will start to pick up with the cooler fall weather.

Cantaloupes - Excellent quality and decreasing quantity available in the marketplace. Finishing up.

Collards - Fair quality and quantity with the warm and humid climate. Volume and quality will start to pick up with the cooler fall weather.

Cucumbers - Fair to good quantity and good quality product available. Volume will start to pick up again with the cooler fall weather.

Eggplant - Good quantity and quality available.

Greens - Fair to good quality and quantity of Kholrabi, Kale, Broccoli Raab, and Swiss Chard with the warm temperatures. Volume will start to pick up again with the cooler fall weather.

Herbs - Fair quantity and quality for Cilantro. Good volume and quality for Dill, Parsley, and Arugula. Baby Arugula, Basil, Mustard, and Mint all have excellent quality with good quantity.

Italian Eggplant - Fair to good quantities and good quality available. Whites also available in fair volume.

Leeks - Good quantity and quality available.

Nectarines - The beautiful Fantasia variety is being harvested in volume available. Will be available through the middle of the month.

Peaches - Growers are seeing excellent quality, color, flavor and size. This will continue through September and into early October. Cresthaven variety peaches are currently being harvested in volume and will go into next week with Jersey Queen beginning then. Look for good volume of late season Encore and Lauro varieties in September as much of our crop is still to be picked.

White peaches are available in good quantities with the Lady Nancy and Sugar Giant varieties being picked until the middle of the month. Snow Giant will be our late season variety starting next week and continuing through the end of the month. 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. Let's continue to eat peaches through September.

Peppers - Good quality and quantity available.

Pickles - Fair to good quantity and good quality product available. Volume and quality will start to pick up with the cooler fall weather.

Pumpkins - The cool and wet spring caused late planting this year and a light fruit set as well. We'll probably have 20-30% less supply this year with wholesale prices expected to be proportionately higher. With all of this summer's wetness, growers who stuck to their spray schedules seem to have excellent quality this year while growers who didn't, don't.

Sugar Babies - Excellent quality and fair quantity available in the marketplace. Finishing up.

Sweet Corn - The latter stages of our season. Though we still have a good quantity of quality corn available, after Labor Day there is great deal more variability in quality due to fall insect pressures.

Tomatoes - It's been a tough season for tomatoes as constant rain and humidity has caused problems with fruit set (a late and lighter set) and some disease causing conditions. The season will not get any better than it already is and volume is off from last year.

Turnips - Good volume and quantity available.

White Potatoes - Good quantity and quality of slightly smaller potatoes through mid-October.

Yellow Squash - Good quality and fair to good quantity available. Will start to pick up a bit again now that cooler fall temperatures have arrived.

Zucchini - Good quality and fair to good quantity available. Will start to pick up a bit again now that cooler fall temperatures have arrived.

JERSEY FRESH FORECAST

Cauliflower - Look for harvest to begin in a couple of weeks.

Escarole & Endive - Though a few growers will start picking some minor quantities within a week or so, expect to wait three more weeks for volume.

Lettuces - Look for harvests of Romaine to begin around mid-September with Boston following closely. Iceberg lettuce will be available in early October.

Sweet Potatoes - Should begin to become available in volume by mid-September.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE \$300

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