

AGRICULTURE

Days suitable for field work were 5.0. Temperatures were below normal across most the state the beginning of the week with measurable amounts of rain received, especially on Saturday and Sunday. Top soil moisture was rated 10% short, 83% adequate, and 7% surplus. Activities during the week were harvesting fruit and vegetables, re-seeding pasture and hay fields, harvesting corn silage, baling hay, and applying pesticides and herbicides sprays. Clear weather conditions, during most of the week, allowed hay harvest activities to resume in most localities, but wet conditions continued to make baling hay challenging. Vegetable disease pressure was high in most fields due to wet weather conditions. Black rot was found in some cabbage fields. Mildew, on oriental cabbages, and water rot, in some fall lettuce fields, were reported. Worm pressure was high in some sweet corn fields. Low fruit set counts were reported in some pumpkin fields while fruit rot was spotted in other fields. Peach harvest continued in the central district with the crop condition rated mostly good by our reporters. Leafspot were reported on some apple trees. Moderate temperatures and rains produced plentiful pasture in most localities.

SOIL MOISTURE TABLE

	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	PREVIOUS YEAR
VERY SHORT	0%	0%	0%
SHORT	10%	15%	83%
ADEQUATE	83%	85%	17%
SURPLUS	7%	0%	0%

RANGE AND PASTURE

	CURRENT	PREVIOUS WEEK	PREVIOUS YEAR
VERY POOR	0%	0%	0%
POOR	0%	0%	56%
FAIR	23%	27%	44%
GOOD	77%	73%	0%
EXCELLENT	0%	0%	0%

JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR SEPTEMBER 15, 2003

Acorn Squash – Recent beautiful fall weather has developed good quantity and quality product.

Beets – Good quantity and quality available.

Butternut Squash – Recent beautiful fall weather has developed good quantity and quality product.

Cabbage – Savoy, Green, and Red varieties being seen in good quantity and quality.

Collards – Good quantity and quality available with the cooler fall weather.

Cucumbers – Good quantity and quality product available.

Eggplant – Good quantity and excellent quality available.

Escarole & Endive – Very good quality product is being harvested in minor quantities, look towards next week for volume.

Greens – Good quality and quantity of Kholrabi, Kale, Broccoli Raab, and Swiss Chard with the cooler fall weather.

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

Italian & White Eggplants – Fair quantities of excellent quality product available.

Leeks – Good quantity and quality available.

Lettuces – Minor quantities of Boston and Green & Red Leaf lettuces around. It will be another week before volume builds. Look for harvests of Romaine to begin next week with volume available in two weeks. Iceberg lettuce will be available in early October.

Nectarines – The beautiful Fantasia variety is finishing up.

Peaches – Growers are seeing excellent quality, color, flavor and size. This will continue through early October. Jersey Queen and Jersey Glo are being harvested in volume. We're starting to pick increasing quantities of Encore and Lauro varieties.

White peaches are available in good quantities with the Lady Nancy and Sugar Giant varieties finishing up. Snow Giant is our late season

variety starting to be picked in volume now and will be available 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 still available.

Pickles – Fair to good quantity and good quality product available.

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. Know your pumpkin grower. 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.

Sweet Corn – The latter stages of our season. Though we still have a good quantity of quality corn available, there is more variability in quality now due to fall insect pressures.

Sweet Potatoes – Should begin to become available in volume this week.

Tomatoes –Recent weather has allowed for some very beautiful late season round, plum, and grape tomatoes. Excellent quality is finally available and will be here until frost.

Turnips – Good quantity and quality available.

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

Yellow Squash – Good quality and fair to good quantity available.

Zucchini - Good quality and fair to good quantity available.

JERSEY FRESH FORECAST

Broccoli - Look for harvest to begin the first week of October.

Brussels Sprouts - Look for harvest to begin the first week of October.

Cauliflower – Look for harvest to begin the first week of October.

Cranberries – Look for harvest to begin the first week of October. We will have increased amounts of high quality dry harvested red and white berries available this year.