

AGRICULTURE

Days suitable for field work were 4.8. Temperatures were above normal across most the state for the week. There were measurable amounts of rainfall across most of the state due to the effects of Hurricane Isabel. Top soil moisture was rated 75% adequate, and 25% surplus. Activities during the week were harvesting fruit and vegetables, orchard clean-up, planting cover crops, harvesting corn silage, baling hay, and applying pesticides and herbicides sprays. Some field corn stalks, in southern portions of the state, were blown down due to the high winds and heavy rainfall. Early planted soybean fields had matured to the stage of turning color and dropping leaves. Late planted soybean fields were in mostly good condition, but pods were filling out slowly. Hay regrowth was vigorous in most localities due to warm and wet weather conditions. Reported leafhopper pressure was low in most hay fields. Vegetable disease pressure was high in most fields due to wet weather conditions. Worm infestation was reported in some cabbage fields. Disease problems were found in pumpkin and squash fields, including stem rot, downy mildew, and phytophthora blight. Wind and rain damage was reported in lettuce fields. Some sweet corn stalks were blown down by Isabel. High winds and heavy rainfall caused fruit drop in some apple orchards. Some peach orchards suffered limb rub damage. Available pasture continued to be plentiful.

SOIL MOISTURE TABLE

	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	PREVIOUS YEAR
VERY SHORT	0%	0%	25%
SHORT	0%	10%	70%
ADEQUATE	75%	83%	5%
SURPLUS	25%	7%	0%

RANGE AND PASTURE

	CURRENT	PREVIOUS WEEK	PREVIOUS YEAR
VERY POOR	0%	0%	0%
POOR	0%	0%	86%
FAIR	32%	23%	14%
GOOD	68%	77%	0%
EXCELLENT	0%	0%	0%

JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR SEPTEMBER 22, 2003

Acorn Squash - Recent nice weather has developed good quantity and quality product.

Beets - Good quantity and quality available.

Butternut Squash - Recent nice 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 - Good quality product is being harvested in increasing quantities, look to next week for volume.

Greens - Fair to good quality and good quantity of Kholrabi, Kale, Broccoli Raab, and Swiss Chard. Last week's hurricane has created some variability in quality due to wind damage.

Herbs - Fair to good quality and good quantity for Cilantro, Dill, Parsley, and Arugula. Baby Arugula, Basil, Mustard, and Mint all have good quality and quantity. Last week's hurricane has created some variability in quality due to wind damage.

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

Leeks - Good quantity and quality available.

Lettuces - Last week's hurricane has created some variability in quality due to wind damage. Increased quantities of Boston and Green & Red Leaf lettuces around. It will be another week before good volume exists. Look for harvests of Romaine to begin later this week with volume available the week after that. Iceberg lettuce will be at the beginning of next week with volume building over the next week or so.

Peaches - Growers are seeing excellent quality, color, flavor and size though last week's hurricane has created some variability in quality due to wind damage. Peach harvest will continue through early October. Jersey Queen and Jersey Glo are being harvested in declining volume as we now pick the Encore and Lauro varieties in volume.

Snow Giant is our late season white peach variety and it is now being picked in volume 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 - Fair to good quality and quantity available. Last week's hurricane has created some variability in quality due to wind damage.

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 - Good quality and quantity are now available.

Tomatoes - Recent weather has allowed for some very beautiful late season round, plum, and grape tomatoes. Excellent quality had been available recently though last week's hurricane has created some variability in quality due to wind damage. We'll be harvesting tomatoes 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.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE \$300

NEW JERSEY
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