

AGRICULTURE

Days suitable for field work were 5.7. Field activities included planting corn, soybeans, and vegetables. Other activities during the week were weed control in pastures and hay crops, pruning, laying equipment for drip irrigation, and harvesting spring vegetables. There was measurable amounts of rainfall during the week over most of the state. Temperatures were below normal in most areas of the state for much of the week. Top soil moisture was rated 93% adequate and 7% surplus. In the south, barley and wheat began to develop heads in some fields. Small grains condition was rated good across most of the state. In southern New Jersey there were some reports of aphids on alfalfa hay fields. Hay crops were rated mostly good across the state. Some corn fields were spiking in central districts. Peppers and tomatoes were mostly planted in some areas of the south, but remained in greenhouses in most areas in the north and central districts. There was a report of overwintering spinach destruction from heavy snow and killing freezes to approximately 100 acres in Monmouth county. It was reported there was also damage to some other crops, including strawberries, in the same county. Lettuce harvest continued in southern counties. Sweet corn planting continued in the central and southern counties. Pea planting was mostly completed in the south, and plants were in flower in some fields. Potato vines had begun to emerge in parts of the south. Strawberry harvest began in the north and south, and plastic covers were removed in some fields. Peaches had finished flowering in areas of the north. Peaches were sizing in the south. Apples displayed good fruit set in northern areas. Blueberry bushes were in heavy bloom in southern localities. Grape vines in the south were leafing out, and buds were just breaking. Supplemental livestock feeding continued in some localities.

SOIL MOISTURE TABLE

	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	PREVIOUS YEAR
VERY SHORT	0%	0%	0%
SHORT	0%	0%	0%
ADEQUATE	93%	94%	91%
SURPLUS	7%	6%	9%

RANGE AND PASTURE

	CURRENT	PREVIOUS WEEK	PREVIOUS YEAR
VERY POOR	0%	0%	0%
POOR	0%	0%	0%
FAIR	3%	4%	40%
GOOD	87%	92%	24%
EXCELLENT	10%	4%	36%

JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR MAY 12, 2003*

Arugula – Will have heavy volume over the next several weeks.

Asparagus – Will have heavy volume over the next several weeks.

Beets – Harvest has begun with minimal quantities. Volume growing over next couple of weeks.

Cilantro – Minimal quantities of Spring planted product available with volume in several weeks.

Dandelions - Spring planted San Pasquale variety becoming available in increasing quantities over the next several weeks.

Dill – Fair quantities available now with increasing quantities over the next several weeks.

Escarole/Endive – Should begin harvesting minimal quantities this week with quantities taking several more weeks to build.

Greens - Kholrabi, Kale, Mustard, Broccoli Raab all available in fair quantities with volumes all increasing sharply over the next several weeks.

Leeks – Over-wintered product is available now and for some time.

Lettuce – Harvesting increasing quantities of Red and Green Leaf. Volume continuing to grow over the next several weeks. Romaine and Boston seen in fair quantities this week with volume growing each week.

Parsley – Over-wintered plain and curly are available in good quantities.

Radishes – Good volume available.

Spinach – Spring planted available in minimal quantity with volume building over the next several weeks.

Strawberries – The season is running just a bit late. Early harvests began at the end of last week. Volume is increasing this week, while the bulk of the crop will be harvested next week, with lower volumes to continue through June 6.

JERSEY FRESH FORECAST

Blueberries – Things are a little late this year as the bushes are in bloom now. Looking at a normal availability date of mid-June.

Cabbage – Won't be ready until late May or early June.

Collards – Should begin harvesting in a week or so.

Turnips – Should begin harvesting around the end of May.

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

