

AGRICULTURE

Days suitable for field work were 3.2. Field activities included planting corn, soybeans, and vegetables. Other activities during the week were fertilizing, spraying pesticides and herbicides, side dressing, mowing, draining water, and harvesting spring vegetables. There were measurable amounts of rainfall during the week over most of the state, and in parts of the state over one inch of rain fell on May 26, 2003. Temperatures were below normal in most areas of the state for the week. Top soil moisture was rated 61% adequate and 39% surplus. Barley and wheat continued to head across the state. Hay crops were rated mostly good in the northern and central districts, and fair in some areas of the south. In some areas of the central district the first cutting continued, but hay was too wet to cut in many parts of the state. Corn continued to emerge in various areas of the state. Soybeans continued to emerge, but germination was slow in many areas. Tomato plant condition varied from fair to excellent depending on locality, and transplanting continued. Planting of peppers continued across the state. Cantaloupe transplanting continued in the northern district. Planting of cucumber, snap beans, and eggplant continued. Cabbage harvest began in parts of the south. Pumpkin and squash planting started in parts of the northern district. Asparagus harvest continued in parts of the north. Leaf, romaine and boston lettuce, leeks, green onions, cilantro, parsley, dill, arugula, dandelion, and spinach for both fresh and processing were harvested in southern localities. Potato condition was rated good to excellent in the central and south, and in some areas in the south the rows had closed. Sweet potato planting had almost finished in areas in the central district, but in some localities in the south, planting had not exceeded fifteen percent. Strawberry harvest started in the north. Peach and apple thinning continued in northern areas. There was new vine growth on cranberry plants in parts of the central district. There was very good to excellent pasture growth throughout the state with recent rainfall. Producers continued to rotate pastures and fertilize them to maximize pastures.

SOIL MOISTURE TABLE

	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	PREVIOUS YEAR
VERY SHORT	0%	0%	0%
SHORT	0%	0%	58%
ADEQUATE	61%	94%	41%
SURPLUS	39%	6%	1%

RANGE AND PASTURE

	CURRENT	PREVIOUS WEEK	PREVIOUS YEAR
VERY POOR	0%	0%	0%
POOR	0%	0%	0%
FAIR	4%	0%	0%
GOOD	86%	100%	90%
EXCELLENT	10%	0%	10%

JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR JUNE 2, 2003*

Arugula – Great quality with good volume.

Asparagus – The season is beginning to wind down as the continued cool weather is slowing the volume down quite a bit. Should go until mid-June.

Beets – Good quantities of spring planted product available.

Cabbage – Savoy variety being seen in minimal, yet increasing quantities.

Cilantro – Great quality with good quantity of spring planted product available.

Collards – Good quality and increasing quantity.

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

Dill – Great quality with good quantities available.

Escarole/Endive – Great quality with good volume, and increasing over the next several weeks.

Greens - Great quality and quantities seen. Kholrabi, Kale, Mustard, Broccoli Raab, and Swiss Chard all available in good quantities with volumes still increasing.

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

Lettuce – Good quantities of excellent quality Red and Green Leaf and Romaine and Boston.

Parsley – Good quality, and increasing quantity, of spring seeded plain and curly varieties.

Pickles – Minimal quantities of tunnel started product already beginning to enter the market. Look for slowly increasing volume entering the market over the next several weeks.

Radishes – Decreasing volume available.

Spinach – Excellent quality spring planted available in great quantity.

Strawberries – The season is running just a bit late, with lower volumes to continue through mid-June. Our crop is mainly Chandlers.

Turnips – Volume beginning to increase.

JERSEY FRESH FORECAST

Blueberries – Things are a little late this year but the industry is still looking for a normal availability date of mid-June.

Squash – We'll see minimal quantities of early product in 10 days to two weeks. The lack of warmth and pollination is a problem.

Sweet Corn – Minor acreage grown under plastic will allow for some early product for road stands for the important July 4th holiday, but look towards the following week for any quantity.

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