

Sweet Corn Harvest Begins

Days suitable for field work, the week ending Sunday, June 25, 2006, were 6.5. Topsoil moisture was rated 15% short, 80% adequate, and 5% surplus. Temperatures averaged above normal across most of the state. There were measurable amounts of precipitation in most localities for the week. Agricultural producers continued harvesting, spraying, irrigating, and sidedressing fertilizer. Barley and wheat harvest continued in the south. Second cutting of hay continued in the southern district. Central producers reported weevil in alfalfa hay. Planting of pumpkins neared completion in the south. Sweet corn harvest began in the southern district. Harvest of lettuce, cabbage, beets, carrots, cucumbers, radishes, and herbs continued in the south. Picking of blueberries continued in the south. Pasture was rated in mostly good to excellent condition.

JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR JUNE 26, 2006

Arugula & Kale – Good quality products are being harvested in fair to decreasing volume with increasing temperatures.

Baby Arugula & Baby Spinach - Harvesting in good quality and volume.

Basil – Harvesting good quantities of very good quality product with the increasing temperatures.

Beets – A good volume of good quality product is available.

Blueberries – Early varieties finishing up. The much more widely planted Duke variety is being harvested in good quality and fair to increasing volume though this week's expected rains will hamper harvesting efforts. Bluecrop variety expected for the 4th of July. Fruit quality and size for all varieties looks very good. A better than average crop is expected this year.

Cabbage – Harvesting good quantities of very good quality product.

Cilantro/Dill/Parsley – A good volume of very good quality spring planted product available.

Collards – Harvesting good quantities of very good quality product.

Cucumbers – Harvesting a good quantity of good quality Pickles (Kirby cucumbers). A fair to good quantity of good quality Cukes just started.

Escarole & Endive – Harvesting a light to decreasing quantity of good quality product.

Greens - Great quality and good quantities seen of Kholrabi, Mustard, Broccoli Raab, and Swiss Chard.

Leeks – A light volume of over-wintered product is still available. Transplanted product should be becoming available this week. Spring planted due in July.

Lettuce – All good quality. Harvesting light to decreasing quantities of Boston, Red and Green Leaf with the increasing temperatures. Still harvesting fair quantities of Romaine.

Peas – Harvesting a good volume of great quality local peas, Fava beans, and Snap beans.

Peppers – Harvesting a light volume of good quality product. Volume will increase each week.

Spinach – Fair to decreasing volume of good quality spring planted being harvested with increasing temperatures.

Squash – Harvesting good quantities of very good quality Yellow and Zucchini.

Tomatoes – Field grown is beginning this week with minimal volume and high prices. Volume available next week.

Radishes – Finishing up.

Spinach – Fair to decreasing volume of good quality spring planted being harvested with increasing temperatures.

Sweet Corn – Light volume expected by the end of the week with most of the corn being bought by farm marketers. Good quality and fair quantity expected for the 4th of July. Peak of season should be the third week of July. Good wholesale availability until at least the week after Labor Day. Quantity and quality varies after that due to Fall insect pressures.

Turnips – Harvesting good quality product in fair volume.

JERSEY FRESH FORECAST

Cantaloupes – Tunnel started product should become available by the end of the month or early July. Volume available by mid-July.

Eggplant – Harvest will begin the second week of July. Volume increasing each week thereafter.

Peaches/Nectarines – Harvest should begin a bit earlier than normal. Yellow peach volume will start with the Sentry variety around mid-July. White peach volume should begin with the White Lady variety in late July or early August. Nectarine volume will also start in late July or early August.