

Days suitable for field work, the week ending Sunday, April 16, 2006, were 6.0. Topsoil moisture was rated 5% very short, 70% short, and 25% adequate. Temperatures were near or above normal across the state. There were measurable amounts of precipitation in most localities for the week. Agricultural producers continued field preparation for spring crops as weather permitted. Other activities included planting, greenhouse work, transplanting vegetable crops, equipment repair, and feeding stored hay to livestock. Harvest of spinach began in the central and south. Condition of small grains and hay crops were poor to good. Peach and apple trees are in bloom in some southern localities.

JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR APRIL 17, 2006

Arugula & Kale - Should start being harvested later this week or early next week in minimal volume. Volume should pick up each week after that.

Asparagus - Very good quality product is already starting to become available in light quantity. With warm weather, the harvest should increase over the next several weeks. Volume should begin in 2-3 weeks depending upon the warmth of the weather.

Cilantro - A little bit of over-wintered product should become available later in the week and for at least 2-3 more weeks after that. Spring planted should be available by about the third week of May.

Dandelions - Over-wintered product is available now and for some time. Spring planted should be available by mid-May.

Leeks - A small volume of over-wintered product is available now and for some time.

Spinach - A small volume of over-wintered product is available now and for another 2-3 weeks or so after that. Spring planted should be available by mid-May.

Swiss Chard - A small volume of over-wintered product is available now and for several weeks. Spring planted should start to become available by late next week.

JERSEY FRESH FORECAST

Beets - Just transplanted recently. Harvest should begin in mid-May or so.

Cabbage - Just transplanted recently. Won't be ready until late May or early June.

Collards - Should begin harvesting around the third week of May.

Dill - Should begin harvesting around the third week of May

Escarole/Endive - Should begin harvesting around the end of May.

Lettuce - Should begin harvesting Romaine and Boston around the third week of May

Parsley - Over-wintered product will be available in mid-May.

Radishes - Harvest should begin later this week or early next week. Volume should pick up several weeks after that.

Strawberries - Early harvests are expected to begin in mid-May, while the bulk of the crop will be harvested towards the end of May, with lower volumes to continue through the first week of June.

Turnips - Should begin harvesting around the end of May.