



## Vegetable Harvest Activities Continue

Days suitable for field work, the week ending Sunday, May 28, 2006, were 6.5. Topsoil moisture was rated 40% short, and 60% adequate. Temperatures were below normal the beginning of the week, but rose to above normal the second half of the week, across most of the state. There were measurable amounts of precipitation in most localities for the week. Agricultural producers continued planting, irrigating, greenhouse work, topdressing fertilizer, spraying herbicides, and thinning fruit. Field corn had nearly finished to emerge in the central and southern districts. Soybeans continued to emerge in the south. Harvest of hay continued statewide. There was a report in the central district of weevil problems in some alfalfa fields, and rust mite in timothy hay. Barley was mostly headed, while wheat continued to head, in the central district. Harvest of asparagus, lettuce, and herbs continued in the south. Cucumbers, peas, and potatoes began to flower in the southern district. There was a report of some apple fire blight in southern orchards. Grapes were in bloom in some southern orchards, while blueberries were in post bloom stage and began to set fruit. Pasture was rated in fair to good condition.

### JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR MAY 30, 2006

**Arugula & Kale** – Good quality products are being harvested in good volume.

**Asparagus** – Slowing down, only a few weeks of the commercial season left. Very good quality product is available in fair to decreasing quantity.

**Basil** – Harvesting light quantities of very good quality product.

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

**Cabbage** – Harvesting light quantities of very good quality product.

**Cilantro/Dill/Parsley** – A good volume of very good quality Spring planted product is now harvesting.

**Collards** – Harvesting good quantities of very good quality product.

**Cucumbers** – Beginning to harvest Pickles (Kirby cucumbers) this week. Harvesting tunnel grown by next week. Field grown will be available two weeks later.

**Escarole & Endive** – Harvesting a good quantity of good quality product.

**Leeks** – A light volume of over-wintered product is available now and for some time. Transplanted product should be available by mid to third week of June. Spring planted due in July.

**Lettuce** – All very good quality. Harvesting good quantities of Boston, Red and Green Leaf and Romaine. Iceberg harvest starting this week.

**Radishes** – Being harvested in fair to decreasing volume and good quality.

**Spinach** – Good volume of great quality Spring planted is now being harvested.

**Squash** – Harvesting light quantities of Yellow and Zucchini grown in tunnels or under black plastic. Field grown should be available late next week.

**Strawberries** – The majority of our great quality berries will be done being harvested this week, with light volume to continue through next week. Matted row varieties are available in good volume in Central Jersey and should be starting to come into volume by the end of the week in Northern areas. Our berries are picked when ripe and have more red interior color than white. They're grown in raised beds, under black plastic, with a large berry size and excellent taste.

**Swiss Chard** – A good volume of great quality Spring planted product is available.

**Turnips** – Harvesting good quality product in light volume.

### JERSEY FRESH FORECAST

**Blueberries** – Minor quantities of early varieties like Weymouth starting around mid-June. Much more widely planted Duke variety starting 3-4 days later with volume available a week after that.

**Cantaloupes** – Should become available in late June. Volume available at beginning of July.

**Eggplant** – Harvest will begin the second or third 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.

**Peppers** – Harvest will begin the first or second week of July. Volume increasing each week thereafter.

**Sweet Corn** – Harvest should begin the last week of June. Good quality and fair quantity expected for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Peak of season should be around July 20<sup>th</sup>. Good wholesale availability until at least the week after Labor Day. Quantity and quality varies after that due to Fall insect pressures.

**Tomatoes** – Field grown could begin the third week of June with light volume and higher prices. Volume available around mid-July.