

AGRICULTURE

Days suitable for field work were 5.9. There were measurable amounts of rainfall during the week over most of the state. Top soil moisture was rated 23% short, 71% adequate, and 6% surplus. Activities during the week were harvesting wheat and vegetables, cutting hay, spraying pesticides and herbicides, and cultivating fields. Leafhoppers damaged some alfalfa hay fields in southern portions of the state. Less supplemental feeding of livestock was needed in pastures receiving rainfall. Pumpkins began to vine out in response to warm weather conditions. Vegetables were rated in mostly good condition. Gray leaf spot was reported on cucumber plants in some northern New Jersey fields. Pepper harvest began in some localities. Harvest of leeks, parsley, cilantro, basil, and cabbage continued in the south. Potato digging activities began where field conditions allowed. Blueberry harvest continued in most areas. Busy bee activity was reported in response to cranberries being in flower.

SOIL MOISTURE TABLE

	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	PREVIOUS YEAR
VERY SHORT	0%	0%	20%
SHORT	23%	35%	55%
ADEQUATE	71%	55%	25%
SURPLUS	6%	10%	0%

RANGE AND PASTURE

	CURRENT	PREVIOUS WEEK	PREVIOUS YEAR
VERY POOR	0%	0%	0%
POOR	3%	8%	36%
FAIR	47%	32%	47%
GOOD	44%	49%	17%
EXCELLENT	6%	11%	0%

JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR JULY 29, 2003

Acorn Squash - Good quantity and quality available.

Arugula - Good quality and decreasing volume with the warmer temperatures.

Beets - Good quantity and quality available.

Blueberries - Duke variety berries are finished. The follow-up Bluecrop variety will have volume similar to last year. Bluecrop variety berries are being picked now with another week or two left for picking them. Elliott variety berries will start being picked this week and will run through the middle of August.

Cabbage - Savoy, Green, and Red varieties being seen in good quantities.

Cilantro - Good quality and decreasing volume with the warmer temperatures.

Collards - Good quality and quantity.

Cucumbers - Large quantity of good quality product available. We need to move product.

Dill - Good quality and quantity available.

Eggplant - Available in minor quantities. Volume will increase quickly next week.

Escarole/Endive - Good quality and decreasing quantity with the warmer temperatures. Starting to finish up until the fall.

Greens - Good quality and decreasing quantities seen of Kholrabi, Kale, Mustard, Broccoli Raab, and Swiss Chard with the temperatures increasing.

Italian Eggplant - Good quantities and quality available. Volume still increasing.

Leeks - Available in good quantity and quality.

Lettuces - Minimal quantities available due to the hot summer weather.

Melons - Good quality and fair quantity as volume still increasing in the marketplace.

Parsley - Good quality and quantity of spring seeded plain and curly varieties.

Peaches - Growers are seeing very good quality and size. The early yellow variety Sentry is winding down this week as Redhaven and John Boy varieties start to become available in minor quantities. White peaches will begin to become available later in the week also with the White Lady variety. The new white peach varieties have the look and flavor that consumers desire and the shelf life that allows you to get the peaches to them. We'll have peaches until the end of September.

Peppers - Available in good quality and quantity this week.

Pickles - Large quantity of good quality product available. We need to move product.

Radishes - Minimal volume available.

Spinach - Minimal quantity available with the hot weather.

Sweet Corn - Increasing volume daily coming into the marketplace. Good quantities of good quality corn available from South Jersey.

Tomatoes - South Jersey volume increasing each week as appreciable quantity of reasonably priced product is finally in the marketplace. Central Jersey just starting to pick this week with North Jersey another week away.

Turnips - Good volume and quantity available.

Yellow Squash - Good quality and quantity available.

Zucchini - Good quality and quantity available.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE \$300

NEW JERSEY
AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
Rm. 205 Health and Agriculture Bld.,
P. O. Box 330
Trenton, NJ 08625