

AGRICULTURE

Days suitable for field work were 5.3. Temperatures were above normal for the week. There were measurable amounts of rainfall during the week over most of the state. Top soil moisture was rated 62% adequate and 38% surplus. Activities during the week were planting fall vegetables, harvesting fruit and summer vegetables, and spraying pesticides and herbicides. Good pasture forage reduced supplemental livestock feeding. There was a report of thrips and grasshoppers in central district hay fields. Vegetables were rated in fair to good condition as harvesting continued. The south reported phytophthora blight on cucumber and pumpkin plants. In the north, some cantaloupes cracked due to wet conditions, while it was reported that leaf spots and mildew were common on pumpkin plants. Sweet corn quality varied, and there were reports of worm damage in northern and southern localities. Cat facing on tomatoes due to the weather was reported in the central district, and in the south there was a report of tomatoes cracking. Irish potato harvest began in the central district. Apple harvest continued in the north with good crop condition reported.

SOIL MOISTURE TABLE

	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	PREVIOUS YEAR
VERY SHORT	0%	0%	55%
SHORT	0%	0%	40%
ADEQUATE	62%	19%	5%
SURPLUS	38%	81%	0%

RANGE AND PASTURE

	CURRENT	PREVIOUS WEEK	PREVIOUS YEAR
VERY POOR	0%	0%	20%
POOR	30%	0%	50%
FAIR	10%	35%	30%
GOOD	60%	65%	0%
EXCELLENT	0%	0%	0%

JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR AUGUST 18, 2003

- Acorn Squash** – Fair to good quantity of good quality acorn squash available.
- Beets** – Good quantity and quality available.
- Blueberries** – Elliott variety berries are now being picked for another week or two.
- Cabbage** – Savoy, Green, and Red varieties being seen in fair good quantities.
- Cantaloupes** – Excellent quality and large quantity available in the marketplace. We need to move these now.
- Collards** – Good quality and fair quantity with the warm temperatures.
- Cucumbers** – Fair to good quantity and good quality product available. Volume will pick up again in the fall.
- Eggplant** – Available in good quantities. Volume still increasing each week.
- Greens** - Good quality and decreasing quantities seen of Kholrabi, Kale, Broccoli Raab, and Swiss Chard with the warmer summer temperatures.
- Herbs** – Fair quantity and quality for Cilantro. Good volume and quality for Dill, Parsley, and Arugula. Baby Arugula, Basil, Mustard, and Mint all have excellent quality with good quantity as they like the hot weather and thrive in this kind of heat.
- Italian Eggplant** – Good quantities and quality available. Whites also available in fair volume.
- Leeks** – Available in good quantity and quality.
- Nectarines** – Peak harvests of Sunglo variety taking place this week and next. Expect a large volume of the beautiful Fantasia variety to be harvested next and they are looking excellent now. Will be available through mid-September.
- Peaches** – Growers are seeing very good quality, color, and size this year. John Boy varieties are available in good quantities with some Bounty variety

peaches ready for harvest as well. White peaches are available in good quantities with the White Lady variety through next week. The Lady Nancy variety should start to become available sometime next week. Snow Giant will be our late season 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 good quality peaches until the end of September. Let's start moving some peaches now.

Peppers - Good quality and large quantity this week. We need to move peppers now.

Pickles – Fair to good quantity and good quality product available. Volume will pick up again in the fall.

Sugar Babies – Excellent quality and good quantity available in the marketplace.

Sweet Corn – The peak of the season for corn. Good quantity and quality of corn available until at least the week after Labor Day. Quantity and quality varies after that due to fall insect pressures.

Tomatoes – Volume is still increasing each week as recent cloudy weather has slowed their ripening a bit. It's been a tough season for tomatoes as constant rain and humidity has caused problems with fruit set and some disease causing conditions. The season will probably not get much better than it already is and volume is expected to be off from last year.

Turnips – Good volume and quantity available.

Yellow Squash – Good quality and fair to good quantity available though size may suffer a bit in the heat. Will pick up a bit again when temperatures cool in the fall.

Zucchini - Good quality and fair to good quantity available though size may suffer a bit in the heat. Will pick up a bit again when temperatures cool in the fall.

JERSEY FRESH FORECAST

Butternut Squash – Will be available in several weeks. Keeping an eye on quality as wet growing conditions have been a concern.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE \$300

NEW JERSEY
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