

AGRICULTURE

Days suitable for field work were 6.4. Field activities included ground preparation, spreading manure, planting vegetables, fertilizing, liming, and harvesting spring vegetables. There was small amounts of rainfall during the week. Average weekly temperatures were above normal, but fell below normal over the weekend in most areas of the state. Top soil moisture was rated 94% adequate and 6% surplus. Small grains and hay condition was rated fair to good across the state. In southern New Jersey there were some reports of weevils and aphids on alfalfa hay fields. Corn and soybean planting began in central and southern counties. Lettuce harvest started in southern counties. Asparagus harvest activities continued. Cabbage planting was mostly completed. Strawberries were starting to bloom in the north. In the south, strawberries were in full bloom, with harvest beginning in some fields. Peaches were in full bloom in northern locations. Apple buds began blooming in northern areas, and heavy apple bloom was reported in southern orchards. Blueberry bloom set was reported heavy. Blueberry bushes were sprayed for mummy rot. Grape vines were sprayed for black rot.

SOIL MOISTURE TABLE

	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	PREVIOUS YEAR
VERY SHORT	0%	0%	0%
SHORT	0%	0%	0%
ADEQUATE	94%	84%	79%
SURPLUS	6%	16%	21%

RANGE AND PASTURE

	CURRENT	PREVIOUS WEEK	PREVIOUS YEAR
VERY POOR	0%	0%	0%
POOR	0%	0%	0%
FAIR	4%	25%	0%
GOOD	92%	68%	92%
EXCELLENT	4%	7%	8%

JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR MAY 5, 2003*

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Arrugula – Will have heavy volume over the next several weeks.

Asparagus – Will have heavy volume over the next several weeks.

Beets – Harvest has begun with minimal quantities. Volume will begin in a couple of weeks.

Cilantro – Minimal quantities of spring planted product available. Volume in several weeks.

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

Dill – Minimal quantities now available. Volume should be available in several weeks.

Leeks – Over-wintered product is available now and for some time.

Lettuce – Began harvesting minimal quantities of Red and Green Leaf. Volume will take several weeks to build. Romaine and Boston should start to be seen in minimal quantities next week with volume taking a few weeks more.

Parsley – Over-wintered plain and curly are available already.

Radishes – Volume available now but running out in a few weeks.

Spinach – Over-wintered product is available now and for another several weeks or so. Spring planted should be available by next week.

Strawberries – Due to this winter's colder weather, the season is running just a bit late. Early harvests are expected to begin by the end of this week. Volume will increase next week, while the bulk of the crop will be harvested the week of May 19-26, with lower volumes to continue through June 6.

JERSEY FRESH FORECAST

Cabbage – Just transplanted a few weeks ago. Won't be ready until late May or early June.

Collards – Should begin harvesting in a week or two.

Escarole/Endive – Should begin harvesting minimal quantities next week with quantities taking several more weeks to build.

Lettuce – Should begin harvesting minimal quantities of Romaine and Boston next week.

Turnips – Should begin harvesting around the end of May.

**Provided by the New Jersey State Department of Agriculture.*