

AGRICULTURE

Days suitable for field work were 3.5. Field activities included planting corn, soybeans, and vegetables. Other activities during the week were fertilizing, spraying herbicides, side dressing, mowing, and harvesting spring vegetables. There were measurable amounts of rainfall during the week over most of the state. Temperatures were below normal in most areas of the state for the week. Top soil moisture was rated 94% adequate and 6% surplus. Barley and wheat continued to head across the state. Hay crops were rated mostly good in the northern and central districts, and some areas had started the first cutting. Corn was 75% emerged in most areas of the state. Soybeans had begun to emerge. Tomatoes were yellowing in some parts of the north. In some parts of the south, a second crop of tomatoes was being planted. Planting of peppers continued across the state. Lima beans had emerged in some areas of the south. Cantaloupe transplanting continued in the central and southern districts. Asparagus harvest continued across the state. Planting of cucumber and eggplant continued. Lettuce and spinach harvest continued. Sweet corn began to emerge in some localities in the north. Pea plants continued to blossom in the central and southern districts. Snap bean plants had started to leaf out in some areas. Potato plants had emerged in some parts of the south. Strawberry harvest began in areas of the central district. Peaches and apples had heavy fruit set in central counties. Blueberry bushes were in full bloom in northern localities, while in areas of the south, fruit was sizing well. Fungicide spraying was reported for mummy berry and anthracnose in localities in the south. Flood water has started to come off cranberry bogs in the central district. For some producers that had finished draining, it was necessary to sprinkle for frost a couple of nights. There was some supplementary feeding of livestock in areas of the north.

SOIL MOISTURE TABLE

	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	PREVIOUS YEAR
VERY SHORT	0%	0%	0%
SHORT	0%	0%	0%
ADEQUATE	94%	93%	96%
SURPLUS	6%	7%	4%

RANGE AND PASTURE

	CURRENT	PREVIOUS WEEK	PREVIOUS YEAR
VERY POOR	0%	0%	0%
POOR	0%	0%	0%
FAIR	0%	3%	40%
GOOD	100%	87%	54%
EXCELLENT	0%	10%	6%

JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR MAY 26, 2003*

Arugula – Great quality with good volume.

Asparagus – Peak of the season volume. Should go until mid-June.

Beets – Good quantities of spring planted product available.

Cilantro – Great quality with good quantity of spring planted product available.

Collards – Good quality and increasing quantity.

Dandelions - Spring planted San Pasquale variety available in increasing quantities over the next several weeks.

Dill – Great quality with good quantities available.

Escarole/Endive – Great quality with good volume, and increasing, over the next several weeks.

Greens - Great quality and quantities seen. Kholrabi, Kale, Mustard, Broccoli Raab, and Swiss Chard all available in good quantities with volumes still increasing.

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

Lettuce – Good quantities of excellent quality Red and Green Leaf and Romaine and Boston.

Parsley – Good quality, and increasing quantity, of seeded first cut plain now available.

Radishes – Decreasing volume available.

Spinach – Excellent quality spring planted available in great quantity.

Strawberries – The season is running just a bit late. The peak of the season for our crop this week, with lower volumes to continue through mid-June. Our crop is mainly Chandlers.

Turnips – Should begin harvesting in minimal quantities this week.

JERSEY FRESH FORECAST

Blueberries – Things are a little late this year but the industry is still looking for a normal availability date of mid-June.

Cabbage – Won't be ready until at least mid-June.

Squashes - Won't be ready until at least mid-June.

Sweet Corn – Minor acreage grown under plastic will allow for some early product for road stands for the important July 4th holiday, but look towards the following week for any quantity.

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