

Hay Fields Too Wet

Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday, June 6, 2004, were 5.0. There were measurable amounts of rainfall during the week across most of the state. Temperatures were above normal the beginning of the week across the state, but then fell to below normal by the middle of the week. Soil moisture was rated 95% adequate and 5% surplus. Irrigation water supplies were rated 98% adequate and 2% surplus. Farmers were busy fertilizing, cultivating, planting, spraying, and cutting hay. Soybean planting continued across the state; and soybean seedlings had begun to emerge in the central locations. In most localities, hay fields were still too wet to begin cutting. Vegetables were rated in mostly good condition. Sweet corn plants started to tassel in some southern fields. Planting of pumpkins, snap beans, sweet corn, tomatoes, winter squash, cantaloupe, cucumber, asparagus, and eggplant neared completion in the northern district. Harvest of green and red lettuces, peas, cilantro, leeks, basil, parsley, dill, baby arugula, squash, cucumbers, and spinach continued in the south. Asparagus harvest neared completion in the central district. Sweet potato planting neared completion in central localities. Potatoes were in flower in the south. Apples were setting up a little lighter than expected in southern orchards. There was a report of a little scab in some apple orchards. The peach crop was heavy in southern localities as growers were thinning the crop. Cranberry plants were reported as being in good condition. Preharvest sprays were applied to some blueberry fields. Grape plants began to set fruit, and it was reported the blooms were being sprayed. Strawberry harvest had finished in some southern fields. Livestock producers continued to aggressively rotate pastures to maintain nutrient value.

JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR JUNE 7, 2004

Arugula & Spinach & Dill - Harvesting fair to good quality in decreasing volume with the increased temperatures.

Asparagus - Good quality is being harvested in fair though decreasing volume as the temperatures rise and the season finishes up over the next week or two.

Baby Arugula & Baby Spinach - Harvesting in good quality and volume. Not as affected by the heat.

Basil - Harvesting good quality and fair to good volume, with volume increasing with the heat.

Beets - Harvesting good quality and volume, with increasing volume each week.

Cabbage - Good quality Red, Savoy, and Green being harvested in good quantities. Will increase in volume each week.

Cilantro - Harvesting good quality and volume with good prices to growers.

Collards - Harvesting good quality and light volume, with volume increasing each week.

Cucumbers - Harvesting good quality and fair to good volume, with volume increasing each week.

Dandelions - Spring planted Pasquale variety available in good volume.

Escarole/Endive - Harvesting a fair volume of good quality Endive and Escarole.

Green Onions - Good quality and volume available.

Leeks - Over-wintered product finished. Spring planted starting though it will be weeks before volume.

Lettuces - Harvesting fair to good quality lettuces in good though decreasing volume. Could be around until early July though warm temperatures could hasten that schedule by a week or so.

Parsley - Good quality and quantity of spring planted available.

Pickles (Kirby cucumbers) - Good quality and quantity available.

Radishes - Good quality and minimal volume being harvested. Finishing up.

Squashes - Good quality Yellow and Zucchini being harvested in good quantity.

Turnips - Harvesting good quality and fair to good volume.

JERSEY FRESH FORECAST

Blueberries - Early varieties like Weymouth beginning next week. Volume available 7-10 days later. Duke variety starting around June 21 with volume a week later. Bluecrop variety after that.

Butternut Squash - Normally planted for early fall harvest, growers planted them even earlier this year for mid to late July harvest when there's less supply and better prices to farmers.

Cantaloupes - Become available in late June. Volume available at beginning of July.

Eggplant - Planted a little bit later this year due to wet and cool spring conditions, harvest will begin in second or third week of July. Volume increasing each week thereafter.

Peppers - Planted a little bit later this year due to wet and cool spring conditions, 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 4th of July. Peak of season should be around July 20th. 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 begins third week of June with limited quantities and higher prices. Volume available around mid-July.