

Excellent Conditions for Field Work

Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday, June 20, 2004, were 6.0. There were measurable amounts of rainfall during the week across most of the state. Temperatures across the state were above normal, until Sunday, June 20, 2004, when temperatures fell to below normal. Soil moisture was rated 2% short and 98% adequate. Farmers were busy cultivating, planting, harvesting, spraying, and cutting hay. Soybean planting activities continued across the state. The first cutting of alfalfa and other hay harvest was near completion. Vegetables were rated in mostly good condition. Harvest of cabbage, cucumber, zucchini, and yellow squash continued across the state. Worm infestation, in some cabbage fields, was reported, but treatments were effective. Sweet corn harvest started began in some southern fields. Potato plants were flowering well in the central district with lush vines reported. Potato plants were past the flowering stage in southern fields. Apple fruit quality was rated as good, but there were reports of some pollination problems. Peaches were sizing well in the northern and central districts. Cranberry plants were past bloom stage with plants reported in good condition. Strawberry harvest activities continued in the north with excellent quality and favorable fruit size for market. Strawberry harvest activities were winding down in southern areas of the state. Blueberry harvest began in some areas with excellent quality reported. Livestock producers kept pasture rotation on schedule in response to seasonal forage growth.

JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR JUNE 21, 2004

Arugula & Spinach & Dill - Harvesting fair to good quality in decreasing volume with the increased temperatures. A couple of weeks left of their season.

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

Basil – Harvesting good quality and volume.

Beets – Harvesting good quality and fair volume.

Blueberries –The early Weymouth variety is still being harvested for another week. Duke variety being harvested in good volume for several more weeks. Bluecrop variety starting to be picked next week in minimal quantities. Fruit quality and size for all varieties is excellent.

Cabbage – Good quality Red, Savoy, and Green being harvested in major quantities.

Cilantro – Harvesting good quality and volume.

Collards – Harvesting good quality and fair volume.

Cucumbers – Harvesting good quality and volume.

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 fair to good volume.

Leeks – Good quality spring planted being harvested in fair volume.

Lettuces – Harvesting Romaine in fair quality and fair to decreasing volume. Could be available into beginning of July though continued warm temperatures could hasten that schedule.

Parsley – Good quality and quantity of spring planted available.

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

Squashes – Good quality Yellow and Zucchini are being harvested in good quantities though low prices are causing some to be disked under.

Sweet Corn – Harvest started at the end of last week with light volume now. Good quality and 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 – Tomatoes were planted a week or two later this year due to cool and wet spring planting conditions yet field grown harvest began last Thursday in Swedesboro, about a week earlier than usual. The lack of early frost exposure and favorable growing conditions have produced an excellent looking crop this year. We have limited quantities and higher prices this week with good volume expected by next week already.

Turnips – Harvesting good quality and decreasing volume. Finishing up.

JERSEY FRESH FORECAST

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

Cantaloupes – Become available at the end of next week. 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 week of July. Volume increasing each week thereafter.

Nectarines – The early variety Eastern Glo is expected around the third week of July with volume by the end of the month.

Peaches – All varieties are tracking for earlier than normal harvesting. The early yellow variety Sentry will start just after the 4th of July with volume expected a week or so later. The early white variety White Lady is expected around the third week of July with volume by the end of the month.

Peppers – Planted a little bit later this year due to wet and cool spring conditions, harvest will begin the second week of July. Volume increasing each week thereafter.