

Pumpkin Crop Hurt by Wet Weather

Days suitable for field work for the week ending Sunday, August 15, 2004, were 5.3. Temperatures across the state were near normal for most of the week. Most weather reporting stations received over an inch of rain for the week ending August 16, 2004, at 8 am. Soil moisture was rated 94% adequate and 6% surplus. Fieldwork included baling hay, harvesting corn silage, vegetable harvesting, picking fruit, planting vegetables for fall harvest, planting strawberry tips, and spraying herbicides and fungicides. Damp and humid conditions followed by cool nights were very beneficial for the field corn crop. Wet field conditions made hay harvest difficult in some fields. Disease problems were reported, including downy mildew and phytophthora blight, in pumpkin fields. Some pumpkin fields were plowed under due to disease problems caused by wet weather conditions. There was a report of downy mildew in some cucumber fields in the northern district. In some central localities, diseases were reported on tomatoes and pumpkins, with some splitting due to recent wet weather conditions. Potato harvest continued across the state. Peach harvest continued, and the crop was rated as mostly good. There was a report of some fruit rot on cranberries and grapes due to excessive rains. Blueberry harvest was over 90% complete. Weather conditions were favorable for milk production. Pasture conditions were rated mostly good across the state.

JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR AUGUST 16, 2004

Acorn & Spaghetti Squash – Harvesting a fair to good volume of good quality product.

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

Basil – Harvesting good quality and volume.

Beets – Harvesting good quality and fair volume.

Butternut Squash – Harvesting a fair to good volume of good quality product.

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

Cantaloupes – Fair to good quality and fair to decreasing volume.

Cilantro – Harvesting good quality and volume.

Cucumbers – Harvesting good quality and volume.

Dandelions - Spring planted Pasquale variety available in good volume.

Dill & Spinach - Harvesting fair to good quality of Spinach and Dill in decreasing volume.

Eggplant – Harvesting very good quality product in good volume.

Escarole/Endive – Harvesting a fair to decreasing volume of fair to good quality product.

Green Onions – Good quality and fair to good volume.

Greens - Good quality and volume of Collards, Kholrabi, Kale, Mustard, Broccoli Raab, and Swiss Chard.

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

Nectarines – The Sunglo variety is still being harvested in fair though decreasing volume. Flavortop and Redgold varieties are being harvested in good volume. Fantasia variety will start to be harvested this week. All fruit finish and quality is very good. Fruit size will be mostly the 2 ¼" and 2 ½" sizes.

Parsley & Mint – Good quality and quantity available.

Peaches - All varieties are being harvested earlier than normal with excellent quality and flavor due to the nice weather mix that we've been receiving. Fruit size is increasing weekly with mostly 2 ½" size fruit though with an increasing volume of 2 ¾" size fruit. Loring, Flaming Fury 24, and Bounty variety peaches are being harvested in good volume with Cresthaven starting next week. The early white variety White Lady is still being harvested in fair though decreasing volume and should be finishing up. Blushing Star and Sugar Giant white varieties are being harvested in light though increasing volume. The new white varieties have the look and flavor that consumers desire and the shelf life that allows you to get the peaches to them.

Peppers – Harvesting very good quality product in good volume. We also have an excellent assortment of great quality hot peppers available. It's been a very good growing season for hot peppers.

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

Squashes – Fair to good quality Yellow and Zucchini are still being harvested in limited quantities due to some regional disease problems. The tight marketplace has provided very good prices to growers who have been able to produce good quality product right now.

Sweet Corn – Harvesting very good quality and good volume. Good wholesale availability until at least the week after Labor Day. Quantity and quality varies after that due to fall insect pressures.

Tomatoes – Good quantity and very good quality available. Plum tomatoes are also available in good volume with similar very good quality.

White Potatoes – The Redskin variety Norland and Superior round white varieties being harvested. There is a large crop of good quality potatoes this year. Source your New Jersey white potatoes in their distinctive "Jersey Fresh" bags. A number of chain stores have made large displays of these and they've sold quite well.

JERSEY FRESH FORECAST

Cabbage – Growers recently transplanted for late September harvest.

Lettuces & Escarole/Endive - Growers transplanted last week for mid September harvest.