



## Disease Pressure Continues with the Humid and Damp Conditions

Days suitable for field work for the week ending Sunday, August 22, 2004, were 5.9. Temperatures across the state were near normal for most of the week, falling to below normal by the end of the week. Soil moisture was rated 86% adequate and 14% surplus. Fieldwork included baling hay, harvesting corn silage, vegetable harvesting, picking fruit, planting vegetables for fall harvest, and spraying herbicides and fungicides. Damp and humid conditions caused some disease pressure in corn. There was a report that soybean aphids had been detected in the central district. Disease problems were reported, including downy mildew and phytophthora blight, in pumpkin fields. The southern district reported poor pollination of pumpkin plants in some localities. There was a report of downy mildew in tomato fields in the central district. In some tomato fields in the northern district, late blight was detected, and fruit displayed cracking and zipper scars due to weather conditions. The southern district reported an increase in phytophthora blight on peppers and eggplant in some areas. Potato harvest continued across the state. Peach harvest continued with a report of some brown rot and scab on peaches in the northern district, and that the lack of sun adversely affected flavor. There was a report of black rot on grapes due to excessive rains. Blueberry harvest was completed. Weather conditions were favorable for milk production. Pasture conditions were rated fair to good across the state.

### JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR AUGUST 23, 2004

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

**Baby Arugula & Baby Spinach** - Harvesting in good quality and volume.

**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 Fantasia variety is being harvested in good volume. All fruit finish and quality is very good. Fruit size will be mostly the 2 1/4" and 2 1/2" 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 1/2" size fruit though with an increasing volume of 2 3/4" size fruit. Jersey Queen variety is being harvested in good volume with the Cresthaven variety finishing up. The Encore and Lauro varieties will start picking this weekend. The white variety Lady Nancy is being harvested in good 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 light 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 transplanted several weeks ago for late September harvest.

**Lettuces & Escarole/Endive** - Growers transplanted several weeks ago for mid September harvest.

**Sweet Potatoes** - Should begin harvesting in mid-September.