

Excellent Conditions for Hay Harvest

Days suitable for field work for the week ending Sunday, September 5, 2004, were 6.8. Temperatures averaged above normal for the week. Soil moisture was rated 60% short and 40% adequate. Fieldwork included harvesting corn silage, hay, fruit, and vegetables. Other activities included planting vegetables for fall harvest, irrigating, and pruning blueberry vines. Field corn and soybeans were rated good to excellent across the state. Disease problems were reported in pumpkins and winter squash fields. Some pumpkin fields were disced up and will not be harvested. Potato harvest continued across the state, and there was a report of excess moisture causing problems in some localities. Peach harvest neared completion in the central district. Harvest of early varieties of apples began in the northern district. Apple crop condition was rated good to excellent. Shorter days slowed pasture forage growth.

JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR SEPTEMBER 6, 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 until the weather gets much cooler.

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 decreasing volume. Finishing up.

Cilantro & Parsley - 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 light 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 being harvested in good volume.

Nectarines - The late Fantasia variety is finished in South Jersey though some North Jersey growers might still have some fruit to harvest and market over the next week. All fruit finish and quality is very good and size has been mostly the 2 1/4" and 2 1/2" sizes.

Peaches - Finishing up the season with very good quality and flavor due to the favorable season long weather we've received. Fruit size is mostly 2 1/2" size fruit though with a fair volume of 2 3/4" size fruit. The late season varieties Encore and Laurol and the white variety Snow Giant are all being harvested in light to decreasing volume and should be available for the next 7-10 days. Due to the early start of the season, expect peaches to be available only for another week to ten days.

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 being harvested in fair quantities. The tight marketplace has provided good prices to growers who have been able to produce good quality product.

Sweet Corn - Harvesting very good quality and good volume. Good wholesale availability until at least next week. Quantity and quality will start to vary 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

Broccoli - Coming on quickly. Should begin harvesting between the September 20, 2004 and September 25, 2004, in Central Jersey.

Brussel Sprouts - Should begin harvesting in Central Jersey by October 10, 2004.

Cabbage - Growers expecting a late September harvest.

Cauliflower - Should begin harvesting by October 1, 2004, in Central Jersey.

Cranberries - Coming on quickly though they need some cool weather to put on some color. Though the main harvest won't begin until the first or second week in October, the increasing demand for white cranberries will see some berries beginning to be harvested in a few weeks. We will have increased amounts of high quality dry harvested red and white berries available this year.

Lettuces & Escarole/Endive - Should begin harvesting in light quantities next week.

Sweet Potatoes - Should begin harvesting in light quantities next week.