



## Apple Harvest Under Way

Days suitable for field work for the week ending Sunday, September 12, 2004, were 6.0. Temperatures averaged above normal for the week. Soil moisture was rated 20% short, 70% adequate and 10% surplus. Fieldwork included harvesting corn silage, hay, fruit, and vegetables. Other activities included planting vegetables for fall harvest, planting strawberry plants, and pruning. Field corn and soybeans were rated good across the state. The fourth cutting of alfalfa hay began in some areas of the southern district. Disease problems due to excess water were reported in pumpkin, tomato, and pepper fields. Potato harvest was winding up in some localities in the central district. Peach harvest neared completion in the northern district. Harvest of early varieties of apples began in the central district. Apple crop condition was rated good. Shorter days slowed pasture forage growth.

### JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR SEPTEMBER 13, 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 cooler later in the month, around 40F.

**Beets** - Harvesting good quality and 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.

**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 light volume though the fall crop should be ready to begin harvesting later this week.

**Eggplant** - Harvesting very good quality product in good volume.

**Escarole/Endive** - Harvesting a light volume of fair to good quality product though the fall crop should be ready to begin harvesting later this week.

**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.

**Lettuces** - Beginning to harvest in light quantities this week.

**Nectarines** - The season is finished in South Jersey though a few North Jersey growers might still have some fruit to harvest and market this week. The fruit finish, quality, and size are good.

**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 Lauro and the white variety Snow Giant are all being harvested in decreasing volume and should be finishing up this week. Due to the early start of the season, expect peaches to be available only for another week or so, though some small North Jersey growers should probably have another week or two of season still to go.

**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.

**Pumpkins** - We'll have less supply again this year with wholesale prices proportionately higher. The cool and wet spring caused late planting and a light fruit set. Then we had some periods of steady mid-summer rain fall that led to disease producing conditions.

**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 fair to good quality and good volume. Fair to decreasing wholesale availability from now on. Quantity and quality will vary now due to fall insect pressures.

**Sweet Potatoes** - Should begin harvesting in light quantities this week.

**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 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 start until the beginning of October, the increasing demand for white cranberries will see some berries beginning to be harvested soon. We will have increased amounts of high quality dry harvested red and white berries available this year.