

Continued Wet Weather Increases Disease Pressure

Days suitable for field work for the week ending Sunday, October 3, 2004, were 4.8. There were measurable amounts of rainfall across most of the state during the week. Soil moisture was rated 80% adequate and 20% surplus. Fieldwork included harvesting field corn for grain, corn silage, hay, soybeans, fruit, and vegetables. Field clean-up continued with discing, mowing, and brush clearing. Rain delayed hay harvest, and there was a report of wind damage to field corn in some northern localities. Planting of fall harvest cover crops was done where conditions allowed. Pumpkins and winter squash are in short supply due to disease problems, and there was a report of phytophthora blight in some northern pumpkin fields. In some localities in the south, cabbage plants had to be sprayed to bring worms under control. Recent rains created ideal conditions for diseases in the grape crop, which were brought under control by spraying. Apple harvest continued across the state, and there was a report of some late season insect infestation in areas in the south. Cranberry harvest continued. Milk production continued to be good through the use of supplemental feeding.

JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR OCTOBER 4, 2004

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

Baby Arugula & Baby Spinach – Harvesting in good quality and volume.

Basil – Harvesting fair quality and decreasing volume as the weather gets cooler.

Beets – Harvesting good quality and volume.

Broccoli – Harvesting good quality and quantity in Central Jersey.

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

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

Cauliflower – Just started harvesting good quality product the other day in Central Jersey.

Cilantro & Parsley – Harvesting good quality and volume.

Cranberries – Although the overwhelming majority of our cranberries are “wet harvested” and sold to the Ocean Spray Cooperative, we have increased amounts of high quality dry harvested red and white berries available each year due to increased consumer demand. Our growers are just starting the harvest of mature red berries now, in light to increasing volume.

Cucumbers – Harvesting good quality and volume with a nice fall crop.

Dill & Spinach - Harvesting good quality of Spinach and Dill in fair to good volume with the fall crop being harvested.

Eggplant – Harvesting very good quality product in fair to decreasing volume.

Escarole/Endive – Harvesting a fair to good volume of good quality product with the fall crop being harvested.

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 – Harvesting good quality Boston, Green & Red Leaf, and Romaine lettuces in good volume. Iceberg lettuce now being harvested in fair to increasing volume.

Peppers – Harvesting very good quality product in fair to decreasing volume.

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 rainfall that led to disease producing conditions.

Squashes – Fair to good quality Yellow and Zucchini are being harvested in fair to increasing quantities with fall product starting to come in. A tight marketplace still exists with good prices to growers.

Sweet Corn – Harvesting fair quality in decreasing availability. Quality varies now due to insect pressures.

Sweet Potatoes – Harvesting good quality and quantity.

Tomatoes – Fair to decreasing quantity and very good quality still available.

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

Brussels Sprouts – Should begin harvesting in Central Jersey by next week.