



## Weather Cooperates for Fieldwork

Days suitable for field work for the week ending Sunday, October 10, 2004, were 6.6. There was no rainfall across most of the state during the week. Soil moisture was rated 98% adequate and 2% surplus. Fieldwork included harvesting field corn for grain, soybeans, fruit, and vegetables. Field clean-up continued with pruning peach trees, mowing, and removing plastic mulch. Planting of fall harvest cover crops was done where conditions allowed. Hay and corn silage harvest drew to a close across the state. Pumpkins and winter squash are in short supply due to disease problems. In some localities in the north, potato plants had to be sprayed to bring rot problems under control. Apple harvest continued across the state, and there was a report of some worm infestation in areas in the south. Cranberry harvest continued. Pastures supplied minimal nutrients, which necessitated supplemental feeding for livestock.

### JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR OCTOBER 11, 2004

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

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

**Basil** – Finishing up with the cooler weather.

**Beets** – Harvesting good quality and volume.

**Broccoli** – Harvesting good quality and quantity in central New Jersey.

**Brussels Sprouts** – Just started harvesting in central New 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** – Harvesting good quality and quantity in central New Jersey.

**Cilantro & Parsley** – Harvesting good quality and volume.

**Cranberries** – This year's crop is an average size crop with excellent quality and smaller than average size berries. Our growers are harvesting mature red berries now, in fair to increasing volume, though some growers have held off on harvesting to await some more cooler weather which helps to put more color into the berries. Although 90+% 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.

**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.

**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.

**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, Romaine, and Iceberg lettuces in good volume.

**Peppers** – Harvesting 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 quantity with fall product coming in now. 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 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.