



## Blueberry Harvest Increasing in Volume

Clear skies and fair weather allowed producers to make good progress cultivating fields and harvesting crops. Outdoor activities included cutting and baling hay, spraying, fertilizing, irrigating, hand thinning of apples, and harvesting vegetables. Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday, June 26, 2005, were 6.5. Topsoil moisture was rated 20% very short, 69% short and 11% adequate. Irrigation water supply was rated 20% short and 80% adequate. There were measurable amounts of rainfall during the week in some localities. Temperatures were variable across the state. Planting of soybeans continued throughout the state. Second cutting of hay continued in the south. Field crops rated in fair to good condition across the state. Strawberry harvest continued in the north. Blueberry harvest continued in the south with increasing volume, and began in the central district. Peaches were sizing well. Pasture was rated in mostly fair condition.

### JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR JUNE 27, 2005

**Arugula & Cilantro** – Harvesting fair to good quality in decreasing volume with the increased temperatures.

**Asparagus** – Finishing up.

**Baby Arugula & Baby Spinach** - Harvesting in good quality and volume. Not as affected by the heat.

**Basil** – Harvesting in good quantity and quality.

**Beets** – Harvesting in good quantity and quality.

**Blueberries** – Early varieties finishing up. The much more widely planted Duke variety is being harvested in good quality and fair to increasing volume though this week's expected rains will hamper harvesting efforts. Bluecrop variety expected for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Fruit quality and size for all varieties looks very good. A better than average crop is expected this year.

**Cabbage** – Harvesting in good quantity and quality.

**Collards** – Harvesting in good quantity and quality.

**Cucumbers** – Harvesting a fair quantity of good quality product with good volume expected by next week. Harvesting Pickles (Kirby cucumbers) in good quantity and quality.

**Dandelions** - Spring planted Pasquale variety available in good quantity and quality.

**Dill & Spinach** – Harvesting fair to good quality in light quantities with the increased temperatures.

**Escarole/Endive** – Harvesting a light to decreasing quantity of good quality product.

**Green Onions & Leeks** – Transplanted product now available in fair quantities and good quality. Spring planted varieties due in July.

**Lettuces** – Still harvesting Red and Green Leaf, Boston, and Romaine in light to decreasing quantities and fair to good quality. The continued heat is hastening the end of the season. Starting to finish up.

**Parsley** – Spring planted harvesting in good quantity and quality.

**Radishes** – Finishing up.

**Strawberries** – Still harvesting matted row varieties of berries in our Northern areas in decreasing quantity and quality with the hot weather. Our berries are picked when ripe and have more red interior color than white since they're physically more mature, with a large berry size and excellent taste.

**Squash** – Harvesting Yellow and Zucchini in fair to increasing quantities and good quality.

**Tomatoes** – Field grown begins later this week with limited quantities and high prices. Volume starts to become available next week.

**Turnips** – Harvesting light to decreasing quantities of good quality product. Finishing up.

### JERSEY FRESH FORECAST

**Cantaloupes** – Become available in early July. Volume available in mid-July.

**Eggplant** – Planted a little bit later this year due to wet and cool Spring conditions, harvest will begin about mid-July. Volume increasing each week thereafter.

**Nectarines** – The early variety Eastern Glo is expected in late July with volume a week or so later.

**Peaches** – Harvest is a week later this year. Fruit size should be better than last year due to a lighter fruit set, aggressive thinning, and recent fruit growth. Yellow peaches will start with the Sentry variety around July 10. White peaches will start with the White Lady variety around August 1.

**Peppers** – Planted a little bit later this year due to wet and cool Spring conditions, harvest will begin the second or third week of July. Volume increasing each week thereafter.

**Sweet Corn** – Harvest should begin the first week of July with minor quantities of good quality corn started under plastic. Field grown product starting the next week with volume expected by the third week of July. The peak of the season should be the end of July. Good wholesale availability until at least Labor Day. Quantity and quality varies after that due to Fall insect pressures.