

Peach Harvest Began

Outdoor activities included cutting and baling hay, spraying, irrigating, picking peaches, and harvesting vegetables. Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday, July 24, 2005, were 6.5. Topsoil moisture was rated 30% short and 70% adequate. Irrigation water supply was rated 100% adequate. There were measurable amounts of rainfall in many parts of the state. Temperatures were above normal across most of the state. Planting of soybeans was completed in most parts of the state. Third cutting of hay continued. There was a report of leafhoppers in some alfalfa fields in the southern district. Field crops rated in good to excellent condition across the state. Harvest of cantaloup, eggplant, snap beans, cucumbers, pepper, squash, sweet corn, and tomatoes continued in the state. There was a report of bacterial canker on tomatoes in some areas of the north. Vegetables rated in good to excellent condition. In the central district, there was a report that diseases had increased on cucurbits and vegetables. Peach harvest began in the north and south. Fruit was rated in good condition in most localities. There was a report of mites and some scab on apples in some areas of the south. Pasture was rated in mostly fair to good condition.

JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR JULY 25, 2005

Arugula & Cilantro - Harvesting fair to good quality in light volume with the increased temperatures.

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 - The Bluecrop variety is winding down with one last week of fair to good volume. The late variety Elliott is starting and will be available for a few weeks in fair volume. Fruit quality and size for all varieties looks good. A better than average crop this year.

Cabbage - Harvesting in good quantity and quality.

Cantaloupes - Harvesting in good quantity and quality.

Collards & Kale - Harvesting in good quantity and quality.

Cucumbers & Pickles (Kirby cucumbers) - Harvesting both in good quantity and quality.

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

Dill & Spinach - Harvesting Dill in fair to good quality and light quantity with the increased temperatures. Spinach is finishing up until the fall.

Eggplant - Harvesting in good quantity and quality.

Escarole/Endive - Finishing up with the heat.

Greens - Good quality and quantities harvested of Kholrabi, Mustard, Broccoli Raab, and Swiss Chard.

Green Onions & Leeks - Spring planted varieties are now available in fair to increasing quantities and good quality.

Nectarines - The early variety Eastern Glo is beginning in light volume with good volume not expected for almost two weeks. Good size, flavor, and finish are expected.

Parsley - Harvesting in good quantity and quality.

Peaches - Just past the peak of the season for the early yellow varieties such as Sentry and Garnet Beauty. Red Haven varieties have begun and should be in volume by the weekend. Fruit quality and flavor are very good. Fruit size should be excellent this year due to a lighter fruit set, aggressive thinning, and recent fruit growth. White peaches will start with the White Lady variety later this week with volume expected next week. The newer white peach varieties have the look and flavor that consumers desire and the shelf life that allows you to get the peaches to them. We'll have a volume of good quality peaches until mid-September.

Peppers - Harvesting in good quantity and quality.

Squash - Harvesting good quality Yellow and Zucchini though only in fair quantities as low prices are causing some growers to leave them in the field or disk them in.

Sweet Corn - Harvesting in good quantity and quality. The peak of the season should be the end of the month. Good wholesale availability until at least Labor Day. Quantity and quality varies after that due to Fall insect pressures.

Tomatoes - Harvesting in good quantity and quality. Plum tomatoes are also available in similar good quantity and quality.

White Potatoes - Harvesting a fair to increasing volume of the redskin variety Norland and Superior round variety. There will be 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 in the past and they've sold quite well.