



## Peach and Vegetable Harvest Activities in Full Swing

Outdoor activities included cutting and baling hay, spraying, irrigating, picking peaches, harvesting vegetables and planting fall vegetables. Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday, August 14, 2005, were 6.5. Topsoil moisture was rated 25% very short, 50% short and 25% adequate. Irrigation water supply was rated 50% short and 50% adequate. There were measurable amounts of rainfall across most of the state, with Trenton reporting over an inch of rain on Monday, August 8, 2005, and Saturday, August 13, 2005. Temperatures were above normal during the week across most of the state. Third cutting of hay continued. A reporter in the southern district stated there was some leaf hopper infestation in alfalfa hay. Harvest of cantaloup, eggplant, snap beans, lima beans, cucumbers, pepper, squash, sweet corn, and tomatoes continued in the state. Potato harvest continued. Vegetables rated in mostly good condition. Apple harvest continued. Peach harvest continued across the state and was rated in good condition. Pasture was rated in mostly poor to fair condition.

### JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR AUGUST 15, 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 late variety Elliott is finishing up.

**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** - Harvesting Dill in fair to good quality and light quantity with the increased temperatures.

**Eggplant** - Harvesting Italian and Asian varieties in good quantity and quality.

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

**Green Onions & Leeks** - Spring planted varieties are available in good quality and quantity.

**Nectarines** - Though the Summer Beaut, Sunglo, and Flavortop varieties are finishing up, the Red Gold and Fantasia varieties are beginning this week. Good size, flavor, and finish are expected.

**Okra** - Harvesting in good quality and quantity. Available until mid-September.

**Parsley** - Harvesting in good quantity and quality.

**Peaches** - Red Haven varieties are being harvested in decreasing volume while Flamin Fury, Loring, and John Boy varieties are available in good volume. Bounty variety peaches are also being harvested in fair volume. Though the early white variety White Lady is being harvested in decreasing volume, the Blushing Star and Sugar Giant varieties should start being harvested by the end of the week. Fruit quality and flavor are all very good. Fruit size is excellent this year due to a lighter fruit set, aggressive thinning, and recent fruit growth. 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 in good quantities.

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

**Tomatoes & Plum Tomatoes** - Harvesting both in good quantity and quality.

**White Potatoes** - Harvesting a good 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.