



## Spring Vegetable Harvest Progresses

Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday, May 8, 2005, were 6.1. Topsoil moisture was rated 100% adequate. Irrigation water supply was rated 100% adequate. There were measurable amounts of rainfall during the week across most of the state. Temperatures for the week averaged below normal. Agricultural producers continued field preparation for summer crops. Other activities included field crop planting, fertilizing, herbicide spraying, tending greenhouses, and transplanting greenhouse crops. Some cranberry bogs required irrigation. Planting of field corn continued in the southern district. Summer vegetable seeding continued. There was harvest of leek, arugula, green onions, radishes, cilantro, broccoli rabe, kale, Swiss chard, mint, spinach, and parsley. Harvest of asparagus continued. Peach trees in the northern district experienced some light frost damage. Small grains and hay crops were rated in fair to good condition across the state.

### JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR MAY 9, 2005

Arugula – Being harvested in fair volume. Volume should continue to pick up each week.

Asparagus – Good quality being harvested in good volume.

Cilantro & Dill – Spring planted available in light quantity and good quality.

Dandelions - Spring planted available in light quantity and good quality.

Leeks – A small volume of over-wintered product is available now and for some time.

Lettuces – Harvesting Red and Green Leaf and Boston in light quantities and good quality.

Parsley – Over-wintered product is available in light quantity.

Radishes – Being harvested in light volume and good quality.

Spinach – A small volume of over-wintered product is available now and for another several weeks. Spring planted should be available next week.

### JERSEY FRESH FORECAST

Beets – Harvest should begin in a week to ten days.

Blueberries – Minor quantities of early varieties like Weymouth starting around June 18<sup>th</sup>. Much more widely planted Duke variety starting 3-4 days later with volume available a week after that.

Cabbage – Harvest should begin in late May.

Collards – Should begin harvesting around the third week of May.

Escarole/Endive – Should begin harvesting in about ten days.

Lettuces – Should begin harvesting Romaine in a week to ten days.

Strawberries – Our Jersey Fresh Chandler variety berries are picked when ripe and arrive in our region's markets quicker and fresher than the competition. Our berries have more red interior color than white since they're physically more mature and ripe. They're grown in raised beds, under black plastic, with a large berry size, good interior color, and excellent taste. They're a better quality and better tasting product than berries from elsewhere. One chain was selling them at almost twice the price as other berries last year and could not keep them in stock.

Due to this winter's colder weather, the season is running just a bit late. Early harvests are expected to begin next week, while the bulk of the crop will be harvested towards the end of May, with lower volumes to continue through the first week of June.

Turnips – Should begin harvesting around the end of May.