

AGRICULTURE

Temperatures were near normal at this point in the growing season, but rainfall amounts ranged from none to minimal across the Garden State last week. Irrigation pond levels were low in practically all areas of southern New Jersey. Days suitable for field work averaged 6.8. Top soil moisture was rated 35% very short, 55% short, and 10% adequate. Continued dry conditions stressed row crops, hay fields, and non-irrigated vegetables. Forage harvest continued with no weather related delays. Alfalfa hay regrowth has been minimal due to dry growing conditions. Cooler weather helped milk production levels rise. Pumpkins began to show drought stress, but were vining out well in central portions of the state. Warm and dry conditions pushed summer potato harvest ahead of schedule. Blueberry harvest is complete in most localities.

SOIL MOISTURE TABLE

	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	PREVIOUS YEAR
VERY SHORT	35%	30%	2%
SHORT	55%	55%	32%
ADEQUATE	10%	15%	66%
SURPLUS	0%	0%	0%

RANGE AND PASTURE

	CURRENT	PREVIOUS WEEK	PREVIOUS YEAR
VERY POOR	0%	0%	1%
POOR	40%	40%	35%
FAIR	51%	48%	36%
GOOD	9%	12%	28%
EXCELLENT	0%	0%	0%

*JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR AUGUST 12, 2002

**Provided by the New Jersey State Department of Agriculture.*