

SOIL MOISTURE TABLE

	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	PREVIOUS YEAR
VERY SHORT	0%	0%	0%
SHORT	6%	0%	40%
ADEQUATE	88%	87%	60%
SURPLUS	6%	13%	0%

RANGE AND PASTURE

	CURRENT	PREVIOUS WEEK	PREVIOUS YEAR
VERY POOR	0%	0%	0%
POOR	0%	0%	0%
FAIR	61%	67%	46%
GOOD	39%	33%	54%
EXCELLENT	0%	0%	0%

JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR OCTOBER 21, 2002

Acorn Squash – Smaller sizes being seen due to the early growing season dry heat. Less quantity this year as growers scaled back their fall plantings. Low prices are causing some product to remain in the field.

Butternut Squash – Smaller sizes being seen due to the early growing season dry heat. Less quantity this year as growers scaled back their fall plantings. Low prices are causing some product to remain in the field.

Cabbage – Green, Red, and Savoy available in increasing quantities. The cooler fall temperatures are great for quality. All varieties peaking but low prices are causing some product to remain in the field. Should be available until the middle of next month.

Collards & Escarole/Endive – Increasing quantities available each week. The cooler fall temperatures are great for quality. All varieties peaking but low prices are causing some product to remain in the field. Should be available until the middle of next month.

Cranberries – Harvest in full swing now. Quantity available now and building over the next few weeks and peaking during November. Available through Christmas. Dry harvested berries have been in increasing demand each year and we have an increasing quantity of quality product available. Clam shell packaging in 1 lb. and quart containers and 8 lb. boxes is typical. Polybag packaging is also available.

Cucumbers - Good quality though minimal quantity available. Less quantity this year as growers scaled back their fall planting plans. Finishing up.

Eggplant – Good quality and minimal quantities through the end of the month. Size has been less due to hot and dry growing conditions. Finishing up.

Italian Eggplant – Good quality and minimal quantities through the end of the month. Size has been less due to hot and dry growing conditions. Finishing up.

Sicilian Eggplant – Good quality and minimal quantities through the end of the month. Size has been less due to hot and dry growing conditions. Finishing up.

Greens – The prolonged drought and high heat has caused some growers to scale back on their fall planting plans. Expect a decreased quantity overall of fall greens. Spinach, Boston, and Romaine lettuce are being harvested in quantity now. Fall Greens will be harvested until frost.

Herbs – All varieties peaking. Quantities available now for Basil, Mint, Mustard, Cilantro, Dill, Parsley, Arugula, and Baby Arugula as the cooler fall temperatures will increase quality. Less fall quantities of herbs than last year as growers have scaled back on their planting plans. Will have availability until frost.

Leeks - Good quality and increasing quantity of June planted varieties available.

Napa Cabbage – Though quantity and size had been less with the hot and dry summer weather, this trend is now reversing as the cooler fall temperatures are increasing quality and quantity. Should be available until mid-November.

Pickles (Kirby cucumbers) – Good quality and minimal quantity. Size has been less due to the hot and dry growing conditions. Finishing up.

Pumpkins – Peak of the season now. Long term heat and lack of rain created tough growing conditions that mean less quantity and size than last year. Quality should be excellent though as there has been a lack of disease pressure.

Shanghai Bok Choi – Though quantity and size had been less with the hot and dry summer weather, this trend is now reversing as the cooler fall temperatures are increasing quality and quantity. Should be available for at least 2-3 more weeks.

Sweet Potatoes – Good quality and quantity available. Growers are now finishing up their digging and putting them into storage while they await good market conditions.

Yellow Squash – Good quality and minimal quantity available. Size has been less due to the hot and dry weather. Finishing up.

Zucchini - Good quality and minimal quantity available. Size has been less due to the hot and dry weather. Finishing up.

**PROVIDED BY THE NEW JERSEY STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.*

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