

Field Preparation and Spring Planting Underway

Days suitable for field work, the week ending Sunday, April 9, 2006, were 6.0. Topsoil moisture was rated 74% short, and 26% adequate. Temperatures averaged below normal across the state. There were measurable amounts of precipitation in most localities for the week. Agricultural producers continued field preparation for spring crops as weather permitted. Other activities included irrigating, greenhouse work, transplanting vegetable crops, equipment repair, and feeding stored hay to livestock. Condition of small grains and hay crops was mostly fair.

JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR APRIL 10, 2006

Cilantro – A little bit of over-wintered product should be available by the end of the week or early next week and for at least 2-3 more weeks after that. Spring planted should be available by about the third week of May.

Dandelions - Over-wintered product is available now and for some time. Spring planted should be available by mid-May.

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

JERSEY FRESH FORECAST

Arugula & Kale – Should start being harvested late next week in minimal volume. Volume should pick up each week after that.

Asparagus – Already starting to peek out of the ground a few inches. With warmer weather this week, the harvest should begin in the next two weeks. Volume should begin in 2-3 weeks.

Beets – Just transplanted recently. Harvest should begin in mid-May or so.

Cabbage – Just transplanted recently. Won't be ready until late May or early June.

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

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

Escarole & Endive – Should begin harvesting around the end of May.

Lettuce – Should begin harvesting Romaine and Boston around the third week of May.

Parsley – Over-wintered product will be available in mid-May.

Radishes – Harvest should begin next week. Volume should pick up in two weeks.

Spinach – A small volume of over-wintered product should be available later next week and for another 2-3 weeks or so after that. Spring planted should be available by mid-May

Strawberries – Early harvests are expected to begin in mid-May, 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.