

Apple Trees In Full Bloom

Days suitable for field work, the week ending Sunday, April 23, 2006, were 6.0. Topsoil moisture was rated 5% very short, 65% short, and 30% adequate. Temperatures were variable for the week across the state. There were measurable amounts of precipitation in most localities for the week. Saturday, April 22, 2006, many localities received one to two inches of rain. Agricultural producers continued field preparation for spring crops as weather permitted. Other activities included planting, greenhouse work, transplanting vegetable crops, topdressing fertilizer, and spraying herbicide. Asparagus harvest began in the south. Condition of small grains and hay crops were fair to good. There was a report of spraying for weevils in some southern alfalfa fields. Apple trees were in full bloom, and peach trees were in petal fall, in the south. Blueberry bushes were sprayed for mummy berry.

JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR APRIL 24, 2006

Arugula & Kale – Good quality product being harvested in minimal volume. Volume should pick up each week.

Asparagus – Very good quality product is available in light quantity. With warm weather, the harvest should increase over the next several weeks. Volume should begin in several weeks depending upon the warmth of the weather.

Beets – A minimal volume of good quality product is now available. Volume should pick up over the next several weeks.

Cilantro – A small quantity of over-wintered product is available now and for at least 2-3 more weeks. 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.

Dill – A small volume of good quality product is now available. Volume should pick up over the next several weeks.

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

Lettuce – Starting to harvest minimal quantities of good quality Boston. Volume should pick up over the next several weeks.

Parsley – Over-wintered product now becoming available in light quantities.

Radishes – Harvesting light quantities of good quality product. Volume should pick up over the next several weeks.

Spinach – A small volume of over-wintered product is available now and for another 2-3 weeks. Spring planted should be available by mid-May.

Swiss Chard – A small volume of over-wintered product is available now and for several weeks. Spring planted should start to become available later on this week or early next week.

JERSEY FRESH FORECAST

Cabbage – Should start harvesting in late May or early June.

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

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

Lettuce – Should begin harvesting Red and Green Leaf late next week. Look for Romaine around the middle of 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.