

Vegetable Harvest and Field Crop Planting Continue

Days suitable for field work, the week ending Sunday, May 14, 2006, were 6.0. Topsoil moisture was rated 5% very short, 15% short and 80% adequate. Temperatures averaged above normal north, and below normal central and south for the week. There were measurable amounts of precipitation in most localities for the week, with 2.40 inches of rainfall reported at Charlotteburg on May 11, 2006 to May 12, 2006. Agricultural producers continued planting, greenhouse work, transplanting vegetable crops, topdressing fertilizer, spraying herbicides, and chemical thinning on fruit. Field corn continued to emerge across the state. Harvest of hay began across the state and rated poor to fair in the north, and fair to good in the central and southern districts.. Asparagus harvest continued across the state. Harvest of lettuce continued in the north and south. Early peas were past full bloom in some southern localities. Arugula, beets, basil, broccoli rabe, collards, cilantro, dill, green onion, kale, kohlrabi, leeks, mint, parsley, radishes, and Swiss chard were harvested in the south. Condition of grain and soybean crops was rated fair to good in the north, and good in the central and southern districts. In some fields in the central district, alfalfa weevil problems and cereal rust mite in timothy hay were reported. In the north, producers began to thin peaches and apples. Blueberries were in bloom in the central district. Peaches, apples and blueberries continued to size in the south. Strawberry picking began in the north, and was peaking under plastic in the south. Pasture was rated in mostly fair condition.

JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR MAY 15, 2006

Arugula & Kale – Good quality products are being harvested in good volume.

Asparagus – Very good quality product is available in good quantity.

Beets – A good volume of good quality product is available.

Cilantro/Dill/ Parsley – Over-wintered product is still available though a fair to good volume of very good quality Spring planted is now harvesting.

Escarole & Endive – Harvesting a fair quantity of good quality product.

Leeks – A light volume of over-wintered product is available now and for some time. Transplanted product should be available by mid to third week of June. Spring planted due in July.

Lettuce – All very good quality. Harvesting good quantities of Boston, fair to good quantities of Red and Green Leaf and Romaine. Look for Iceberg at the end of the month or beginning of June.

Radishes – Harvesting good quantities of good quality product.

Spinach – Fair to good volume of great quality Spring planted is now being harvested.

Strawberries – Early harvests of great quality berries have begun, though the bulk of the crop will be harvested towards the end of the month, with lower volumes to continue through the first week of June. Our Chandler variety berries are picked when ripe and have more red interior color than white. They're grown in raised beds, under black plastic, with a large berry size and excellent taste.

Swiss Chard – A light volume of great quality over-wintered product is still available just as Spring planted product starts to become available in similar quantity.

JERSEY FRESH FORECAST

Basil – Should start harvesting at the end of the month or early June.

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

Cabbage – Should start harvesting near the end of the month.

Collards – Harvesting fair quantities of very good quality product.

Cabbage – Should start harvesting near the end of the month.

Cucumbers – Harvesting tunnel grown by late May. Field grown will be available two weeks later.

Squash – Should begin harvesting minor quantities of Yellow and Zucchini grown in tunnels by the end of the month. Field grown by the second or third week of June.

Turnips – Should begin harvesting in a week or two.