

Rainfall Improved Topsoil Supply

Days suitable for field work, the week ending Sunday, May 21, 2006, were 5.0. Topsoil moisture was rated 3% short, 95% adequate and 2% surplus. Temperatures averaged much below normal across the state for the week. There were measurable amounts of precipitation in most localities for the week, with over 1.00 inch of rainfall reported at Hammonton on May 15, 2006 to May 16, 2006. Agricultural producers continued planting, greenhouse work, transplanting vegetable crops, topdressing fertilizer, spraying herbicides, and hand thinning on fruit. Field corn continued to emerge across the state. Soybeans began to emerge in many localities. Harvest of hay continued statewide. Barley and wheat were mostly headed in the south. Harvest of asparagus, lettuce, and herbs continued in the south. Cucumbers began to emerge in the central district. There was a report of some apple scab in southern orchards. Bees were pulled in blueberry beds in the south. Picking of the Chandler variety of strawberries was winding down in the central district. Pasture was rated in fair to good condition.

JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR MAY 22, 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 - A good volume of very good quality Spring planted product is now harvesting.

Collards - Harvesting good quantities of very good quality product.

Escarole & Endive - Harvesting a good 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, 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 - Good volume of great quality Spring planted is now being harvested.

Strawberries - The majority of our great quality berries will be harvested the next two weeks, 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 fair volume of great quality Spring planted product is available.

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.

Cucumbers - Harvesting tunnel grown by next week. Field grown will be available two weeks later.

Squash - Should begin harvesting minor quantities of Yellow and Zucchini grown in tunnels by next week. Field grown will be available two weeks later.

Turnips - Should begin harvesting in a week or two.