



**Sunny Weather Increases Field Activity**

Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday, May 15, 2011, were 6.5. Topsoil moisture was rated as 5% short, 90 adequate, and 5% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated as 5% short, 90 adequate, and 5% surplus. Pasture and range condition was rated as 5% fair, 60% good, and 35% excellent. There were measurable amounts of rainfall during the week in some localities. Temperatures were mostly above normal for the week across the Garden State.

Farmers continued planting and harvesting crops as sunny weather provided ideal conditions for fieldwork. Corn emergence has progressed in central localities. Hay producers began first-cuttings. The harvest of early-season vegetables included asparagus, lettuce, and spinach. Apple and peach trees are past bloom and fruits have begun to set. Other activities included transplanting summer vegetables, spraying fungicides on fruit crops, and irrigating.

**Jersey Fresh Availability & Forecast Report**

According to Dr. David A. Robinson, NJ State Climatologist, "While clouds that produced ample rain made it seem to most of us that this past month averaged on the cool side of the ledger, in actuality New Jersey experienced its 7th warmest April since statewide records commenced in 1895. The mean temperature of 53.8° was 3.3° above average. Perhaps the sense of a cool April was due to this year being cooler than last year's record warmth. Or might we just be getting used to April "heat", as five of the twelve warmest Aprils have occurred in the past ten years?"

This Spring has been slightly wetter than usual and procrastinated some growers' desires/abilities to get seed or transplant into the soil since some ground was too wet to work with heavy farm equipment. Continuing warmer temperatures and sunshine helped to dry out our fields and encouraged more plowing and planting. The cool overnight temperatures that we continue to get are creating quality lettuces and greens because they allow soil temperatures to gradually warm and allow for properly maturing produce which should have good shelf life. The season is on a normal schedule at this point though. This week should see today's mid-60's rise a couple of degrees each day as we get up to the mid-70's by Thursday and stay there through the weekend. We have a 100% chance of rain for each of the next three days, dropping to 60% on Thursday, and 30% chance on Friday and Saturday.

Please let me know how I can make this report of more use to you. Feel free to respond to [William.walker@ag.state.nj.us](mailto:William.walker@ag.state.nj.us) at any time if you have questions or need more information about Jersey Fresh availability.

**BILL WALKER – NJ DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE**

**AVAILABILITY FOR MAY 16, 2011**

<b>ARUGULA</b>	Harvesting a fair quantity of very good quality product. Volume increasing each week.
<b>ASPARAGUS</b>	Harvesting a good quantity of very good quality product. Slowly warming weather & soil temperatures have brought the harvest along gradually.
<b>BABY SPINACH &amp; ARUGULA</b>	Harvesting very good quality baby spinach in light to increasing volume. Harvesting of baby arugula starting. Wet early Spring weather prevented early planting this year.
<b>BEETS</b>	Harvesting very good quality product in fair quantity.
<b>CILANTRO</b>	A good volume of very good quality over-wintered product is harvesting though Spring planted becoming available also.
<b>COLLARDS</b>	Harvesting very good quality product in fair quantity.
<b>DANDELIONS</b>	Good quality over-wintered bunched Italian product is available with Spring planted starting to harvest. San Pasquale variety harvesting in increasing volume.
<b>DILL</b>	Harvesting in fair to increasing quantity.
<b>ESCAROLE &amp; ENDIVE</b>	Harvesting of very good quality products in light to increasing quantities.
<b>KALE</b>	Good quality over-wintered product harvesting in fair to increasing volume.
<b>LEEKs</b>	A fair volume of good quality over-wintered product harvesting and will be available until Spring planted arrives.
<b>LETTUCES</b>	Harvesting good quantity of very good quality Boston and Red & Green Leaf. Romaine harvesting in fair volume.
<b>MINT</b>	Very good quality harvesting in good volume.
<b>PARSLEY</b>	Harvesting a good volume of good quality over-wintered curly and plain product.
<b>RADISHES</b>	Harvesting a fair to good volume of good quality product.
<b>SPINACH</b>	A good volume of good quality over-wintered product available as Spring planted product also becomes available.
<b>STRAWBERRIES</b>	Harvesting a fair quantity of excellent quality Chandler variety berries. The bulk of the crop will be harvested towards the end of the month, with light volume to continue through early June depending on how warm the temperatures rise.
<b>SWISS CHARD</b>	Harvesting very good quality product in fair to increasing volume.

**FORECAST**

<b>CABBAGE</b>	Should begin harvesting towards the end of month.
<b>CUCUMBERS</b>	Pickles should begin towards the end of the month, followed a week later by cukes.
<b>SQUASH</b>	Tunnel started should start late month or early June, followed by field grown a week or so later.
<b>TURNIPS</b>	Should begin harvesting towards the end of the month.