



Farmers Continue Fieldwork

Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday June 26, 2011 were 5.5. Topsoil moisture was rated as 5% short, 85% adequate, and 10% excellent. Subsoil moisture was rated as 5% short, 90% adequate, and 5% surplus. Pasture and Range condition was rated at 10% fair, 70% good, and 20% excellent. There were measurable amounts of rainfall during the week in most localities. Temperatures were mostly at or below normal across the Garden State.

Timely rainfall and mild temperatures provided adequate soil moisture supplies. Agricultural producers continued planting corn and soybeans, cutting hay, spreading fertilizer, spraying herbicides, and irrigating. Crop conditions rated mostly good for all crops. Harvest of early-summer vegetables included cucumbers for pickles, peas, yellow and zucchini squashes, sweet corn, and tomatoes. Berry production is progressing smoothly.

Jersey Fresh Availability & Forecast Report

This week's weather will be seasonal and about normal for this time of year. Today's low 80's will rise to the upper 80's for a few days, fall a bit to the mid-80's for a couple of days, and then rise into the low 90's for the weekend. A 50% chance of rain tomorrow will increase to 70% by tomorrow night and thunderstorms are probable. There's also a 30% chance of rain from Saturday night through Sunday night. We need the rain as it's been dry in many places throughout the state. Rainfall amounts have been very erratic and spotty everywhere this past month. It is hoped that rain tomorrow night will spell our farmers from their irrigation chores for at least several days.

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 at any time if you have questions or need more information about Jersey Fresh availability.

Bill Walker – NJ Dept. of Agriculture

AVAILABILITY FOR JUNE 27, 2011

ARUGULA	Harvesting a good quantity of good quality product.
BABY SPINACH & ARUGULA	Harvesting very good quality in good volume.
BASIL	Likes warmer weather. Harvesting a fair to increasing volume of excellent quality product.
BEETS	Harvesting very good quality product in good quantity.
BLUEBERRIES	The widely planted Duke variety harvesting in excellent quality and good volume. The next two weeks will harvest our largest volume of the season.
CABBAGE	Harvesting good quality product in good volume.
CILANTRO	A good volume of good quality product is harvesting.
COLLARDS	Harvesting very good quality product in good volume.
CUCUMBERS	Excellent quality pickles and cukes harvesting in good volume.
DANDELIONS	Good quality Italian & San Pasquale varieties harvesting in good volume.
DILL	Harvesting very good quality in good quantity.
EGGPLANT & PEPPERS	Harvest beginning with tunnel started products in very light supply. Quantity will increase quickly with warming temperatures but it will be at least two weeks before significant volume is available.
ESCAROLE & ENDIVE	Harvesting very good quality products in fair to good quantities.
KALE	Good quality product harvesting in fair to good volume.
LEEKs	A good volume and quality of over-wintered product available with Spring planted now harvesting.
LETTUCES	Unseasonable early warmth has curtailed the Spring season earlier than normal. "Mucklands" of NW Jersey still harvesting a little bit.
MINT	Very good quality harvesting in good volume.
PARSLEY	Harvesting a good volume of good quality curly and plain product.
RADISHES	Harvesting a declining volume of good quality product. Doesn't like the increasing temperatures and volume will fade during the Summer heat.
SPINACH	A light to fair volume of good quality product. Doesn't like the increasing temperatures and volume decreases during the Summer heat.
SQUASH	Harvesting good quantities of excellent quality Yellow & Zucchini.
SWEET CORN	Harvest beginning with tunnel started products in very light supply. Quantity will increase quickly with warming temperatures but it will be at least two weeks before significant volume is available. Light farm market volume will be available for the 4 th , not supermarket volume. Peak of season should be the last week of July.
SWISS CHARD	Harvesting very good quality product in good volume.
TOMATOES	Tunnel started product in light volume and high prices. Field grown starting with light volume expected for the 4 th of July.
TURNIPS	Harvest good quality in only fair quantity w/ increasing temperatures.

FORECAST

PEACHES	The weather was very favorable for setting a peach and nectarine crop. The season will be normal with peaches in early July, with volume by mid-month. White peaches start in mid July, with volume by the end of the month.
NECTARINES	Early nectarines starting about mid-July with Eastern glo, with a steady supply from early August through the early part of September.