

Vegetable and Peach Harvest Activities Continued

Days suitable for field work, the week ending Sunday, July 23 2006, were 6.0. Topsoil moisture was rated 5% short, 75% adequate, and 20% surplus. Temperatures averaged much above normal across most of the state. There were measurable amounts of precipitation in most localities for the week. Average rainfall was over one inch in all three districts; with the heaviest 24 hour total, of 2.82 inches, reported at Seabrook on July 21, 2006 to July 22, 2006. Agricultural producers continued harvesting. Spraying continued across the state. Planting of soybeans continued. Harvest of lettuces, snap beans, eggplant, potatoes, sweet corn, tomatoes, herbs, and cucumbers continued. There was a report in the central district of some damage from heavy rains and winds; and increasing fruit and vegetable diseases as well as insect problems like European corn borer, corn ear worm, Colorado potato beetle and aphids. Corn and soybean condition rated mostly good. Pasture was rated in mostly fair to good condition.

Jersey Fresh Availability For July 24, 2006

Arugula & cilantro - A fair to good quality and fair quantity of products are being harvested with the warm temperatures.

Baby arugula & baby spinach - Harvesting in good quality and volume. Not as affected by the heat.

Basil - Harvesting good quantities of very good quality product with the increasing temperatures.

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

Blueberries - The bluecrop variety is winding down with one last week of fair volume and quality due to weekend rain. The late variety elliott is starting and will be available for a few weeks in light to fair volume. The season is quickly winding down.

Cabbage - Harvesting good quantities of very good quality product.

Cantaloupes & Watermelons - Fair quality and quantity of field-grown product.

Dill & parsley - A fair volume of good quality spring planted product available.

Cucumbers - Harvesting a good quantity of fair to good quality pickles (Kirby cucumbers) and cukes.

Eggplant - Harvesting a good quantity of excellent quality product.

Escarole & endive - Finishing up with the heat. Will be back in the fall.

Greens - Good quality and quantities seen of collards, kale, kohlrabi, mustard, dandelions, and Swiss chard.

Leeks & Green Onions - Transplanted product available in good quality and quantity. Spring planted products also now available.

Nectarines - Harvesting fair quantities of the early variety eastern glo. Also harvesting a fair to increasing volume of summer beaut has started with volume expected later on next week. Fruit quality, including size, is very good for all varieties.

Peaches - Freestone yellow red haven varieties such as john boy and flaming fury are now being harvested in good volume. Freestone white peaches, principally the white lady variety, are also being harvested in good volume. Yellow and white doughnut peaches are also available for the next two weeks. The newer white peach varieties have the look and flavor that consumers desire and the shelf life that allows you to get the peaches to them. Fruit quality, including size and color, is very good for all varieties. We'll have a volume of good quality peaches until mid-September.

Peppers - Harvesting a good volume of excellent quality product.

Radishes - Although temperature sensitive, a light quantity of good quality product should be available all season.

Snap beans - Harvesting a light volume of great quality beans with the increased temperatures.

Spinach - Finishing up with the increasing temperatures.

Squash - Harvesting good quantities of very good quality yellow and zucchini. A light volume of good quality acorn and spaghetti squash now being harvested with butternut expected in three weeks.

Tomatoes - Harvesting a light quantity of fair quality product with recent rains causing some quality problems. This week's anticipated warm weather should cause volume to increase by the end of the week.

Sweet Corn - Harvesting a good volume of good quality corn. Peak of the season. Good wholesale availability until at least the week after labor day. Quantity and quality varies after that due to fall insect pressures.

Turnips - Harvesting good quality product in fair volume.

White Potatoes - Good quality redskin potatoes being harvested in light to fair quantity with superior round variety. There will be a large crop of good quality potatoes this year. Source your New Jersey white potatoes in their distinctive "Jersey Fresh" bags.