

Recent Rain Improves Crops Conditions

Days suitable for field work, the week ending Sunday, April 30, 2006, were 5.4. Topsoil moisture was rated 5% short and 95% adequate. Temperatures averaged below normal for the week across the state. There were measurable amounts of precipitation in most localities for the week. There was a report of localized frost two nights during the week in the northern district. Agricultural producers continued field preparation for spring crops as weather permitted. Other activities included planting, greenhouse work, transplanting vegetable crops, topdressing fertilizer, and spraying herbicide. Asparagus harvest began in the north, and continued in the south. Harvest of lettuce started in the south. Early tomatoes and sweet corn are under plastic. Arugula, green onion, leeks, and Swiss chard were harvested in the south. Winter wheat began to head. Condition of small grains and hay crops were fair to good.

JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR MAY 1, 2006

Arugula & Kale – Good quality products are being harvested in light volume. Volume should continue to pick up each week.

Asparagus – Very good quality product is available in fair to light normal quantity. With warm temperatures, the harvest should continue to increase over the next several weeks with normal quantity expected by next week.

Cilantro – A light quantity of over-wintered product is available now and for several more weeks. Spring planted should be available by about the third week of May.

Dandelions - Over-wintered product is available now and for some time. Spring planted should be available by mid-May.

Leeks – A light volume of over-wintered product is available now and for some time.

Radishes – Harvesting fair quantities of good quality product. Volume should continue to pick up over the next several weeks.

Spinach – A light volume of over-wintered product is available now and for several weeks. Spring planted should be available by mid-May.

Swiss Chard – A small volume of over-wintered product is available now and for several weeks. Spring planted should start to become available this week.

JERSEY FRESH FORECAST

Beets – A light volume of good quality product is now available. Volume should continue to pick up over the next several weeks.

Cabbage – Should start harvesting in late May or early June.

Collards – Should begin harvesting around the third week of May.

Dill – A light volume of good quality product is now available. Volume should continue to pick up over the next several weeks.

Escarole & Endive – Should begin harvesting around the end of May.

Lettuce – Starting to harvest fair quantities of good quality Boston. Just beginning to harvest light quantities of Red and Green Leaf. Volumes should continue to pick up over the next several weeks. Look for Romaine around the third week of May and Iceberg the beginning of June.

Parsley – Over-wintered product now becoming available in fair quantities.

Strawberries – Early harvests are expected to begin in several weeks, while 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.

Turnips – Should begin harvesting around the end of May.