



Corn and Soybean Planting Nears Completion

Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday May 30, 2010, were 6.0. Topsoil moisture was rated as 95% adequate and 5% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated as 90% adequate and 10% surplus. There were measurable amounts of rainfall for the week in some localities. Temperatures were above normal across most of the Garden State. Activities throughout the week included transplanting vegetables, spreading fertilizer, spraying pesticides, and thinning fruit trees. Corn and full-season soybean planting neared completion. Producers continued mowing grass and baling hay in some areas. Vegetable growers continued planting and harvesting spring crops. Harvest of Romaine, Boston, and red-leaf lettuce varieties continued. Peaches and apples continued to size. Crop conditions rated mostly good for strawberries.

Jersey Fresh Availability & Forecast Report

Although this spring was wetter and warmer than usual, cool overnight temperatures, which helped to create quality lettuces and greens, had mitigated the general daytime warmth and had not raised our soil temperatures enough to hasten the development of some crops. Soil temperatures have been rising steadily over the past three weeks and much warmer overnight temperatures (mid 60's) have helped to warm our soils and encourage the development of our summer season crops.

There's a great chance (70%) of rain tonight, and then a fair chance (30-40%) again on Thursday and Friday. Temperatures will rise tomorrow into the high 80's, rise to near 90 on Wednesday, and then fall back into the mid 80's for Thursday and Friday. The weekend will be partly sunny and in the low 80's. The season for established crops is at least a week early while wet fields caused most spring plantings to be made a little bit late. Our season is on a slightly early production schedule.

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 1, 2010

ARUGULA	Harvesting a good quantity of very good quality product.
ASPARAGUS	Harvesting a fair to declining quantity of good quality product as this season winds down. As temperatures rise over the next few weeks, product will start to "bolt", expect color and volume to fade.
BABY SPINACH & ARUGULA	Harvesting very good quality product in fair to good quantity. Rainy early season weather prevented early planting and caused a later season.
BEETS	Harvesting very good quality product in good quantity.
CABBAGE	Harvesting good quality product in fair to increasing volume. Cool early season overnight and soil temperatures caused slow and gradual growing conditions.
CILANTRO	A good volume of very good quality product.
COLLARDS	Harvesting very good quality in fair volume.
CUCUMBERS	Harvesting light to fair quantities of tunnel grown pickles with cukes starting. Field grown pickles starting now with field cukes by next week. Expect volume to vary over the next few weeks during the transition from covered to field grown product.
DANDELIONS	A good volume of very good quality product.
DILL	Harvesting very good quality in good quantity.
ESCAROLE & ENDIVE	Harvesting very good quality in good quantity.
KALE	Good quality product harvesting in fair to good volume.
LEEKS	A fair to good volume of good quality over-wintered product is available.
LETTUCE	Harvesting all in good volume and excellent quality due to great growing conditions.
MINT	Harvesting a good quantity of very good quality product.
PARSLEY	Harvesting a good quantity of good quality curly and plain.
RADISHES	Harvesting a fair to good volume of very good quality product.
SPINACH	A good volume of good quality product is available.
STRAWBERRIES	Harvesting a light to quickly decreasing volume of berries as recent warm temperatures hastened the ripening of the remainder of the early starting commercial crop.
SQUASH	Harvesting light to fair quantities of tunnel grown yellow & zucchini as field grown starting. Expect volume to vary over the next few weeks during the transition from covered to field grown product.
SWISS CHARD	Harvesting a good quantity of very good quality product.
TURNIPS	Just starting to harvest very good quality product in light quantity.

FORECAST

BASIL	Likes warmer weather. Should be ready by mid-month.
BLUEBERRIES	Minor quantities of early varieties like Weymouth starting next week due to warm early season growing conditions. The much more widely planted Duke variety will start 3-4 days later, with volume available by mid-month.

USDA, NASS
New Jersey Field Office
Rm 205 Health and Ag Bldg
P.O. Box 330
Trenton, NJ 08625