



**Summer Vegetable Harvest Continues**

Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday August 1, 2010, were 6.5. Topsoil moisture was rated as 30% short and 70% adequate. Subsoil moisture was rated as 25% short and 75% adequate. There were measurable amounts of rainfall during the week in some localities. Temperatures were variable across the Garden State. Farmers continued spraying fields, harvesting grain crops, and baling hay. Hay condition rated fair to good. Corn and soybean development progressed. Vegetable growers continued harvesting summer crops including eggplant, peppers, squash, sweet corn, and fresh-market tomatoes. Fall varieties of cabbage, lettuce, and snap beans were planted. Peaches approached mid-harvest. The blueberry harvest is wrapping up with some producers still picking the Elliot variety. Pasture was rated in mostly fair to good condition.

**Jersey Fresh Availability & Forecast Report**

July will probably extend our four month run of record warmth into a fifth month. This warmth caused us to have a historically early start to our summer season produce and crops are still at least a week to ten days earlier than normal. Today's mid-80's will rise into the low 90's for Wednesday & Thursday, and fall back to about 90 for Friday. By Wednesday, the chance of rain will be 40% and stay that way through Friday. Temperatures will only get into the mid-80's for this weekend. These readings are near normal for a change. There will be a little relief during the overnight hours as temperatures will fluctuate between the upper-60's tonight into the mid-70's by Wednesday night and then into the mid 60's for the rest of the week.

There's been some rainfall which has provided relief to our crops which have been under heat stress conditions. Heat stress has been causing some decreased production levels (especially green and leafy items) and smaller sizes and this is a concern, though our farmers continue to irrigate as needed to mitigate these affects. Our expected cooler nights will help with these effects as well. Fruit flavors, in particular, are more concentrated and flavorful. Peaches are already registering "sweet" brix levels, which they don't normally have this early in the season.

There have been no further reports this week of a type of downy mildew that is particular to basil, as I reported last week. Our hot and dry conditions don't normally allow for fungal problems to get started so we're keeping an eye on this problem. Our growers have been trying to contain the problem with fungicides.

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 AUGUST 2, 2010**

<b>ARUGULA</b>	Harvesting a light quantity of good quality product.
<b>BABY SPINACH &amp; ARUGULA</b>	Harvesting good quality product in fair quantity. Not as affected by the heat.
<b>BASIL</b>	Harvesting a fair volume of good quality in spite of two instances of downy mildew discovered in disparate parts of the state a little over a week ago. Growers are trying to contain the problem with fungicides.
<b>BEETS</b>	Harvesting good quality product in fair volume.
<b>CABBAGE</b>	Harvesting good quality product in fair volume.
<b>CANTALOUPE &amp; MELONS</b>	Harvesting good quality in light quantity right now. Expect another bit of volume in 2-3 weeks for the Labor Day marketplace.
<b>CILANTRO</b>	A very light volume of good quality product.
<b>COLLARDS</b>	Harvesting good quality in fair volume.
<b>CUCUMBERS</b>	Harvesting light to fair quantities of good quality product as many farmers are between plantings right now.
<b>DANDELIONS</b>	A good volume of good quality Spring planted product.
<b>DILL</b>	Harvesting good quality in very light quantity.
<b>EGGPLANT</b>	Harvesting very good quality product in good supply.
<b>KALE</b>	Good quality product harvesting in fair volume.
<b>LEEKS</b>	A fair to good volume of good quality product is available.
<b>MINT</b>	Harvesting a fair quantity of good quality product.
<b>NECTARINES</b>	Harvesting a good supply of excellent quality Summer Beaut and Flavortop yellow varieties. A steady volume of the more widely planted Sunglo variety building, with a steady supply through the early part of Sept.
<b>PARSLEY</b>	Harvesting a light quantity of fair to good quality product.
<b>PEACHES</b>	Harvesting a good supply of excellent quality and widely planted Red Haven, John Boy, Bounty, and Flaming Fury yellow freestone varieties. White Lady variety white peaches in fair to increasing volume, with Klondike variety starting. Brix levels are high due to our early hot and dry weather, so sweetness is ensured. Sizing and quality are good.
<b>PEPPERS</b>	Harvesting very good quality product in good supply.
<b>SPINACH</b>	A light volume of good quality product is available.
<b>SQUASH</b>	Harvesting fair quantities of excellent quality yellow & zucchini as some growers are between plantings right now.
<b>SWEET CORN</b>	Harvesting very good quality corn in good volume.
<b>SWISS CHARD</b>	Harvesting a light to fair quantity of good quality product.
<b>TOMATOES</b>	Harvesting very good quality product in good volume. There's a bit of a glut in the marketplace right now.
<b>WHITE POTATOES</b>	Harvesting mainly round white varieties, with some Yukon Gold, Redskin varieties, and a bit of Russets as well.