



Blueberry Harvest Progresses

Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday July 18, 2010, were 6.0. Topsoil moisture was rated as 45% short and 55% adequate. Subsoil moisture was rated as 35% short and 65% adequate. There were measurable amounts of rainfall during the week in most localities. Temperatures were above normal across the Garden State. Various crops suffered from slow growth and stress from hot weather. Fields were irrigated as dry conditions persisted. Farmers prepared for second hay-cuttings. Soybeans continued to bloom in the central district. Producers continued harvesting summer vegetables and planting fall crops. Harvest of blueberries, peaches, and raspberries progressed. Pastures were rated in mostly fair to good condition.

Jersey Fresh Availability & Forecast Report

So far, July seems like it will 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. Temperatures this week will be much like last week. Today's low 90's will dip down into the upper 80's on Wednesday, and then rise back up to the mid 90's for Friday and the weekend. These readings are still above normal. There will be a little relief during the overnight hours as temperatures will fluctuate between the low 70's and upper 60's.

Recent rainfall has provided some relief to our crops which have been under heat stress conditions. Heat stress can cause decreased production levels and smaller sizes and this is a concern, though our farmers continue to irrigate as needed to mitigate these affects. Much of the state received some rain today, and we still have a 60% chance of some more rain later today as well. Our forecasts for rain look fair for the rest of this week as we have slightly lower rainfall expectations of 40% tomorrow, and 30% Wednesday and Thursday. The weekend again brings a 30% chance of rain. Our growers like to say, "You can put water on, but you can't take it off". There are actually two good benefits of hot and dry weather. Our growers don't have to deal with bacterial and fungal disease problems caused by hot and wet conditions. Fruit flavors, in particular, also tend to be more concentrated and flavorful. Peaches are already registering "sweet" brix levels, which they don't normally have this early in the season.

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 JULY 19, 2010

ARUGULA	Harvesting a light quantity of good quality product in this heat.
BABY SPINACH & ARUGULA	Harvesting good quality product in fair quantity. Not as affected by the heat.
BASIL	Likes warm weather. Harvesting a fair to good volume of good quality basil.
BEETS	Harvesting very good quality product in fair quantity.
BLUEBERRIES	Finishing up.
CABBAGE	Harvesting good quality product in fair to good volume.
CANTALOUPE & MELONS	Harvesting good quality in good quantities.
CILANTRO	A light volume of good quality product in this heat.
COLLARDS	Harvesting good quality in fair volume.
CUCUMBERS	Harvesting good quantities of good quality product.
DANDELIONS	A good volume of good quality Spring planted product.
DILL	Harvesting good quality in fair quantity in this heat.
EGGPLANT	Harvesting very good quality product in good supply.
ESCAROLE & ENDIVE	Finishing. Will return in mid-September.
KALE	Good quality product harvesting in fair to good volume.
LEEKs	A fair to good volume of good quality product is available.
MINT	Harvesting a fair to good quantity of good quality product.
NECTARINES	Harvesting a fair to increasing supply of excellent quality Eastern glo, the first high quality early yellow. Summer Beaut and Flavortop varieties are starting. A good steady volume of the more widely planted Sunglo variety by the end of the month, with a steady supply through the early part of Sept.
PARSLEY	Harvesting a light to fair quantity of good quality curly and plain in this heat.
PEACHES	Harvesting a fair to increasing supply of excellent quality and widely planted Red Haven & John Boy freestone varieties with good volume expected by mid week, through early September. White peaches starting next week with the White Lady variety, with volume by late week, through early September. This is the week to get doughnut/flat peaches as there is a strong demand for a limited supply of these short season peaches. Brix levels are already high due to our early hot and dry weather, so sweetness is ensured. Sizing is good.
PEPPERS	Harvesting very good quality product in good supply.
RADISHES	Finishing. Will return in the Fall.
SPINACH	A light volume of good quality product is available in this heat.
SQUASH	Harvesting good quantities of excellent quality yellow & zucchini.
SWEET CORN	Harvesting very good quality corn in good volume.
SWISS CHARD	Harvesting a light quantity of good quality product in this heat.
TOMATOES	Harvesting very good quality product in good volume.
TURNIPS	Finishing. Will return in the Fall.
WHITE POTATOES	Starting to harvest mainly round white varieties, with some Yukon Gold, Redskin varieties, and a bit of Russets as well. Source your N.J. white potatoes in their distinctive "Jersey Fresh" bags.