



Peach Harvest In Full Swing

Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday August 22, 2010, were 6.0. Topsoil moisture was rated as 60% short and 40% adequate. Subsoil moisture was rated as 40% short and 60% adequate. There were measurable amounts of rainfall during the week in most localities. Temperatures were above normal across the Garden State. Hot, dry conditions continued to stress field-crops. Farmers irrigated as needed. Crop conditions rated poor to fair for corn and soybeans. Second and third-cuttings of hay continued. Vegetable growers continued harvesting summer vegetables. Fall vegetables planted included cabbage, lettuce, and snap beans. Peaches reached mid-harvest while early-season grape picking began.

Jersey Fresh Availability & Forecast Report

July extended our four month run of record warmth into a fifth month as July '10 ranks as the second warmest on record. Early season 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. This week's much cooler temperatures will provide relief to our stressed farmers and their stressed produce. Although there's been a little rainfall lately to provide some relief to our heat stressed crops, our farmers have had to irrigate constantly to mitigate these affects. This effort comes at a physical and financial expense though. Heat stress has been causing decreased production levels and smaller sizes for most produce items and this is a concern. There's been a shortage of peppers, and especially tomatoes, for the last several weeks due to a number of reasons. Hot and stressful July growing conditions caused pollination issues, blossom burn off, and problems with fruit growth. Hard rains several weeks ago also caused ripe fruit to take on too much water and resulted in quality issues. Sequential plantings of produce items all ripened at the same time too due to the constant hot weather, leaving us a supply gap for a couple of weeks. Farmers are between plantings right now and it will be a week or two before some items are in normal late season supply.

We will have high humidity all week. Perhaps our 70-80% probability of showers tonight and tomorrow night will help to cool things down and provide much needed relief to our parched produce. We'll see mid-70's daytime temperatures building to mid-80's by the weekend. There will be cool overnight temperatures as low 60's will predominate a

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

JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR AUGUST 23, 2010

ARUGULA & CILANTRO	Harvesting a light quantity of good quality product. Supply will ramp up in Sept.
BABY SPINACH & ARUGULA	Harvesting good quality product in fair quantity. Not as affected by the heat.
BASIL	Harvesting a fair volume of good quality.
BEETS	Harvesting good quality product in fair volume.
CABBAGE	Harvesting good quality product in fair volume.
CANTALOUPE & MELONS	Harvesting good quality in fair quantity right now as another bit of volume is starting to enter the Labor Day marketplace.
COLLARDS	Harvesting good quality in fair volume.
CUCUMBERS	Harvesting light to fair quantities of good quality product as many farmers are between plantings. Excessive heat caused pollination & growth issues.
DANDELIONS	A good volume of good quality Spring planted product.
DILL	Harvesting good quality in very light quantity.
EGGPLANT	Harvesting good quality product in fair to good supply.
KALE	Good quality product harvesting in fair volume.
LEEKS	A fair volume of good quality product is available.
MINT	Harvesting a fair quantity of good quality product.
NECTARINES	Harvesting a light to decreasing supply of Fantasia variety fruit which is known for its high color and excellent eating quality. The season should finish up over the next two weeks.
PARSLEY	Harvesting a light quantity of fair to good quality product.
PEACHES	Harvesting a good supply of excellent quality Cresthaven, Jersey Queen, Encore, & Laurol yellow varieties. Lady Nancy & Sugar Giant white peaches in fair to good volume. Available thru mid-Sept. Brix levels are high, so sweetness is ensured. Sizing and quality are good.
PEPPERS	Harvesting fair to good quality product in light to fair supply. Hot and stressful growing conditions caused pollination and growth problems. Hard rains several weeks ago also resulted in some quality issues.
SPINACH	A light volume of fair quality product is available. Will return in mid-Sept.
SQUASH	Harvesting fair quantities of good quality yellow/zucchini as many growers are between plantings. Excessive heat caused pollination & growth issues.
SWEET CORN	Harvesting good quality corn in good volume.
SWISS CHARD	Harvesting a light quantity of good quality product.
TOMATOES	Harvesting fair to good quality product in very light volume as there's a shortage now due to two reasons. Hot and stressful July growing conditions caused pollination issues, blossom burn off, and problems w/ fruit growth. Hard rains several weeks ago caused ripe fruit to take on too much water and resulted in quality issues. More supply in a week to ten days.
WHITE POTATOES	Harvesting mainly round white varieties, with some Yukon Gold, Redskin varieties, and a bit of Russets as well.