
New Hampshire
*Department of Agriculture,
Markets & Food*

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NH Strawberry Harvest Begins

If you've been waiting for the sweet, juicy taste of our own native strawberries, they are ready for picking! The wet and cloudy spring delayed the start of the 2006 strawberry season, but the recent sunny, hot weather has berries ripening now at most New Hampshire locations.

Strawberry harvest is short and sweet, typically beginning in mid June and lasting just a few weeks. The weather has a lot to do with when the season begins and the length of the season. Just as cool, cloudy weather can slow the growth and development of the plants, lots of sun and heat can shorten the season as the berries ripen faster.

Right now you can enjoy picking your own berries at many farms throughout the state, or purchase fresh-picked strawberries at a number of farm or market outlets. Berry picking is a great family activity and many farms offer added attractions like hay rides, petting farms, hiking trails and picnic areas. Before making the trip to the farm for strawberries, call first to check on availability.

For information on where to go to pick strawberries near you, contact the NH Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food at 271-3788, or log on to www.agriculture.nh.gov and check out the *Harvest Your Own Guide* in the publications list.

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