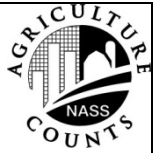




**United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
New Jersey Field Office**
Cooperating with New Jersey Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Marketing Service
U.S. Department of Commerce/N.O.A.A.
Rutgers University



NJ-CW1610

New Jersey Weather and Crop Bulletin

April 26, 2010

**Agricultural Weather Advisory for New Jersey
And Southeastern Pennsylvania
Issued By Rutgers University
New Brunswick, NJ
8 am EDT Monday, April 26, 2010**

Climate summary for the week ending 8am 04/26/10

Rainfall amounts quarter of an inch but with locally higher amounts today, tenth of an inch tonight, none expected Tuesday. Winds for spraying northeast 5 to 10 mph today, north 5 to 10 mph tonight, northwest 10 to 15 mph Tuesday.

Temperatures averaged near normal, averaging 52 degrees north, 54 degrees central, and 54 degrees south. Extremes were 76 degrees at New Brunswick on April 23, 2010, and 34 degrees at Belvidere on April 24, 2010.

Relative humidity in percent 80 to 90, today near 100 tonight 40 to 50 Tuesday. Dew points upper 40s today, low 40s tonight, upper 20 Tuesday. Drying conditions generally poor today, becoming good Tuesday. No dew tonight but wetting in showers is possible, light dew with some scattered frost Tuesday night. Percent of possible sunshine near zero today 80 Tuesday.

Weekly rainfall averaged 1.49 inches north, 1.25 inches central, and 1.29 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 1.71 inches at Charlotteburg on April 25, 2010 to April 26, 2010.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 94 percent north, 89 percent central, and 87 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 52 degrees north, 54 degrees central, and 54 degrees south.

There is an 80 percent probability of precipitation during the 12 hour period beginning at 8 am and ending at 8 pm that could adversely affect the performance of pesticides that require a rain-free period after application.

Spring Planting Progresses

Overnight low temperatures in the representative cranberry bogs will remain above freezing tonight with clouds and showers but could drop to 21 to 25 Tuesday night.

Days suitable for field work 6.0. Topsoil moisture 80% adequate, 20% surplus. Subsoil moisture 90% adequate, 10% surplus. There were measurable amounts of rainfall for the week in most localities. Temperatures were above normal across most of the Garden State. Farmers continued field preparation for spring crops. Other activities during the week included planting field corn, spraying herbicides, and harvesting overwintered crops. Spring vegetable planting progressed for potatoes, carrots, cabbage, lettuce, spinach, sweet corn, and snap beans. Asparagus harvesting continued. Peach trees were in petal-fall stage, apple trees were in full flower, and blueberry bushes continued to bloom. Cranberry bogs were drained; grape vines were in bud break, and in northern localities began to leaf out. Strawberry plants were flowering under plastic.

Four inch soil temperatures continue to average in the low 50s north, mid 50s central, and upper 50s south. Soil temperatures will hold steady over the next couple of days.

Hay cutting will see poor drying today but should improve on Tuesday and continue for much of the week.

Field work will once again be slowed by significant rain of Sunday and today. After today soil moisture levels should begin to improve once again.

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period May 3, 2010 to May 9, 2010 is calling for temperatures to average below normal and precipitation to average above normal.

Weather Summary for the Week Ending Monday, April 26, 2010

Weather Stations	Rainfall			Temperatures Last Week				Growing Degree Days ¹		Soil Moisture ²
	Last Week	Since March 1		Max.	Min.	Avg.	Dept.*	Total	Dept.*	
		Total	Dept.*							Base 50° F
North	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Base 50° F</i>	<i>Base 50° F</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Belvidere Bridge	1.37	9.11	1.84	72	34	52	-1	137	119	100
Canoe Brook	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Charlotteburg	1.71	15.11	7.25	71	35	53	3	151	151	100
Flemington	1.25	12.24	4.56	73	35	54	1	188	173	100
Newton	1.62	11.06	4.07	68	36	51	0	144	141	100
Central										
Freehold	1.13	12.01	4.37	74	37	55	1	229	199	100
Long Branch	1.34	12.52	4.61	72	41	54	0	151	129	100
New Brunswick	1.36	13.00	5.69	76	36	54	-1	207	163	100
Toms River	1.13	11.43	3.73	73	36	54	0	182	158	100
Trenton	1.28	9.41	2.48	73	40	55	-1	256	199	100
South										
Cape May C.H.	1.66	10.21	3.48	67	39	53	-2	155	109	100
Downstown	1.05	9.63	2.70	72	36	54	-2	221	160	100
Glassboro	1.55	10.40	3.10	72	44	56	0	264	207	100
Hammonton	1.34	10.23	3.15	72	38	55	-1	258	205	100
Pomona	0.87	10.08	3.27	73	39	55	1	215	181	100
Seabrook	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
South Harrison	1.13	8.10	1.59	72	43	56	N/A	261	N/A	N/A

¹Departure from normal.

² Growing degree days since March 1, 2010, total and departure from normal or long term average.

³ Estimated soil moisture as % of field capacity based on climate data.

⁴ Data not available.

JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY & FORECAST REPORT

So far, this Spring has been much wetter and warmer than usual. With 5" more rain than normal, we also had the wettest March in recorded history. This wet weather procrastinated some growers' desires/abilities to get seed or transplant into the soil since the ground was too wet to work with heavy farm equipment. March's warmness, combined with three days of early April record high temperatures, caused some of our early produce to "bolt" and caused the premature blooming of some fruit trees and bushes. Warming daytime temperatures and less frequent moisture helped to raise our surface soil temperatures, dry out our fields, and encourage more plowing and planting. On the other hand, cool overnight temperatures that we continue to get have helped to create quality lettuces and greens, but have not raised our soil temperatures enough to hasten the development of some crops or encourage the early planting of summer crops. 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 APRIL 26, 2010

ARUGULA	Harvesting a light to fair quantity of very good quality product. Volume will increase each week.
ASPARAGUS	Harvesting a fair quantity of very good quality product. With warming weather, and increasing soil temperatures, the harvest should quicken.
CILANTRO	A light to fair volume of very good quality over-wintered product is just starting to be harvested and will be available for at least several weeks. Spring planted should be available in two weeks.
DANDELIONS	Good quality over-wintered bunched product is available now and for some time. Spring planted should be available by mid-May.
KALE	Good quality over-wintered product harvesting in light to fair volume. Volume will pick up each week. Transplanted product available in two weeks.
LEEKS	A light volume of good quality over-wintered product is available now and for some time.
MINT	Harvesting a light quantity of very good quality product. Volume will increase each week.
PARSLEY	Harvesting a light to increasing quantity of good quality over-wintered curly and plain.
RADISHES	Harvesting a light volume of very good quality product. Volume will increase each week.
SPINACH	A fair volume of good quality over-wintered product is available for several weeks. Spring planted should be available within a week or so.
SWISS CHARD	Harvesting a light quantity of very good quality product. Volume will increase each week.

JERSEY FRESH FORECAST

BABY SPINACH & ARUGULA	Harvest should start in two weeks due to rainy weather which prevented early planting.
BEETS	Harvest should begin in two weeks.
CABBAGE	Harvest should begin in three weeks.
COLLARDS	Harvest should begin in three weeks.
DILL	Harvest should start next week in very light quantity. Volume will increase each week after that.
ESCAROLE & ENDIVE	Should begin harvesting in three weeks.
LETTUCE	Should begin harvesting some Boston next week. Red & Green Leaf will follow in two weeks, followed by Romaine in three weeks.
STRAWBERRIES	Early harvests of Chandler variety berries are expected to begin in three weeks; the bulk of crop will be harvested towards the end of May, with low volume to continue through early
TURNIPS	Should begin harvesting around the end of May.

