



**Agricultural Weather Advisory For New Jersey
And Southeastern Pennsylvania
Issued by Rutgers University
New Brunswick, NJ
8 am EDT Monday May 17, 2010**

Rainfall amounts little expected today, tenth of an inch tonight, quarter to half an inch Tuesday. Winds for spraying northeast then southeast 5 mph today northeast 5 to 10 mph tonight, northeast 10 to 15 mph Tuesday.

Relative humidity in percent 40 to 50 today near 100 tonight, 80 to 90 Tuesday. Dew points upper 30s today, low 40s tonight, mid 40s Tuesday. Drying conditions fair today, poor Tuesday. Frost freeze or dew not expected but wetting in rain is likely tonight and Tuesday night. Percent of possible sunshine 30 today near zero Tuesday.

There is a 20 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.

Overnight low temperatures in the representative cranberry bogs should remain above freezing tonight and Tuesday night due to clouds and rain.

Four inch soil temperatures continue to average in the upper 50s north, low 60s central, and mid 60s south. Soil temperatures will hold steady today but then decrease slightly.

Hay cutting will see fairly good drying most of today but then with an increasing chance of rain late today and continuing into Wednesday.

Field work should be good today but then will be interrupted Tuesday and probably Wednesday.

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period May 24, 2010 to May 30, 2010 is calling for temperatures to average above normal and precipitation to average below normal.

Climate summary for the week ending 8am 5/17/10

Temperatures averaged much below normal, averaging 54 degrees north, 56 degrees central, and 58 degrees south. Extremes were 86 degrees at several locations on May 15, 2010 and 30 degrees at several locations on May 12, 2010.

Weekly rainfall averaged 0.69 inches north, 0.86 inches central, and 1.05 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 1.60 inches at Seabrook on May 14, 2010 to May 15, 2010.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 95 percent north, 86 percent central, and 79 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 55 degrees north, 59 degrees central, and 60 degrees south.

Vegetable Harvest and Field Crop Planting Continue

Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday May 16, 2010, were 6.0. Topsoil moisture was rated as 95% adequate and 5% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated as 90% adequate and 10% surplus. There were measurable amounts of rainfall for the week in all localities. Temperatures were below normal across most of the Garden State. Farmers continued fieldwork when weather permitted. Corn and soybean planting progressed. Hay harvesting began in northern localities. Spring vegetables harvested included asparagus, lettuce, and spinach. There were reports of light frost and wind damages to vegetable plants and fruit. Peaches and blueberries continued to size in South Jersey. Strawberries approached mid-harvest. Other activities included spraying pesticides, moving rye for straw, and greenhouse work.

Weather Summary for the Week Ending Monday, May 17, 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.*	
	Inches	Inches	Inches					Degrees	Degrees	Degrees
North										
Belvidere Bridge	0.76	11.26	1.50	78	31	53	-7	299	134	93
Canoe Brook ³	0.54	17.50	6.73	83	32	57	-2	444	301	91
Charlotteburg	0.71	17.77	7.16	78	30	53	-4	334	251	91
Flemington	0.81	15.01	4.77	82	31	55	-5	392	237	92
Newton	0.64	13.49	4.05	75	30	53	-5	316	207	91
Central										
Freehold	0.59	13.65	3.46	82	34	56	-5	464	265	85
Long Branch	0.62	14.12	3.60	84	38	56	-4	362	195	74
New Brunswick	0.66	14.94	4.99	83	33	57	-5	441	216	88
Toms River	0.88	13.00	2.79	85	34	56	-5	415	231	83
Trenton	1.56	11.87	2.65	82	37	57	-6	492	238	90
South										
Cape May C.H.	0.74	11.07	2.13	86	37	57	-4	378	155	74
Downstown	0.40	10.23	1.04	86	32	57	-6	459	194	66
Glassboro	1.11	12.55	2.80	83	38	59	-3	497	244	86
Hammonton	1.10	11.57	2.09	86	35	58	-4	514	269	87
Pomona	0.91	11.03	2.11	86	30	57	-4	471	269	80
Seabrook ³	2.04	11.76	3.41	85	40	59	-4	559	289	91
South Harrison ³	1.38	10.44	NA	84	37	58	NA	523	NA	NA

*Departure from normal.

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

² Estimated soil moisture as % of field capacity based on climate data.

³ Data not available for all historic comparisons.

JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY AND FORECAST

Although this spring has been wetter and warmer than usual, cool overnight temperatures, which helped to create quality lettuces and greens, have mitigated the general daytime warmness and have not raised our soil temperatures enough to hasten the development of some crops. Although April was the 2nd warmest April ever, half the days of the month had frost warnings at some location in the State. Although cool overnight temperatures started to warm a few weeks ago, we've again had cool overnight temperatures and spotty frost warnings for the last several weeks. We should finally be past these frost warnings as overnight temperatures will rise from the low to upper 50's by the weekend. There's a probable chance of rain tonight through Tuesday and an accompanying temperature drop. Temperatures start to rebound on Wednesday and rise into the upper 70's for our late week and weekend. There's a 30% chance of rain Saturday night through Sunday. Our slowing warming temperatures will continue to provide a slow and steady growing environment for our produce while our expected rains are welcome. The season for established crops (already in the ground) is at least a week early while wet fields caused most Spring plantings to be made a little bit late. Our season is on a slightly early production schedule. 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 MAY 17, 2010

ARUGULA	Harvesting a fair to good quantity of very good quality product.
ASPARAGUS	Harvesting a fair to good quantity of good quality product as cool soil temperatures have caused slow and gradual growing conditions.
BABY SPINACH & ARUGULA	Harvesting very good quality product in fair to increasing quantity. Rainy early season weather prevented early planting and caused a later season.
BEETS	Harvesting very good quality product in fair quantity.
CILANTRO	A fair to good volume of very good quality product as Spring planted is also harvesting now.
COLLARDS	Harvesting very good quality in light volume.
DANDELIONS	A fair to good volume of very good quality product as Spring planted is also harvesting now.
DILL	Harvesting very good quality in fair to good quantity.
ESCAROLE & ENDIVE	Harvesting very good quality in fair to good volume.
KALE	Good quality over-wintered product harvesting in fair to good volume as transplanted product also harvesting now.
LEEKS	A fair to good volume of good quality over-wintered product is available now and for some time.
LETTUCE	Harvesting Boston, Romaine, Red & Green Leaf, all in good volume. All lettuces in excellent quality due to great growing conditions.
MINT	Harvesting a fair to good quantity of very good quality product.
PARSLEY	Harvesting a good quantity of good quality curly and plain as Spring planted also harvesting now.
RADISHES	Harvesting a fair to good volume of very good quality product.
SPINACH	A good volume of good quality product is available as Spring planted is also harvesting now.
STRAWBERRIES	Harvesting a good volume of Chandler variety berries as warm temperatures have hastened ripening. The bulk of the crop will be harvested this week and next. The early start to the season will mean that volume won't be available into June.
SQUASH	Tunnel started harvesting in very light volume, field grown in two weeks.
SWISS CHARD	Harvesting a fair to good quantity of very good quality product.

FORECAST

CABBAGE	Harvest should begin next week as cool soil temperatures have caused slow and gradual growing conditions.
CUCUMBERS	Pickles should begin next week, followed a week later by cukes.
TURNIPS	Should begin harvesting around the end of May.