



Agricultural Weather Advisory For New Jersey
and Southeastern Pennsylvania
Issued by Rutgers University
New Brunswick, NJ
8 am EDT Monday April 11, 2011

No rainfall amounts expected today, a tenth of an inch but with locally heavier amounts tonight, quarter to half an inch Tuesday. Winds for spraying southwest 15 to 20 mph today, southwest 10 to 15 mph tonight, northeast around 10 mph Tuesday.

Relative humidity in percent 40 to 50 today, near 100 tonight, 60 to 70 Tuesday. Dew points 50 to 55 today and tonight, mid 40s Tuesday. Drying conditions fair to good today, poor Tuesday. No dew but wetting in showers is likely tonight and Tuesday night. Percent of possible sunshine 30 today, 10 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.

Temperatures in the representative cranberry bogs will remain above freezing with clouds and showers tonight and Tuesday night.

Early season hay cutting will run the risk of wetting in showers tonight through Wednesday.

With below normal temperatures during the past winter the chill requirements for peaches were adequate. Pressure from insects in the beginning of the season should be less this year due to below normal temperatures as well.

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period April 18, 2011 to April 24, 2011 is calling for temperatures to average below normal and precipitation to average above normal.

Climate summary for the week ending 8am April 11, 2011

Temperatures averaged near normal, averaging 47 degrees north, 49 degrees central, and 50 degrees south. Extremes were 79 degrees at Downstown on April 6, 2011 and 28 degrees at Belvidere on April 7, 2011.

Weekly rainfall averaged 0.81 inches north, 0.67 inches central, and 0.79 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 0.73 inches at South Harrison and Seabrook on April 8, 2011 to April 9, 2011.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 99 percent north, 97 percent central, and 96 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 46 degrees north, 48 degrees central, and 48 degrees south.

Spring Vegetable Plantings Progress

Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday, April 10, 2011, were 4.0. Topsoil moisture was rated as 70% adequate and 30% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated as 65% adequate and 35% surplus. There were measurable amounts of rainfall during the week in all localities. Temperatures were variable for the week across the Garden State.

Farmers continued preparing fields where conditions permitted. Activities throughout the week included spreading fertilizer, spraying herbicides, transplanting vegetables, and repairing equipment. Spring varieties of cabbage, lettuce, snap beans, and spinach plantings progressed. Growing conditions for pastures rated mostly fair to good. Producers continued pruning fruit trees and vineyards.

Weather Summary for the Week Ending Monday, April 11, 2011

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					Base 50° F	Base 50° F	Percent
North										
Belvidere Bridge	0.95	7.20	1.93	63	28	45	-3	15	15	97
Canoe Brook ³	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Charlotteburg	1.05	13.44	7.75	61	31	45	0	11	11	98
Flemington	0.33	8.52	2.86	71	32	49	1	32	32	97
Newton	0.93	8.50	3.52	64	34	47	1	15	15	98
Central										
Freehold	0.57	6.17	0.38	77	34	50	1	41	41	98
Long Branch	0.70	6.50	0.48	66	34	47	-2	23	23	98
New Brunswick	0.69	6.67	1.25	74	34	50	0	40	40	98
Toms River	0.58	6.03	0.30	77	31	47	-2	37	37	95
Trenton	0.81	5.90	0.65	77	36	51	0	55	53	95
South										
Cape May C.H.	0.78	5.67	0.56	72	34	47	-4	20	19	98
Downstown	0.62	6.27	1.03	79	34	49	-2	44	42	95
Hammonton	0.73	5.77	0.47	78	34	49	-2	49	47	96
Pomona	0.74	5.96	0.75	76	35	49	-1	45	45	97
Seabrook	1.07	6.44	1.83	78	37	53	2	56	53	96
South Harrison ³	0.73	5.47	0.49	79	35	49	N/A	43	N/A	N/A

*Departure from normal.

¹Growing degree days since March 1, 2011, total and departure from normal or long term average.

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

³Data not available for historic comparisons.

Jersey Fresh Availability & Forecast Report

So far, this Spring has been slightly wetter and cooler than usual. Recent wet weather has also procrastinated some growers' desires/abilities to get seed or transplant into the soil since the ground lately has been too wet to work with heavy farm equipment. Continued warmer temperatures would help to dry out our fields and encourage more plowing and planting. The cool overnight temperatures that we continue to get should create quality lettuces and greens but they also cause soil temperatures to stay low, about 50 right now. This causes our over-wintered crops to be slightly later than normal, especially in comparison to last year when record March warmth got everything off to a historically early start. The season is on a normal schedule at this point though. This week should see today's abnormal mid-70's give way to mid-60's and several days of rain as farmers continue to struggle with getting back out into their fields with their heavy machinery.

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 APRIL 11, 2011

ASPARAGUS	Harvest starting later this weekend with a very light quantity of good quality product. With the continued warm weather that we're expecting this week, and increasing soil temperatures, the harvest should ramp up quickly. Wet fields will hinder early harvesting.
CILANTRO	A very light volume of very good quality over-wintered product is starting to be harvested and will be available for at least several weeks. Spring planted should be available by mid-May.
DANDELIONS	Good quality over-wintered bunched Italian product is available now and for some time. Spring planted should be available by the third week of May. San Pasquale variety should be several weeks away.
LEEKs	A very light volume of good quality over-wintered product arriving this weekend or early next week after "greening up" and will be available until Spring planted arrives.
PARSLEY	Harvest of a very light volume of good quality over-wintered curly and plain product should begin late week.
SPINACH	A light volume of good quality over-wintered product is available now and until Spring planted arrives by the end of the month.

FORECAST

ARUGULA	Harvest should start in two weeks in very light quantity. Volume should pick up each week after that.
BABY SPINACH & ARUGULA	Harvest should start in early May, due to cool weather which prevented early planting.
BEETS	Transplanting now. Harvest should begin in mid-May.
CABBAGE	Transplanting now. Won't be ready until late May.
COLLARDS	Should begin harvesting in early May.
DILL	Harvest should start in several weeks in very light quantity. Volume should pick up each week after that.
ESCAROLE & ENDIVE	Should begin harvesting around the end of May.
KALE	Good quality over-wintered product should be starting in very light volume in several weeks. Volume should pick up each week.
LETTUCE	Should begin harvesting some Boston by early May. Red & Green Leaf will follow in mid-May, followed by Romaine around the end of May.
MINT	Very good quality should start harvesting in several weeks. Volume should increase each week thereafter.
RADISHES	Harvest of good quality product should start late next week. Volume should pick up each week after that.
STRAWBERRIES	Early harvests of Chandler variety berries are expected to begin in mid-May, while the bulk of the crop will be harvested towards the end of May, with lower volumes to continue through early June.
SWISS CHARD	Harvest of good quality product should start in several weeks. Volume should pick up each week after that.
TURNIPS	Should begin harvesting around the end of May.