Rainfall amounts none through Tuesday.

Winds for spraying, northeast 5 to 10 mph today, north 5 to 10 mph tonight, north around 10 mph Tuesday.

Relative humidity in percent 35 to 45 today, 90 to 100 tonight, 40 to 50 Tuesday. Dew points 35 to 40 through Tuesday. Drying conditions good today, good Tuesday. Frost freeze or dew moderate dawn tonight, moderate dew Tuesday night. Percent of possible sunshine 50 today, 50 Tuesday.

There is a 10 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 rainfree period after application.

Temperatures in the representative bogs could fall to 29 to 33 tonight and 28 to 32 Tuesday night.

Plowing and planting should remain active in many locations with generally favorable moisture levels. Little precipitation is likely over the next several days.

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period April 24, 2006 to April 30, 2006 is calling for temperatures to average near normal, and precipitation to total below normal.

Climate summary for the week ending 8 am April 17, 2006

Temperatures averaged much above normal, averaging 55 degrees north, 57 degrees central and 58 degrees south. Extremes were 82 degrees at Toms River on April 16, 2006 and 30 degrees at Toms River and Newton on April 11, 2006.

Weekly rainfall averaged 0.17 inches north, 0.09 inches central, and 0.05 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 0.26 inches at Charlotteburg on April 14, 2006 and April 15, 2006. Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 96 percent north, 91 percent central and 86 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 51 degrees north, 53 degrees central and 54 degrees south.
Days suitable for field work, the week ending Sunday, April 16, 2006, were 6.0. Topsoil moisture was rated 5% very short, 70% short, and 25% adequate. Temperatures were near or above normal across the state. There were measurable amounts of precipitation in most localities for the week. Agricultural producers continued field preparation for spring crops as weather permitted. Other activities included planting, greenhouse work, transplanting vegetable crops, equipment repair, and feeding stored hay to livestock. Harvest of spinach began in the central and south. Condition of small grains and hay crops were poor to good. Peach and apple trees are in bloom in some southern localities.

**JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR APRIL 17, 2006**

**Arugula & Kale**  Should start being harvested later this week or early next week in minimal volume. Volume should pick up each week after that.

**Asparagus**  Very good quality product is already starting to become available in light quantity. With warm weather, the harvest should increase over the next several weeks. Volume should begin in 2-3 weeks depending upon the warmth of the weather.

**Cilantro**  A little bit of over-wintered product should become available later in the week and for at least 2-3 more weeks after that. Spring planted should be available by about the third week of May.

**Dandelions**  Over-wintered product is available now and for some time. Spring planted should be available by mid-May.

**Leeks**  A small volume of over-wintered product is available now and for some time.

**Spinach**  A small volume of over-wintered product is available now and for another 2-3 weeks or so after that. Spring planted should be available by mid-May.

**Swiss Chard**  A small volume of over-wintered product is available now and for several weeks. Spring planted should start to become available by late next week.

**JERSEY FRESH FORECAST**

**Beets**  Just transplanted recently. Harvest should begin in mid-May or so.

**Cabbage**  Just transplanted recently. Won’t be ready until late May or early June.

**Collards**  Should begin harvesting around the third week of May.

**Dill**  Should begin harvesting around the third week of May

**Escarole/Endive**  Should begin harvesting around the end of May.

**Lettuce**  Should begin harvesting Romaine and Boston around the third week of May

**Parsley**  Over-wintered product will be available in mid-May.

**Radishes**  Harvest should begin later this week or early next week. Volume should pick up several weeks after that.

**Strawberries**  Early harvests 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 the first week of June.

**Turnips**  Should begin harvesting around the end of May.