



**Agricultural Weather Advisory  
for New Jersey and Southern Pennsylvania  
Issued by Rutgers University New Brunswick, NJ  
8am EDT Monday, April 21, 2008**

Rainfall amounts only light and minor scattered rainfall amounts through Tuesday.

Winds for spraying east 10 to 15 mph today, east 5 to 10 mph tonight and Tuesday.

Relative humidity in percent 45 to 55 today, 90 to 100 tonight, 45 to 55 Tuesday. Dew points mid to upper 40s through Tuesday. Drying conditions fair today and again Tuesday. Frost freeze or dew, some dew tonight and again Tuesday night. Percent of possible sunshine 30 today, 30 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.

Soil moisture levels will continue to decrease over the next several days with only minor rainfall amounts. Plowing and planting should continue to be active for the next several days. In the lighter soils of the south some irrigation is necessary especially on transplants.

Temperatures in the representative cranberry bogs should remain above freezing tonight and Tuesday night with low clouds both nights.

Early season hay cutting will only be fair for next few days with little expected rainfall but limited sunshine and modest humidity levels. Drying conditions will become faster the second half of the week with more sunshine and warmer temperatures.

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period April 28, 2008 to May 4, 2008 is calling for temperatures to average near normal and precipitation to total below normal.

**Climate summary for the week ending 8am 4/21/08**

Temperatures averaged much above normal in the north and near normal central and south, averaging 56 degrees north 53 degrees central and 55 degrees south. Extremes were 87 degrees at Canoe Brook and Newton on the April 19, 2008, and 29 degrees at Flemington, Downstown, and Hammonton on the April 17, 2008.

Weekly rainfall averaged 0.00 inches north, 0.00 inches central, and 0.01 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 0.02 inches at Cape May Courthouse on April 14, 2008 to April 15, 2008.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 91 percent north, 89 percent central, and 86 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 53 degrees north, 52 degrees central, and 54 degrees south.

**Spinach Harvest Begins**

Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday, April 20, 2008, were 6.0. Topsoil moisture was rated as 30% short and 70% adequate. Subsoil moisture was rated as 10% short and 90% adequate. There were no measurable amounts of rainfall for the week in most localities. Temperatures were variable during the week in most areas of the Garden State. Peaches are in full bloom in north and south New Jersey. Soil preparation for summer crop planting continues. Wheat is being sprayed for cereal rust mites in the central district. Cranberry bogs are being prepared. Other activities included greenhouse work, plowing, fertilizing and tillage.

**Weather Summary for the Week Ending Monday, April 21, 2008**

Weather Stations	Rainfall			Temperatures Last Week				Growing Degree Days <sup>1</sup>		Soil Moisture <sup>2</sup>
	Last Week	Since March 1		Max.	Min.	Avg.	Dept.*	Total	Dept.*	
		Total	Dept.*							
	Inches	Inches	Inches	Degrees	Degrees	Degrees	Degrees			Percent
<b>North</b>										
Belvidere Bridge	0.00	7.30	0.70	85	32	56	4	84	79	80
Canoe Brook	0.00	6.50	-0.85	87	32	56	5	78	76	87
Charlotteburg	0.00	8.18	1.04	84	33	55	6	76	76	84
Flemington	0.00	7.00	-0.01	86	29	56	5	90	87	87
Newton	0.00	7.09	0.77	87	33	57	7	119	119	82
<b>Central</b>										
Freehold	0.00	4.50	-2.52	86	32	54	1	87	75	86
Long Branch	0.00	5.91	-1.37	70	34	50	-2	51	44	81
New Brunswick	0.00	4.94	-1.74	84	33	54	0	72	52	88
Toms River	0.00	6.09	-0.96	77	31	50	-2	91	84	78
Trenton	0.00	5.61	-0.76	84	33	56	2	119	89	72
<b>South</b>										
Cape May C.H.	0.02	4.22	-1.97	71	31	51	-3	97	74	78
Downstown	0.00	5.47	-0.90	86	29	55	0	129	96	77
Glassboro	0.00	4.32	-2.38	86	37	58	4	136	106	67
Hammonton	0.01	4.86	-1.63	86	29	55	1	139	111	73
Pomona	0.00	5.67	-0.61	78	32	53	0	123	108	75
Seabrook	0.01	5.02	-0.63	84	34	58	3	138	103	75
South Harrison	0.00	5.16	-1.67	85	35	57	NA	138	NA	NA

\* Departure from normal.

<sup>1</sup> Growing degree days since March 1, 2008, total and departure from normal or long term average.

<sup>2</sup> Estimated soil moisture as % of field capacity based on climate data.

<sup>3</sup> Data not available.

**JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR APRIL 21, 2008**

<b>ARUGULA</b>	Good quality being harvested in light quantity. Volume should pick up each week.
<b>ASPARAGUS</b>	Harvesting good quality in light quantity. With our recent warmer weather, the harvest is ramping up quickly. Volume will increase over the next several weeks.
<b>BABY SPINACH &amp; ARUGULA</b>	Starting to be harvested this weekend in good quality. Spinach should start in good volume though arugula will be light.
<b>CILANTRO</b>	A light volume of fair to good quality over-wintered product is being harvested and will be available for at least several weeks. Spring planted should be available by early May.
<b>DANDELION</b>	Good quality over-wintered bunched product is available now and for some time. Spring planted should be available by mid-May.
<b>KALE</b>	Very good quality over-wintered product available now and for a few weeks. Transplanted product available by early May.
<b>LEEKS</b>	A small volume of fair to good quality over-wintered product is available now and for some time.
<b>PARSLEY</b>	Very good quality over-wintered curly and plain product is available in good quantities.
<b>RADISHES</b>	Harvesting a fair quantity of good quality product. Volume should pick up over the next several weeks.
<b>SPINACH</b>	Good volume of excellent quality over-wintered product is available now and for another 2-3 weeks. Spring planted should be available by then.
<b>SWISS CHARD</b>	A light volume of excellent quality over-wintered product is available. Spring planted should start to become available in several weeks.

**JERSEY FRESH FORECAST**

<b>BEETS</b>	Just transplanted recently. Harvest should begin in mid-May.
<b>CABBAGE</b>	Just transplanted recently. Won't be ready until late May.
<b>COLLARDS</b>	Should begin harvesting around the third week of May.
<b>DILL</b>	Should begin harvesting around the third week of May.
<b>ESCAROLE &amp; ENDIVE</b>	Should begin harvesting around the end of May.
<b>LETTUCE</b>	Should begin harvesting Boston & Red & Green Leaf in mid-May, followed by Romaine around the third week of May.
<b>STRAWBERRIES</b>	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.
<b>TURNIPS</b>	Should begin harvesting around the end of May.