



**Weather Advisory for New Jersey
and Southeastern Pennsylvania
Issued by Rutgers University
New Brunswick, NJ
8 am Edt Mon Apr 28 2008**

Rainfall amounts and rainfall totals through early Tuesday may exceed one inch with locally higher amounts, little expected most of Tuesday.

Winds for spraying east/southeast 10 to 15 mph today, south then west 5 to 10 mph tonight, and northwest 10 to 20 mph Tuesday.

Relative humidity in percent 80 to 90 today, near 100 tonight, and 50 to 60 Tuesday. Dew points low to mid 50s today and tonight then dropping through the 40s and into the 30s on Tuesday. Drying conditions poor today, fair Tuesday. Frost freeze or dew, no dew expected tonight but wetting in a showers is likely, none Tuesday night. Percent of possible sunshine near zero today, 20 Tuesday.

There is a near 100 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 should increase significantly over the next 24 hours. Temperatures in the representative cranberry bogs should remain above freezing tonight and Tuesday night.

Early season hay cutting is not recommended for the next couple of days with slow drying rates today and only fair drying Tuesday.

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period May 5, 2008, to May 11, 2008, is calling for temperatures to average near normal and precipitation to total below normal.

Climate summary for the week ending 8am 4/28/08

Temperatures averaged much above normal in the north, and above normal central and south, averaging 58 degrees north, 57 degrees central, and 59 degrees south. Extremes were 81 degrees at Belvidere and Hammonton on April 25, 2008, and 39 degrees at Charlotteburg on April 23, 2008.

Weekly rainfall averaged 0.24 inches north, 0.24 inches central, and 0.19 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 0.31 inches at Flemington on April 27, 2008, to April 28, 2008.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 81 percent north, 75 percent central, and 68 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 59 degrees north, 57 degrees central, and 59 degrees south.

Blueberries Began to Bloom

Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday, April 27, 2008, were 6.5. Topsoil moisture was rated as 55% short and 45% adequate. Subsoil moisture was rated as 35% short and 65% adequate. There were no measurable amounts of rainfall for the week in most localities. Temperatures were above normal during most of the week across the Garden State. Ground preparation and cultivation for crop planting continued. Timothy hay was treated for cereal rust mites, while alfalfa hay was treated for alfalfa weevil. Peaches were sizing nicely, while apples were in full bloom throughout New Jersey. Blueberry bushes began to bloom in the central district and southern districts. Producers continued greenhouse work, planting, and spraying.

Weather Summary for the Week Ending Monday, April 28, 2008

Weather Stations	Rainfall			Temperatures Last Week				Growing Degree Days ¹		Soil Moisture ²
	Last Week	Since March 1		Max.	Min.	Avg.	Dept.*	Total	Dept.*	
	<i>Inches</i>	Total	Dept.*					<i>Base 50°F</i>	<i>Base 50°F</i>	<i>Percent</i>
North										
Belvidere Bridge	0.21	7.51	-0.02	81	42	59	5	147	121	75
Canoe Brook	0.40	6.90	-1.40	80	40	58	5	133	115	87
Charlotteburg	0.10	8.28	0.13	76	39	57	6	128	126	75
Flemington	0.38	7.38	-0.57	79	41	58	4	146	124	86
Newton	0.10	7.19	-0.06	78	45	60	8	191	184	75
Central										
Freehold	0.23	4.73	-3.15	78	44	58	3	141	101	77
Long Branch	0.21	6.12	-2.04	75	44	54	0	82	52	75
New Brunswick	0.60	5.54	-2.02	79	45	58	2	132	76	92
Toms River	0.01	6.10	-1.87	77	43	56	1	135	101	61
Trenton	0.14	5.75	-1.40	79	45	60	3	189	119	62
South										
Cape May C.H.	0.27	4.49	-2.45	77	47	58	2	153	96	73
Downtown	0.08	5.55	-1.61	80	42	59	2	194	120	63
Glassboro	0.22	4.54	-3.00	79	47	62	5	221	151	64
Hammonton	0.08	4.94	-2.38	81	44	59	3	206	141	59
Pomona	0.28	5.95	-1.07	80	44	58	3	180	136	70
Seabrook	(3)									
South Harrison	0.32	5.48	-2.23	78	46	60	NA	210	NA	NA

* Departure from normal.

¹ Growing degree days since March 1, 2008, 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.

JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR APRIL 28, 2008

ARUGULA	Good quality being harvested in fair quantity. Volume continuing to pick up each week.
ASPARAGUS	Harvesting good quality in fair quantity. Volume continuing to increase over the next several weeks.
BABY SPINACH & ARUGULA	The harvest started last week in good quality. Spinach harvesting in good volume though arugula in fair to increasing quantities.
CILANTRO	A fair volume of good quality over-wintered product is being harvested and will be available for several more weeks. Spring planted should be available by early May.
DANDELION	Good quality over-wintered bunched product is available now and for some time. Spring planted should be available by mid-May.
KALE	Very good quality over-wintered product available now and for a few weeks. Transplanted product available by early May.
LEEKs	A small volume of good quality over-wintered product is available now and for some time.
PARSLEY	Very good quality over-wintered curly and plain product is available in good quantities.
RADISHES	Harvesting a fair to good quantity of good quality product. Volume should pick up over the next several weeks.
SPINACH	Good volume of excellent quality over-wintered product is available now and for several more weeks. Spring planted should be available by then.
SWISS CHARD	A fair volume of excellent quality over-wintered product available. Spring planted should start to become available in several weeks.

JERSEY FRESH FORECAST

BEETS	Harvest should begin in mid-May.
CABBAGE	Won't be ready until late May.
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 Boston & Red & Green Leaf in mid-May, followed by Romaine around the third week of May.
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.
TURNIPS	Should begin harvesting around the end of May.