



**WEATHER ADVISORY FOR NEW JERSEY
AND SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA
ISSUED BY RUTGERS UNIVERSITY NEW
BRUNSWICK NJ
8 AM EDT MON MAY 5 2008**

Rainfall amounts none through Tuesday.

Winds for spraying northeast then southwest 5 to 10 mph today, southwest 5 mph tonight, southwest 5 to 10 mph Tuesday.

Relative humidity in percent 40 to 50 today, 90 to 100 tonight, 40 to 50 Tuesday. Dew points low to mid 40s through Tuesday. Drying conditions good today and again Tuesday. Frost freeze or dew, light dew tonight and again Tuesday night. Percent of possible sunshine 90 today, 80 Tuesday.

There is a near zero 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 could fall to 25 to 29 tonight and 29 to 33 Tuesday.

Early season hay cutting will be good through Wednesday morning with a slight chance of showers by later afternoon with a continuing slight threat for Thursday.

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period May 12, 2008 to May 18, 2008 is calling for temperatures to average below normal and precipitation to total near normal.

Climate summary for the week ending 8am 5/5/08

Temperatures averaged much below normal, averaging 51 degrees north, 53 degrees central, and 56 degrees south. Extremes were 82 degrees at Downtown on May 3, 2008, and 28 degrees at Charlotteburg on May 2, 2008.

Weekly rainfall averaged 1.41 inches north, 0.85 inches central, and 0.67 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 1.38 inches at Belvidere on May 28, 2008 to May 29, 2008.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 99 percent north, 94 percent central, and 91 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 53 degrees north, 53 degrees central, and 56 degrees south.

Strawberries Began to Bloom

Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday, April 27, 2008, were 5.0. Topsoil moisture was rated as 35% short and 65% adequate. Subsoil moisture was rated as 25% short and 75% adequate. There were no measurable amounts of rainfall for the week in most localities. Temperatures were below normal during most of the week across the Garden State. Strawberries were in full bloom, while peaches entered the shuck stage throughout New Jersey. Majority of the corn for grain had been planted by week's end. Blueberries continued blooming very well. In the southern district, spraying has begun on the grapevines. As the first cutting of alfalfa hay approaches, central New Jersey continued treatment for alfalfa weevil. Early harvesting of lettuce, asparagus, and spinach continued.

Weather Summary for the Week Ending Monday, May 5, 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.*	
		Total	Dept.*							
	Inches	Inches	Inches	Degrees	Degrees	Degrees	Degrees			Percent
North										
Belvidere Bridge	1.67	9.18	0.80	74	32	52	-4	172	109	98
Canoe Brook	1.48	8.38	-0.84	75	31	52	-4	154	103	97
Charlotteburg	1.39	9.67	0.59	69	28	48	-5	135	117	96
Flemington	1.12	8.50	-0.31	73	30	51	-5	169	112	95
Newton	1.41	8.60	-0.20	72	33	51	-3	212	182	98
Central										
Freehold	0.73	5.46	-3.27	72	33	53	-5	170	85	92
Long Branch	0.68	6.80	-2.23	68	35	52	-4	103	36	87
New Brunswick	1.41	6.95	-1.49	74	33	53	-5	160	56	94
Toms River	0.54	6.64	-2.17	73	32	53	-4	161	88	78
Trenton	0.90	6.65	-1.27	72	35	54	-5	221	97	84
South										
Cape May C.H.	0.71	5.20	-2.48	76	38	55	-3	192	86	81
Downtown	0.76	6.31	-1.61	82	34	55	-4	237	105	83
Glassboro	0.88	5.42	-2.94	76	39	56	-3	268	144	82
Hammonton	0.51	5.45	-2.68	80	34	55	-4	248	129	72
Pomona	0.52	6.47	-1.26	77	35	55	-2	220	132	81
Seabrook	0.63	5.92	-1.18	80	40	58	-1	267	132	80
South Harrison	0.64	6.12	-1.50	77	41	56	NA	256	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 MAY 5, 2008

ARUGULA	Good quality and quantity.
ASPARAGUS	Harvesting good quality and quantity.
BABY SPINACH & ARUGULA	Both harvesting in good quality. Spinach harvesting in good volume though arugula in fair to good quantities.
BEETS	Just starting to harvest good quality in light quantity.
CILANTRO	A good volume of good quality over-wintered product is being harvested and will be available for several more weeks. Good quality Spring planted now becoming available.
DANDELION	Good quality over-wintered bunched product is available now and for some time. Spring planted should be next week.
KALE	Very good quality over-wintered product available now and for a few weeks. Transplanted product becoming available.
LEEKS	A small volume of good quality over-wintered product is available now and for some time.
LETTUCE	Boston & Red & Green Leaf all harvesting in very good quality and light to increasing quantities. Romaine just starting to be harvested.
PARSLEY	Very good quality over-wintered curly and plain product is available in good quantities.
RADISHES	Harvesting a good quantity of good quality product.
SPINACH	Good volume of excellent quality over-wintered product is available for several more weeks. Spring planted becoming available now.
SWISS CHARD	A good volume of excellent quality over-wintered product available. Spring planted starting to become available now.

JERSEY FRESH FORECAST

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.
STRAWBERRIES	Early harvests of berries are expected to begin next week, with increasing volume the following two weeks. The bulk of the crop will be harvested towards the end of the month, with lower volumes to continue through early June.
TURNIPS	Should begin harvesting around the end of May.