Rainfall amounts none through tonight, less than a tenth of an inch Wednesday. Winds for spraying southwest 10 to 15 mph today and tonight, west 10 to 20 mph with higher gusts Wednesday.

Relative humidity in percent 35 to 45 today, 90 to 100 tonight, 40 to 50 Wednesday. Dew points upper 50s to low 60s through Wednesday. Drying conditions excellent today, fair to good with some localized poor areas possible Wednesday. Moderate dew tonight and Wednesday night. Percent of possible sunshine 90 today, 40 Wednesday.

There is a near zero percent probability of precipitation during the 12 hour period beginning at 8 am and ending at 8 pm. Rainfall could adversely affect the performance of pesticides that require a rain-free period after application.

Conditions will likely be unfavorable for cranberry scald today and Wednesday.

Hay cutting runs the slight threat of showers Wednesday but otherwise good drying conditions for the next several days.

Soil moisture levels remain very low and therefore the need for good drying conditions for the next several days.

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period September 14, 2010 to September 20, 2010 is calling for temperatures to average below normal and precipitation to average near normal.

Soybeans Dropping Leaves

Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday, September 5, 2010, were 7.0. Topsoil moisture was rated as 10% very short, 40% short, and 50% adequate. Subsoil moisture was rated as 40% short and 60% adequate. There were no measurable amounts of rainfall during the week in most localities. Temperatures were above normal across the Garden State. Hot, dry weather accelerated field-corn maturation. Farmers continued chopping silage. Soybean plants were dropping leaves. Crop conditions rated poor to fair for corn and soybeans. Mowing and baling of hay continued. Harvest of cantaloupes, cucumbers, sweet corn, and fresh-market tomatoes were winding down. Peach harvest continued for later varieties. Grape and apple conditions were mostly good to excellent. Other activities included irrigating, spraying fungicides, and maintaining orchards.
ARUGULA & CILANTRO
Harvesting a fair to good quantity of good quality product as supply has started to ramp up as it will continue to do over the next several weeks.

BABY SPINACH & ARUGULA
Harvesting good quality product in fair to good quantity. Wasn’t as affected by the heat.

BASIL
Harvesting a fair to good volume of good quality.

BEETS
Harvesting good quality product in fair to good volume.

CABBAGE
Harvesting good quality product in fair to good volume.

CANTALOUPES & MELONS
Harvesting good quality in fair to decreasing quantity as a bit of volume for the Fall marketplace will finish up over the next couple of weeks.

COLLARDS
Harvesting good quality in fair volume.

CUCUMBERS
Harvesting fair to good quantities of good quality product as new fields have arrived. Excessive Summer heat caused fruit set and growth issues.

DADELIONS
A good volume of good quality Spring planted product.

DILL & KALE
Harvesting good quality in fair quantity.

EGGPLANT
Harvesting good quality product in fair supply.

ESCAROLE/ENDIVE
Harvesting good quality in fair to good volume.

LEETS
A fair volume of good quality product is available.

LETUCCES
Boston & Romaine harvesting in light to increasing quantities. Red & Green Leaf starting next week.

MINT
Harvesting a fair quantity of good quality product.

NECTARINES
Finishing up. A limited volume still available in NW NJ area.

PARSLEY
Harvesting a fair to increasing quantity of good quality product.

PEACHES
Harvesting a good to decreasing supply of excellent quality yellow Encore & Laurol w/ volume this week and next. Snow Giant white peaches in fair to decreasing volume this week. Last week w/ white volume. Size and quality good. About 1/5 of our crop (the profit) is still harvesting or in the cooler. Let’s source and promote the eating of NJ peaches please!

PEPPERS
Harvesting fair to good quality product in fair supply. Hot and stressful Summer growing conditions caused fruit set and growth problems.

RADISHES & TURNIPS
Temperature sensitive, a light to increasing quantity of good quality is available. Volume should increase with the cooler growing weather.

SPINACH
Harvesting good quality in light to increasing quantity.

SQUASH
Harvesting fair to good quantities of good quality yellow, zucchini, acorn, and butternut as some new fields have arrived.

SWEET CORN
Harvesting good quality corn in fair to decreasing volume as sequential plantings have ripened together. Expect increased quality variation due to the annual cycle of insect pressures in the Fall.

SWISS CHARD
Harvesting a fair to increasing quantity of good quality.

TOMATOES
Harvesting fair to good quality product in light volume and supply will only increase slightly over the next couple of weeks. Hot and stressful Summer growing conditions caused pollination issues and problems w/ fruit growth.

WH. CRANBERRIES
Available. Red harvest in October will be off a bit due to hot growing conditions. We need some cool overnight temps. to help with color.

WHITE POTATOES
Harvesting mainly round white varieties, with some Yukon Gold, Redskin varieties, and a bit of Russets as well.

FORECAST

SWEET POTATOES
Should begin harvesting next week, but with curing, volume won’t be available for several weeks.

Jersey Fresh Availability & Forecast Report

We had the third wettest winter ever. Then we had the warmest spring & summer on record. These two weather patterns caused us to have a historically early start to our summer produce season. We’ve had below average wetness for the last five months though we’ve had plenty of water to irrigate. This week, we’ll have hot temperatures early which will yield on Wednesday night to a cold Canadian front, cooler weather, and mid 70’s that will rise into the upper 70’s for this weekend. Although there’s been little rainfall lately, cooler weekend weather and continued irrigation has provided some relief to our heat stressed crops. Heat stress has caused decreased production levels and smaller sizes for most produce items. There’s still a shortage of some crops, especially tomatoes, due to a number of reasons. Hot and stressful July growing conditions caused pollination issues, blossom burn off, and problems with fruit growth. Hard rains several weeks ago also caused ripe fruit to take on too much water and resulted in quality issues. Sequential plantings of produce items have also all ripened at the same time too due to the constant hot weather, leaving us with some supply gaps.

Please continue to source and promote late season peaches! Between what we still have to harvest and what’s “in the cooler”, there’s probably still supply gaps.

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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