



**Agricultural Weather Advisory For New Jersey
And Southeastern Pennsylvania
Issued By Rutgers University
New Brunswick, NJ
8 am EDT Monday, September 13, 2010**

Rainfall amounts less than a tenth of an inch this morning, otherwise none through Tuesday. Winds for spraying northwest around 10 mph today, northwest 5 mph tonight, northwest 10 to 15 mph Tuesday.

Relative humidity in percent 45 to 55 today, 90 to 100 tonight, 35 to 45 Tuesday. Dew points dropping from the upper 50s this morning to the mid 40s by Tuesday. Drying conditions becoming good this afternoon, very good Tuesday. Moderate dew tonight, moderate dew Tuesday night. Percent of possible sunshine 30 today, 80 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.

Conditions will likely be unfavorable for cranberry scald today but might be favorable Tuesday.

Hay cutting runs a slight risk of some wetting this morning otherwise good conditions should exist for the afternoon through Wednesday with the next threat of showers on Thursday.

Soil moisture improved a little on Sunday but overall additional moisture is desirable.

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period September 20, 2010 to September 26, 2010 is calling for temperatures to average near normal and precipitation to average below normal.

Climate summary for the week ending 8am 9/13/10

Temperatures averaged slightly above normal, averaging 66 degrees north, 69 degrees central, and 69 degrees south. Extremes were 93 degrees at Pomona on September 9, 2010 and 45 degrees at Belvidere, Newton, and Charlotteburg on September 7, 2010.

Weekly rainfall averaged 0.33 inches north, 0.22 inches central, and 0.27 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 0.41 inches at Flemington and Freehold on September 12, 2010 to September 13, 2010.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 70 percent north, 56 percent central, and 47 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 67 degrees north, 70 degrees central, and 70 degrees south.

Apple Harvest Continues

Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday, September 12, 2010, were 7.0. Topsoil moisture was rated as 10% very short, 50% short, and 40% adequate. Subsoil moisture was rated as 50% short and 50% adequate. There were minimal amounts of rainfall during the week in most localities. Temperatures were above normal across the Garden State. Hot weather and lack of rainfall continued to affect crops as heat stress remain apparent. Activities throughout the week included irrigating crops, spraying pesticides, baling hay, and chopping silage. Soybean plants continued dropping leaves. Famers began planting fall cover crops in some northern fields. Harvest of cantaloupes, cucumbers, sweet corn, and fresh-market tomatoes were winding down. Apple and peach harvest progressed across the state.

Weather Summary for the Week Ending Monday, September 13, 2010

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	0.38	23.49	-2.67	89	45	65	1	2,867	474	69
Canoe Brook ³	0.31	27.95	0.50	91	49	67	2	3,088	670	71
Charlotteburg	0.20	35.34	7.62	88	45	65	3	2,891	969	67
Flemington	0.46	24.99	-1.32	92	50	67	2	3,193	712	78
Newton ³	0.31	26.41	0.84	86	45	65	3	2,828	653	73
Central										
Freehold	0.41	24.49	-1.12	92	49	68	1	3,416	790	69
Long Branch	0.13	24.38	-1.57	92	52	68	1	3,252	684	46
New Brunswick	0.34	24.59	-1.37	92	51	69	2	3,405	641	73
Toms River	0.00	20.21	-6.31	91	47	67	-1	3,273	702	41
Trenton	0.24	19.67	-4.92	92	50	69	1	3,612	747	46
South										
Cape May C.H.	0.40	21.08	-1.88	89	53	68	-2	2,989	413	56
Downtown ³	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Glassboro	0.26	25.48	0.16	89	54	70	2	3,558	706	50
Hammonton	0.20	20.10	-5.21	92	47	68	0	3,617	764	46
Pomona	0.28	19.56	-3.58	93	50	69	2	3,524	862	49
Seabrook ³	0.23	24.08	0.87	92	56	71	2	3,715	824	49
South Harrison ³	0.00	21.86	-3.02	91	53	70	N/A	3,635	N/A	N/A

* Departure from normal.

¹ Growing degree days since March 1, 2010, 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 for all historic comparisons.

Jersey Fresh Availability & Forecast Report

We had the third wettest winter and wettest March ever. Then we had the warmest March through August on record with below average wetness for the last five months, though we've had plenty of water to irrigate. We are now in the midst of the worst early fall drought in several decades. In central and coastal NJ, we've only received 20-30% of normal precipitation over the last month. We've also been experiencing very little tropical storm season rain as well this year. Due to our generous winter and March precipitation though, water supply conditions are okay, and our growers continue to irrigate. This week, we'll have seasonal temperatures near 80 today which will drop a few degrees each day through Thursday, and then settle into the mid 70's for the weekend. Although there was a little rainfall yesterday, recent cooler 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 late season 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 last month 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 still plenty of our peaches available this week. This is the "shoulder" time of the season when our farmers start to profit from their crops, so please stick with them and their peaches for another week. This is the last week for volume on yellow peaches, while white peaches are finishing up. I know that retailers like to start promoting early eastern apples and late west coast fruit, but let's not let these crops push out the end of a beautiful Jersey Fresh peach season. Some late plantings of peppers, squash, and cucumbers are now being harvested and have restored some "summer" items to near normal late season supply levels though tomatoes will not again be available this year in greater than light supply. Our Fall greens and lettuces are becoming available in increasing quantities over the next couple of weeks.

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

AVAILABILITY FOR SEPTEMBER 13, 2010

ARUGULA & CILANTRO	Harvesting a fair to good quantity of good quality product as supply will increase 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.
CANTALOUPE & MELONS	Harvesting good quality in light 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.
DANDELIONS	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.
LEEEKS	A fair volume of good quality product is available.
LETTUCES	Boston & Romaine harvesting in fair to increasing quantities. Red & Green Leaf starting.
MINT	Harvesting a fair quantity of good quality product.
PARSLEY	Harvesting a fair to increasing quantity of good quality product.
PEACHES	Harvesting a fair to decreasing supply of excellent quality yellow Encore & Lauro. Last week w/ volume. Snow Giant white peaches in light to finishing volume this week. Size and quality good. A good portion of our crop is harvesting or in the cooler. Let's source 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 fair quantity of good quality is available. Volume increasing with the cooler growing weather.
SPINACH	Harvesting good quality in light to fair 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.
SWEET POTATOES	Beginning to harvest but, with curing, volume won't be available for at least another week.
SWISS CHARD	Harvesting a fair to increasing quantity of good quality.
TOMATOES	Harvesting fair to good quality product in light volume. Hot and stressful 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	Mainly round white varieties, with some Yukon Gold, Redskin varieties, and a bit of Russets as well.

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