



Climate summary for the week ending 8am 10/18/10

Temperatures averaged above normal, averaging 52 degrees north, 56 degrees central, and 58 degrees south. Extremes were 82 degrees at Hammonton, Downstown and Cape May Courthouse on October 12, 2010 and 35 degrees at Charlotteburg on October 18, 2010.

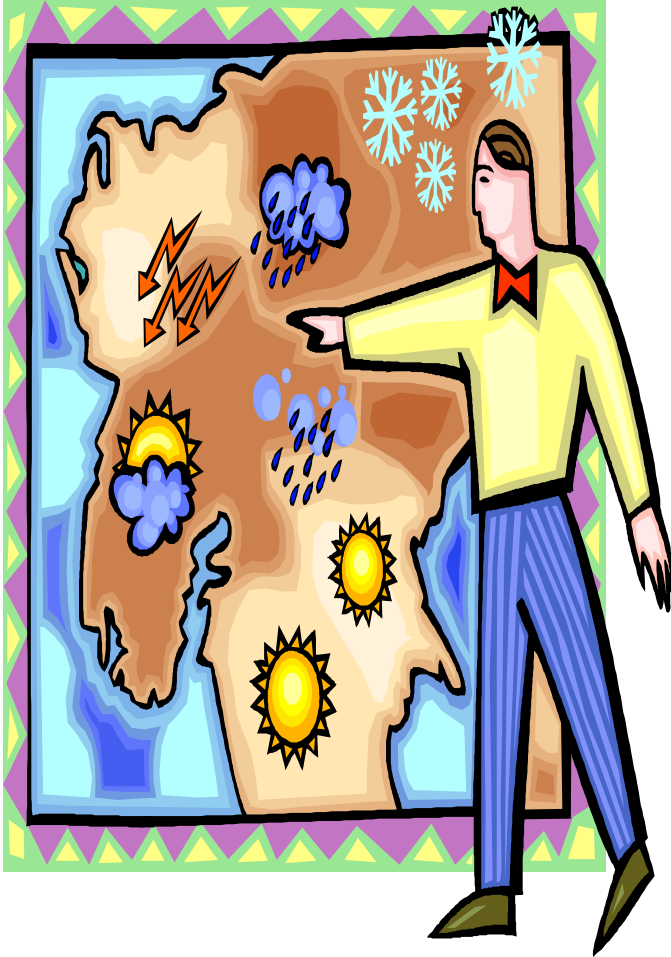
Weekly rainfall averaged 0.97 inches north, 0.91 inches central, and 0.62 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 0.78 inches at Glassboro on October 14, 2010 to October 15, 2010.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 98 percent north, 95 percent central, and 84 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 54 degrees north, 57 degrees central, and 59 degrees south.

Rain Interrupts Fieldwork

Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday, October 17, 2010, were 5.0. Topsoil moisture was rated as 5% short, 80% adequate, and 15% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated as 5% short, 90% adequate, and 5% surplus. There were measurable amounts of rainfall during the week in all localities. Temperatures were above normal across the Garden State. Agricultural producers continued to harvest vegetables, field crops and planting small grains when weather permitted. Corn and soybean crop conditions rated fair to good. Wheat and barley continued to emerge in the north and central districts. Pumpkin quality rated fair to good as harvest near completion. Cranberry and apple harvesting continued. Other activities included baling hay, clearing fields, and spraying herbicides.



Weather Summary for the Week Ending Monday, October 18, 2010

Weather Stations	Rainfall			Temperatures				Growing Degree Days ¹		Soil Moisture ²
	Last Week	Since March 1		Last Week				Total	Dept.*	
	Inches	Total	Dept.*	Max.	Min.	Avg.	Dept.*	Base 50° F	Base 50° F	Percent
North										
Belvidere Bridge	0.75	34.14	3.68	78	36	51	-1	3,191	494	98
Canoe Brook ³	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Charlotteburg	1.25	46.89	14.27	74	35	53	3	3,225	1,101	98
Flemington	0.71	33.47	2.93	78	36	53	1	3,567	782	97
Newton ³	1.15	35.23	5.47	75	36	53	3	3,155	779	98
Central										
Freehold ³	0.87	26.83	-2.89	78	38	55	1	3,740	737	97
Long Branch ³	0.82	32.77	2.67	74	40	56	1	3,719	771	93
New Brunswick	0.94	31.84	1.72	80	36	55	0	3,858	722	97
Toms River	0.84	27.53	-3.40	79	36	56	1	3,732	789	93
Trenton	1.08	26.79	-1.59	79	39	56	0	4,109	838	93
South										
Cape May C.H. ³	0.50	22.85	-3.85	82	40	58	0	3,354	287	81
Downstown	0.51	25.26	-2.62	82	38	57	1	3,663	359	86
Glassboro	0.98	33.98	4.54	80	44	58	3	4,048	798	92
Hammonton	0.61	27.03	-2.29	82	40	58	3	4,150	897	87
Pomona	0.52	25.41	-1.04	81	40	58	3	4,039	1,017	81
Seabrook ³	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
South Harrison ³	0.88	30.32	1.55	81	44	59	N/A	4,180	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

September continued the seven month trend of warmer than usual temperatures as it was the fourth warmest in recorded history. At the same time, we've been "encased in one of the more persistent episodes of below-average precipitation on record". We have also been experiencing very little tropical storm season rain as well this year. Most of the state has received a little bit of rain the last two weeks, though much of our volume production areas in the southern part of the state have not received very much rain, and have been irrigating. There's a 60% chance of rain tonight, and we're 60% probable for tomorrow as well. Today's mid 60's, while cooling a few degrees tomorrow after expected rainfall, will prevail through Thursday. Friday will only reach into the mid 50's, with overnight temperatures into the upper 30's. Good weather returns for the weekend though, with low to mid 60's. Shorter days, and cooler night time temperatures below 50, will adversely affect the remaining "summer" crops, but provide great growing conditions for our "fall" crops such as greens, lettuces, cabbage, white and sweet potatoes, and hard squashes. These crops are growing well but need some rain to mitigate the amount of irrigation going on to produce them properly.

Our tough late summer growing conditions caused heat stress, decreased production levels, and smaller sizes for most late season "summer" produce items. Late season shortages of these "summer" crops, especially tomatoes, peppers, green & yellow squash and cucumbers have resulted. Tomatoes and cucumbers are about finished, while peppers, eggplants, sweet corn, and summer squashes aren't far behind. This same late summer Mediterranean growing climate though has been great for pumpkins, potatoes, and hard squashes. Beautiful color and hardness (shelf life) have resulted. Growers haven't had to worry about bacterial or fungal problems for these fall crops at all and exceptional quality products are becoming available. Please consider sourcing NJ apples for your fall fruit promotions.

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 OCTOBER 18, 2010

APPLES	Fresh apples available from storage thru December. Cider is available until Christmas in wholesale volume, through late Spring for retail sales.
ARUGULA & CILANTRO	Harvesting a good quantity of good quality products.
BABY SPINACH & ARUGULA	Harvesting a good quantity of good quality product.
BASIL & MINT	Harvesting good quality product in very light to decreasing volume. Basil especially likes warmer weather so cooler nights, below 50, are slowing down harvest. Available until frost.
BEETS	Harvesting good quality in good volume. Available thru Thanksgiving.
CABBAGE	Harvesting good quality in good volume. Available thru Thanksgiving.
COLLARDS/KALE	Harvesting good quality in good volume. Likes the cooler weather. Available thru Thanksgiving.
CRANBERRIES	Finished harvesting w/ volume off a little due to hot & stressful growing conditions and a lack of rainfall. The lack of cool overnight temps. has hurt berry color development.
CUCUMBERS	Harvesting a very light to finishing quantity of good quality product.
DANDELIONS	A good volume of good quality Spring planted product.
DILL	Harvesting good quality and fair to decreasing quantity.
EGGPLANT	Harvesting good quality product in light to decreasing supply.
ESCAROLE/ENDIVE	Harvesting good quality in good volume.
LEEKS	A good volume of good quality product is available.
LETTUCES	Boston, Romaine, Red & Green Leaf harvesting in good quality & quantity.
PARSLEY	Harvesting a good quantity of good quality product.
PEPPERS	Harvesting fair to good quality product in very light to finishing supply. Hot and stressful late growing conditions caused growth problems.
PUMPKINS	Harvesting good quality and quantity. Long term heat and lack of rain created tough growing conditions that produced slightly less quantity and size than last year though w/ good color and hardness (shelf life) results. Quality should be excellent though as there has been a lack of disease pressure. Excellent stem quality from irrigated fields. Know your grower.
RADISHES & TURNIPS	Temperature sensitive, a good quantity of good quality are available.
SPINACH	Harvesting very good quality in fair to good quantity.
SQUASH	Harvesting v. light to finishing quantities of good quality yellow & zucchini. Good quantities of acorn and butternut have been harvested and are curing in storage. Hard squashes available through Thanksgiving.
SWEET CORN	Harvesting good quality corn in very light to finishing volume.
SWEET POTATOES	Harvesting & curing very good quality potatoes.
SWISS CHARD	Harvesting a good quantity of good quality.
TOMATOES	Harvesting fair to good quality product in finishing volume.
WHITE POTATOES	We mainly harvest round white varieties, with some Yukon Gold, Redskin varieties, and a bit of Russets as well.

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