



**Agricultural Weather Advisory For New Jersey  
And Southeastern Pennsylvania  
Issued By Rutgers University  
New Brunswick, NJ  
8 am EDT Monday April 18, 2011**

Rainfall amounts less than a tenth of an inch this afternoon, tenth of an inch tonight, and a quarter of an inch Tuesday. Winds for spraying west then south around 10 mph today, southwest around 10 mph tonight, northeast 5 to 10 mph Tuesday.

Relative humidity in percent 40 to 50 today, 90 to 100 tonight, 50 to 60 Tuesday. Dew points mid 30s today, low 40s tonight, near 50 Tuesday. Drying conditions fair today, fair at best Tuesday. Little dew but wetting in showers possible tonight and Tuesday night. Percent of possible sunshine 40 today, 10 Tuesday.

There is a 30 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 will probably remain above freezing due to clouds tonight and again Tuesday night.

Early season hay cutting is not expected to be good for much of the week with period precipitation events.

With full bloom occurring on many peach varieties it does not appear that there will be any critical temperatures for most of the week.

Field work will continue to very limited due to saturated soils. Additional precipitation during the week will not improve the prospects for improved soil moisture levels.

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period April 25, 2011 to May 1, 2011 is calling for temperatures to average above normal and precipitation to average above normal.

**Climate summary for the week ending 8am April 18, 2011**

Temperatures averaged above normal, averaging 53 degrees north, 54 degrees central, and 55 degrees south. Extremes were 90 degrees at Canoe Brook on April 12, 2011 and 36 degrees at Charlotteburg on April 17, 2011.

Weekly rainfall averaged 3.84 inches north, 3.15 inches central, and 2.32 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 3.25 inches at Charlotteburg on April 16, 2011 to April 17, 2011.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 99 percent north, 98 percent central, and 97 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 53 degrees north, 54 degrees central, and 55 degrees south.

**Rainfall Hampers Fieldwork**

Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday, April 17, 2011, were 4.0. Topsoil moisture was rated as 60% adequate and 40% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated as 65% adequate and 35% surplus. There were measurable amounts of rainfall during the week in all localities. Temperatures were above normal for the week across the Garden State.

Fieldwork was delayed by rainfall in most areas. Producers continued planting spring crops where conditions permitted. Wheat, small grains, and hay fields rated mostly fair. Pastures continued greening as growing conditions improved. Many vegetable growers have delayed planting until fields dry out. Asparagus harvest began in central Jersey. Cultivation of blueberries continues. Other activities included spreading fertilizer, spraying herbicides, and greenhouse work.

**Weather Summary for the Week Ending Monday, April 18, 2011**

Weather Stations	Rainfall			Temperatures Last Week				Growing Degree Days <sup>1</sup>		Soil Moisture <sup>2</sup>
	Last Week	Since March 1		Max.	Min.	Avg.	Dept.*	Total	Dept.*	
	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>					<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Degrees</i>
<b>North</b>										
Belvidere Bridge	2.61	9.81	3.61	81	39	52	1	38	37	99
Canoe Brook <sup>3</sup>	4.39	12.51	5.57	90	38	55	5	71	71	99
Charlotteburg	5.13	18.57	11.87	83	36	52	4	42	42	100
Flemington	4.26	12.78	6.18	85	38	52	2	58	58	99
Newton	2.79	11.29	5.37	82	37	53	4	46	46	100
<b>Central</b>										
Freehold	2.71	8.88	2.23	87	40	54	2	77	72	99
Long Branch	2.95	9.45	2.55	78	40	53	2	50	48	98
New Brunswick	3.76	10.43	4.13	86	40	54	1	75	66	99
Toms River	2.85	8.88	2.23	83	42	54	3	72	70	100
Trenton	3.46	9.36	3.32	86	41	56	3	99	81	97
<b>South</b>										
Cape May C.H.	1.58	7.25	1.39	68	39	51	-2	40	27	98
Downstown	2.84	9.11	3.08	80	41	55	1	84	64	100
Hammonton	3.16	8.93	2.80	82	41	56	3	93	76	99
Pomona	1.67	7.63	1.67	78	41	56	4	95	88	97
Seabrook	2.33	8.77	3.43	78	43	58	4	111	89	97
South Harrison <sup>3</sup>	2.84	8.31	2.44	81	42	56	N/A	85	N/A	N/A

\* Departure from normal.

<sup>1</sup> Growing degree days since March 1, 2011, total and departure from normal or long term average.

<sup>2</sup> Estimated soil moisture as % of field capacity based on climate data.

<sup>3</sup> Data not available for all historic comparisons.

## Jersey Fresh Availability & Forecast Report

So far, this Spring has been slightly wetter and cooler than usual. Recent wet weather has continued to procrastinate some growers' desires/abilities to get seed or transplant into the soil since some ground has been too wet to work with heavy farm equipment. Continued warmer temperatures and sunshine would help to dry out our fields and encourage more plowing and planting. The cool overnight temperatures that we continue to get should create quality lettuces and greens but they also cause soil temperatures to stay. This causes our over-wintered crops to be slightly later than normal, especially in comparison to last year when record March and April warmth got everything off to a historically early start. The season is on a normal schedule at this point though. This week should see mid-60's, mostly partly sunny, and several days of possible rain early and late week as farmers continue to struggle with getting back out into their moist cool fields.

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](mailto: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 APRIL 18, 2011

<b>ASPARAGUS</b>	Harvesting has started with a light quantity of good quality product. With the weather continuing to warm, and increasing soil temperatures, the harvest should ramp up quickly.
<b>CILANTRO</b>	A light volume of very good quality over-wintered product is harvesting and available for at least several weeks. Spring planted should be available by mid-May.
<b>DANDELIONS</b>	Good quality over-wintered bunched Italian product is available for some time. Spring planted should be available by the third week of May. San Pasquale variety should be several weeks away.
<b>LEEKs</b>	A very light volume of good quality over-wintered product harvesting after "greening up" and will be available until Spring planted arrives.
<b>PARSLEY</b>	Harvesting a very light volume of good quality over-wintered curly and plain product.
<b>RADISHES</b>	Harvest of good quality product should start late week in light volume which should increase in volume each week.
<b>SPINACH</b>	A light to increasing volume of good quality over-wintered product is available until Spring planted arrives by the end of the month.

### FORECAST

<b>ARUGULA</b>	Harvest should start next week in very light quantity. Volume should pick up each week after that.
<b>BABY SPINACH &amp; ARUGULA</b>	Harvest should start in early May, due to cool weather which prevented early planting.
<b>BEETS</b>	Harvest should begin in mid-May.
<b>CABBAGE</b>	Won't be ready until late May.
<b>COLLARDS</b>	Should begin harvesting in early May.
<b>DILL</b>	Harvest should start next week in very light quantity. Volume should pick up each week after that.
<b>ESCAROLE &amp; ENDIVE</b>	Should begin harvesting around the end of May.
<b>KALE</b>	Good quality over-wintered product should be starting in very light volume next week. Volume should pick up each week.
<b>LETTUCE</b>	Should begin harvesting some Boston by early May. Red & Green Leaf will follow in mid-May, followed by Romaine around the end of May.
<b>MINT</b>	Very good quality should start harvesting next week. Volume should increase each week thereafter.
<b>STRAWBERRIES</b>	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.
<b>SWISS CHARD</b>	Harvest of good quality product should start next week. Volume should pick up each week after that.
<b>TURNIPS</b>	Should begin harvesting around the end of May.