



**Agricultural Weather Advisory For New Jersey
And Southeastern Pennsylvania
Issued By Rutgers University
New Brunswick, NJ
8 am EDT Monday May 2, 2011**

Rainfall amounts less than a tenth of an inch today, none tonight and Tuesday, one to two tenths of an inch with locally higher amounts Tuesday night. Winds for spraying south/southwest 5 to 10 mph through Tuesday.

Relative humidity in percent 40 to 50 today, 90 to 100 tonight, 45 to 55 Tuesday. Dew points mid 40s today, low 50s tonight, mid 50s Tuesday. Drying conditions fair today, fair Tuesday. Light dew tonight, no dew Tuesday night but wetting in showers is likely. Percent of possible sunshine 10 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 remain above freezing tonight and Tuesday night.

Hay cutting will only see fair drying today and Tuesday along with wetting likely Tuesday night and Wednesday morning. Drier air should return for Thursday and several days thereafter.

No critical temperatures are expected in peaches for the next few days.

Soil moisture levels should improve this week. Although there is rain expected Tuesday night into Wednesday morning, widespread heavy amounts are not expected, and then the second half of the week should see improving drying conditions.

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period may 9, 2011 to May 15, 2011 is calling for temperatures to average below normal and precipitation to average above normal.

Climate summary for the week ending 8 am May 2, 2011

Temperatures averaged much above normal, averaging 64 degrees north, 63 degrees central, and 64 degrees south. Extremes were 90 degrees at Canoe Brook on April 27, 2011 and 39 degrees at numerous locations on May 1, 2011.

Weekly rainfall averaged 0.70 inches north, 0.54 inches central, and 0.33 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 0.75 inches at Long Branch on April 28, 2011 to April 29, 2011.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 96 percent north, 92 percent central, and 80 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 62 degrees north, 62 degrees central, and 64 degrees south.

Blueberries in Bloom

Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday, May 1, 2011, were 4.5. Topsoil moisture was rated as 60% adequate and 40% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated as 60% adequate and 40% surplus. There were measurable amounts of rainfall during the week in all localities. Temperatures were mostly above normal for the week across the Garden State.

Farmers continued preparations for spring plantings. Activities included tilling fields, spreading fertilizer, and spraying fungicides. Less supplemental feeding was necessary as pastures continued growing. Producers continued transplanting vegetables and harvesting overwintered crops. Tomato, snap bean, summer-squash, and sweet corn plantings are well underway. Apple trees were past bloom and being chemically thinned. Peach trees were being pruned. Blueberry and strawberry bushes were blooming. Grape vines were leafing out. Cranberry bogs were being drained.

Weather Summary for the Week Ending Monday, May 2, 2011

Weather Stations	Rainfall			Temperatures Last Week				Growing Degree Days ¹		Soil Moisture ²
	Last Week	Since March 1		Max.	Min.	Avg.	Dept.*	Total	Dept.*	
	Inches	Total	Dept.*							Inches
North										
Belvidere Bridge	0.90	11.43	3.40	80	40	61	6	143	98	94
Canoe Brook ³	0.44	14.28	5.45	90	40	68	13	250	215	91
Charlotteburg	0.49	20.60	11.91	82	41	63	11	157	148	93
Flemington	0.90	15.70	7.24	83	39	63	8	187	147	96
Newton	0.78	12.81	5.06	81	39	63	10	154	136	94
Central										
Freehold	0.22	10.12	1.75	84	39	63	7	206	143	87
Long Branch	0.75	11.25	2.59	78	43	58	3	135	86	90
New Brunswick	0.73	12.85	4.79	84	40	64	7	211	129	95
Toms River ³	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Trenton	0.45	11.05	3.46	83	43	66	8	262	163	82
South										
Cape May C.H.	0.56	8.04	0.67	75	41	58	1	145	62	83
Downstown	0.10	9.81	2.21	86	39	66	8	265	160	69
Hammonton	0.14	9.62	1.83	88	41	67	9	285	191	63
Pomona	0.29	8.62	1.19	84	40	64	8	263	196	74
Seabrook	0.56	9.52	2.73	85	45	66	8	288	180	72
South Harrison ³	0.31	9.19	1.91	84	43	66	N/A	264	N/A	N/A

* Departure from normal.

¹ Growing degree days since March 1, 2011, 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

So far, this Spring has been slightly wetter and cooler than usual though recent weather has been a bit drier and warmer. Early Spring wet and cool weather procrastinated 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. Continuing warmer temperatures and sunshine is helping to dry out our fields and encourage more plowing and planting. The cool overnight temperatures that we continue to get are creating quality lettuces and greens but they also cause soil temperatures to stay cool. This has caused 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 today's high 60's rise almost ten degrees tomorrow but then overnight rain tomorrow night, into Wednesday, will see temperatures fall down into the low 60's where it will remain until it rises a few degrees into the high 60's by Friday where it will remain through the weekend.

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 MAY 2, 2011

ARUGULA	Harvesting a light quantity of very good quality product. Volume increasing each week.
ASPARAGUS	Harvesting a fair to good quantity of good quality product. With the weather continuing to warm, and increasing soil temperatures, the harvest is increasing weekly.
BEETS	Harvesting very good quality product in very light quantity.
CILANTRO	A fair to good 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.
COLLARDS	Harvesting very good quality product in very light quantity.
DANDELIONS	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 starting to harvest.
DILL	Harvest starting in very light quantity. Volume should pick up each week after that.
KALE	Good quality over-wintered product should be starting in very light volume. Volume should pick up each week.
LEEKS	A light volume of good quality over-wintered product harvesting and will be available until Spring planted arrives.
LETTUCES	Harvesting fair to good quantity of very good quality Boston. Red & Green Leaf harvesting in light volume. Romaine starting in very light volume.
MINT	Very good quality harvesting in fair to good volume already. Volume should increase each week.
PARSLEY	Harvesting a fair volume of good quality over-wintered curly and plain product.
RADISHES	Harvesting a light to fair volume of good quality product.
SPINACH	A fair to good volume of good quality over-wintered product available until Spring planted arrives mid-month.
SWISS CHARD	Harvest of good quality product starting in very light volume. Volume should pick up each week.

FORECAST

BABY SPINACH & ARUGULA	Harvest should start next week for spinach and two weeks for arugula, due to cool weather which prevented early planting.
CABBAGE	Won't be ready until late May.
ESCAROLE & ENDIVE	Should begin harvesting next week in very light quantity.
STRAWBERRIES	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.
TURNIPS	Should begin harvesting around the end of May.

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