



Agricultural Weather Advisory For New Jersey
And Southeastern Pennsylvania
Issued By Rutgers University
New Brunswick, NJ
8 am EDT Monday May 9, 2011

Rainfall amounts none through Tuesday. Winds for spraying mostly north 5 to 15 mph through Tuesday.

Relative humidity in percent 30 to 40 today, 90 to 100 tonight, 30 to 40 Tuesday. Dew points upper 30s to low 40s through Tuesday. Drying conditions good today, good Tuesday. Light dew tonight and Tuesday night. Percent of possible sunshine 80 today, 80 Tuesday.

There is less than a 10 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.

Temperatures in the representative cranberry bogs could drop to 26 to 30 degrees tonight and 26 to 30 degrees Tuesday night.

Hay cutting will see good drying conditions through Thursday with the next threat of showers Friday.

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

Soil moisture will continue to improve over the next several days and therefore plowing and planting should continue to increase for most of the week.

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period May 16, 2011 to May 22, 2011 is calling for temperatures to average near normal south and above normal north and precipitation to average near normal.

Climate summary for the week ending 8am May 9, 2011

Temperatures averaged near normal north and below normal central and south, averaging 57 degrees north, 58 degrees central, and 59 degrees south. Extremes were 85 degrees at Canoe Brook on May 4, 2011 and 35 degrees at Charlotteburg on May 7, 2011.

Weekly rainfall averaged 0.55 inches north, 0.67 inches central, and 0.85 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 0.93 inches at Hammonton on May 4, 2011 to May 5, 2011.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 94 percent north, 90 percent central, and 84 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 58 degrees north, 58 degrees central, and 59 degrees south.

Blueberry Bushes in Full Bloom

Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday, May 8, 2011, were 6.0. Topsoil moisture was rated as 5% short, 75% adequate, and 20% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated as 80% adequate and 20% surplus. Pasture and range condition was rated as 10% fair, 55% good, and 35% excellent. There were measurable amounts of rainfall during the week in all localities. Temperatures were mostly below normal for the week across the Garden State.

Sunny weather improved field conditions for spring plantings. Activities throughout the week included tilling fields, planting row-crops, and spreading fertilizer. Field-corn plants have emerged in some areas. Crop conditions for alfalfa and other hay varieties rated mostly good. Less supplemental feeding was necessary as pastures continued growing. Producers continued planting and transplanting summer vegetables. Spring vegetable harvest of lettuce and spinach was underway. Blueberry bushes, peach trees, and apple trees were all blooming.

Weather Summary for the Week Ending Monday, May 9, 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.*	
		Total	Dept.*							
	Inches	Inches	Inches	Degrees	Degrees	Degrees	Degrees			Percent
North										
Belvidere Bridge	0.46	11.89	3.05	78	36	54	-4	173	81	92
Canoe Brook ³	0.37	14.65	4.92	85	37	60	3	324	247	85
Charlotteburg	0.73	21.33	11.74	78	35	56	1	198	163	93
Flemington	0.69	16.39	7.10	83	36	57	0	241	157	94
Newton	0.52	13.33	4.79	79	37	56	0	200	149	93
Central										
Freehold	0.79	10.91	1.69	76	39	57	-2	261	143	90
Long Branch	0.82	12.07	2.54	72	40	56	-2	180	84	86
New Brunswick	0.54	13.39	4.45	77	37	58	-2	270	130	92
Toms River ³	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Trenton	0.54	11.59	3.24	83	40	60	0	333	171	77
South										
Cape May C.H.	0.80	8.84	0.74	72	40	56	-3	192	52	86
Downtown	0.76	10.57	2.23	83	38	59	-1	331	160	77
Hammonton	0.94	10.56	1.98	84	41	60	0	358	202	82
Pomona	0.91	9.53	1.40	79	43	59	0	331	210	83
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	0.62	9.81	1.73	82	45	61	N/A	340	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 historic comparisons.

Jersey Fresh Availability & Forecast Report

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 low 70's and dry weather. This will help our farmers to be busy in their 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 at any time if you have questions or need more information about Jersey Fresh availability.

BILL WALKER – NJ DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

AVAILABILITY FOR MAY 9, 2011

ARUGULA	Harvesting a light to fair quantity of very good quality product. Volume increasing each week.
ASPARAGUS	Harvesting a good quantity of very good quality product. Slowly warming weather & soil temperatures have brought the harvest along gradually.
BABY SPINACH	Starting to harvest very good quality baby spinach in very light volume which will increase each week. Cool and wet early Spring weather prevented early planting this year.
BEETS	Harvesting very good quality product in light quantity.
CILANTRO	A good volume of very good quality over-wintered product is harvesting and available for at least several weeks. Spring planted becoming available next week.
COLLARDS	Harvesting very good quality product in light quantity.
DANDELIONS	Good quality over-wintered bunched Italian product is available with Spring planted expected next week. San Pasquale variety now harvesting in increasing volume.
DILL	Harvesting in light to increasing quantity.
ESCAROLE & ENDIVE	Harvesting of very good quality products has begun in very light quantities.
KALE	Good quality over-wintered product now harvesting in light volume. Volume will pick up each week.
LEEKS	A light to fair volume of good quality over-wintered product harvesting and will be available until Spring planted arrives.
LETTUCES	Harvesting good quantity of very good quality Boston. Red & Green Leaf harvesting in fair volume. Romaine harvesting in light volume.
MINT	Very good quality harvesting in good volume already.
PARSLEY	Harvesting a fair to good volume of good quality over-wintered curly and plain product.
RADISHES	Harvesting a fair volume of good quality product.
SPINACH	A good volume of good quality over-wintered product available until Spring planted arrives next week.
STRAWBERRIES	Early harvests of Chandler variety berries are expected to begin later this week. The bulk of the crop will be harvested towards the end of the month, with light volume to continue through early June depending on how warm the temperatures rise.
SWISS CHARD	Harvesting very good quality product in light volume. Volume should pick up each week.

FORECAST

BABY ARUGULA	Harvest should start next week for baby arugula due to cool weather which prevented early planting.
CABBAGE	Should begin harvesting towards the end of May.
CUCUMBERS	Pickles should begin towards the end of the month, followed a week later by cukes.
SQUASH	Tunnel started should start late month or early June, followed by field grown a week or so later.
TURNIPS	Should begin harvesting towards the end of May.

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