



**Agricultural Weather Advisory For New Jersey
And Southeastern Pennsylvania
Issued By Rutgers University
New Brunswick, NJ
8 am EDT Tuesday May 31, 2011**

Rainfall amounts none today and tonight, a quarter of an inch possible later Wednesday and Wednesday night. Winds for spraying southeast 5 to 10 mph today, south 5 to 10 mph tonight, southwest 10 to 15 mph Wednesday.

Relative humidity in percent 50 to 60 today, 90 to 100 tonight, 50 to 60 Wednesday. Dew points upper 50s to low 60s through Wednesday. Drying conditions fair today and Wednesday but with some locally poor areas Wednesday.

Light dew tonight, some dew as well as possible wetting in showers Wednesday night. Percent of possible sunshine 80 today, 40 Wednesday.

There is less than a 10 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 for the next several nights. This will be the last report until conditions warrant it.

Hay cutting will be fairly good today but tomorrow runs a risk of wetting in scattered showers. Drier and warm weather should be in place for the second half of the week.

Soil moisture levels in general are decreasing and should continue to decrease over the next few days, but with some showers later Wednesday and Wednesday night.

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period June 7, 2011 to June 13, 2011 is calling for temperatures to average above normal and precipitation to average near normal.

Climate summary for the week ending 8am May 30, 2011.

Temperatures averaged much above normal, averaging 71 degrees north, 72 degrees central, and 74 degrees south. Extremes were 91 degrees at Downtown on May 27, 2011 and 48 degrees at Belvidere on May 24, 2011.

Weekly rainfall averaged 0.80 inches north, 0.31 inches central, and 0.29 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 0.96 inches at Belvidere on May 23, 2011 to May 24, 2011.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 90 percent north, 79 percent central, and 70 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 67 degrees north, 68 degrees central, and 66 degrees south.

Early-Season Strawberry Harvest Continues

Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday, May 29, 2011, were 6.0. Topsoil moisture was rated as 10% short, 65% adequate, and 25% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated as 5% short, 75% adequate, and 20% surplus. Pasture and range condition was rated as 5% fair, 60% good, and 35% excellent. There were measurable amounts of rainfall during the week in some localities. Temperatures were above normal across the Garden State.

Rising temperatures and adequate soil moisture provided suitable growing conditions for field crops. Corn and soybean plantings progressed with crop conditions rated fair to good. Early-season soybean plants began to emerge in the central district. Producers continued first-cuttings of alfalfa and other hay varieties. Summer vegetable plantings included cucumbers, fresh-market tomatoes, peppers, sweet corn, and squash. Early-season strawberry harvest continued, while blueberry growers began preparing for harvest. Other activities throughout the week included spreading fertilizer, spraying fungicides, greenhouse work, and irrigating.

Weather Summary for the Week Ending Monday, May 31, 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	1.59	17.65	6.39	86	48	68	4	423	103	92
Canoe Brook ³	1.12	19.32	6.87	90	59	75	12	657	364	84
Charlotteburg	0.08	27.01	14.75	85	51	69	8	464	264	72
Flemington	0.33	19.63	7.85	89	58	72	8	546	236	85
Newton										
Central										
Freehold	0.89	17.39	6.48	86	54	70	8	480	239	88
Freehold	0.28	12.96	1.20	89	57	73	8	587	215	78
Long Branch	0.30	14.60	2.46	84	58	69	5	451	125	70
New Brunswick	0.29	16.02	4.44	89	58	73	7	592	189	82
Toms River ³	0.12	11.30	-0.42	86	59	72	9	434	87	52
Trenton	0.56	14.50	3.86	90	57	74	8	689	245	69
South										
Cape May C.H. ³	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Downtown	0.01	12.33	1.75	91	57	74	7	683	225	54
Hammonton	0.00	11.64	0.68	90	59	75	9	753	321	43
Pomona	0.57	11.95	1.74	88	61	74	9	671	301	56
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	0.01	11.54	1.07	90	59	75	N/A	704	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

There has been a rather wide disparity in rain totals throughout the state this spring, with the north central region the wettest and far south the driest. While wet conditions over the course of the spring slowed the progress of agricultural work, river discharges are above average, and ground water levels are decent and reservoirs are full. Irrigation efforts by our NJ farmers should not be hampered this season by a lack of water. Perhaps our sense of a cool spring is due to this year being so much cooler than last season's record warmth. This week will continue our hot trend. We should see upper 80's for most of the week until later in the week temperatures should fall a few degrees each day until 80 is the expected high on Saturday. Temperatures will then start to trend a bit upward. A 40% chance of rain tomorrow would certainly help to cool things off but is the only potential rain of the week. Fortunately, our farmers have the knowhow and the ability to irrigate like no one else. We'd always rather have to put the water on than try and get it off! The season is on a normal schedule at this point though.

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 31, 2011

ARUGULA	Harvesting a good quantity of very good quality product.
ASPARAGUS	Harvesting a fair to quickly decreasing quantity of very good quality product. Slowly warming weather & soil temperatures have brought the harvest along gradually.
BABY SPINACH & ARUGULA	Harvesting very good quality baby spinach in good volume. Harvesting of baby arugula in fair to good volume. Wet early Spring weather prevented early planting this year.
BEETS	Harvesting very good quality product in good quantity.
CABBAGE	Beginning to harvest excellent quality product in light to quickly increasing volume.
CILANTRO	A good volume of very good quality product is harvesting.
COLLARDS	Harvesting very good quality product in fair to good quantity.
CUCUMBERS	Pickles beginning, followed by cukes next week.
DANDELIONS	Good quality Italian product is available. San Pasquale variety also harvesting in fair to good volume.
DILL	Harvesting very good quality in good quantity.
ESCAROLE & ENDIVE	Harvesting of very good quality products in fair to good quantities.
KALE	Good quality over-wintered product harvesting in good volume.
LEEKS	A good volume and quality of over-wintered product harvesting and will be available until Spring planted arrives.
LETTUCES	Harvesting good quantity of excellent quality Boston, Red & Green Leaf, and Romaine. Great growing conditions have helped. Prolonged unseasonable warmth will curtail the Spring season
MINT	Very good quality harvesting in good volume.
PARSLEY	Harvesting a 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 product available with Spring planted now harvesting.
SQUASH	Tunnel started product began last week, now in light to fair volume and very good quality with field grown product starting as well.
STRAWBERRIES	Harvesting a fair to quickly decreasing quantity of good quality Chandler variety berries. Significant and spotty rain in some areas has complicated harvesting efforts and given some shelf-life concerns. The bulk of the crop will be finished harvesting this week, with decreasing volume to continue into June, depending on how warm temperatures rise.
SWISS CHARD	Harvesting very good quality product in good volume.
TURNIPS	Just starting to harvest very good quality in light quantity.

FORECAST

BASIL	Likes warmer weather. Should be starting mid-June.
BLUEBERRIES	Minor quantities of early varieties like Weymouth starting in mid-June. The much more widely planted Duke variety will start 3-4 days later, with volume available a week later.