



Agricultural Weather Advisory For New Jersey
And Southeastern Pennsylvania
Issued By Rutgers University
New Brunswick, NJ
8 am EDT Monday October 3, 2011

Rainfall amounts a tenth of an inch today, tenth of an inch tonight, less than a tenth of an inch Tuesday. Winds for spraying northeast 5 mph today and tonight, northwest 10 to 15 mph Tuesday.

Relative humidity in percent 50 to 60 today, 90 to 100 tonight, 45 to 55 Tuesday. Dew points low 40s today, mid 40s tonight, upper 40s Tuesday. Drying conditions fair at best today, fair Tuesday. Frost freeze or some dew as well as possible wetting in showers tonight, heavy dew Tuesday night. Percent of possible sunshine 10 today, 20 Tuesday.

There is a 50 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.

Hay cutting still runs the risk of wetting in showers through Tuesday. An extended dry period should begin on Wednesday.

Temperatures in the representative cranberry bogs should remain above freezing tonight and Tuesday night.

Soil moisture levels will remain high for the next few days.

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period October 10, 2011 to October 16, 2011 is calling for temperatures to average above normal and precipitation to average above normal.

Climate summary for the week ending 8 am October 3, 2011

Temperatures averaged much above normal, averaging 64 degrees north, 66 degrees central, and 68 degrees south. Extremes were 84 degrees at Seabrook on September 28, 2011 and 40 degrees at Freehold on October 3, 2011.

Weekly rainfall averaged 3.38 inches north, 1.31 inches central, and 1.31 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 4.08 inches at Newton on September 28, 2011 to September 29, 2011.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 98 percent north, 91 percent central, and 91 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 69 degrees north, 69 degrees central, and 70 degrees south.

Field-Corn Harvest Slowly Progresses

Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday, October 2, 2011 were 4.5. Topsoil moisture was rated as 40% adequate and 60% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated as 45% adequate and 55% surplus. Pasture and Range condition was rated at 5% very poor, 10% poor, 35% fair, 45% good, and 5% excellent. There were measurable amounts of rainfall during the week in most localities. Temperatures were above normal across the Garden State.

Producers continued harvesting corn for grain where fields permitted. Crop conditions rated mostly fair as surplus moisture increased fungal presence in corn ears. Leaf drop on soybean plants continued. Hay production was slowed by inclement weather in some localities. Cranberry harvesting was well underway in the central district. Other activities included planting cover-crops, harvesting fall-vegetables, and picking fruit.

Weather Summary for the Week Ending Monday, October 3, 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	Inches	Inches					Degrees	Degrees	Degrees
North										
Belvidere Bridge ³	3.26	49.80	21.01	79	46	63	6	2,687	58	100
Canoe Brook ³	1.31	47.71	17.43	80	46	66	8	3,177	532	99
Charlotteburg ³	2.42	47.68	17.07	80	44	63	8	2,492	403	100
Flemington ³	4.17	49.23	20.36	81	45	64	6	3,185	474	99
Newton	5.73	59.27	31.15	82	46	65	10	3,059	714	99
Central										
Freehold	1.02	46.42	18.39	81	40	66	6	3,526	631	98
Long Branch	2.24	49.61	21.24	76	43	65	5	3,295	455	98
New Brunswick	1.32	46.18	17.67	83	43	67	7	3,546	520	98
Toms River ³	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Trenton	0.68	42.25	15.30	83	49	68	7	3,843	692	84
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 ³	1.44	31.52	5.17	81	47	67	5	3,231	58	100
Hammonton ³	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pomona	1.34	31.84	6.87	81	49	68	8	3,875	960	95
Seabrook ³	1.13	49.58	24.12	84	45	67	5	3,954	760	100
South Harrison ³	1.33	N/A	N/A	82	48	68	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

*Departure from normal.

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

²Estimated soil moisture as % of field capacity based on climate data.

³Data not available for all historic comparisons.

Jersey Fresh Availability & Forecast Report

What a difference a year makes. Last year, at this time, I sent out a report that said “We are in the midst of the worst early Fall drought in several decades”. This year, excessive rains over the last two months have had a detrimental effect on our crops. Farmers were unable to maintain regular cultural practices during this time due to excessive wetness and this was the biggest problem for many crops. Farmers could not get heavy machinery into wet fields, or maintain other proper cultural practices, to work during this time. Some plantings of lettuces, and greens, were washed out or delayed after already enduring stressful growing conditions. Ground crops incurred some excessive water damage and wet field disease conditions that have caused growth and quality problems for tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, eggplants, squash, and especially pumpkins effectively curtailing the seasons for all of these items.

This week’s dry weather and seasonal temperatures will help our farm fields to continue to dry out. This would allow our farmers to get out into their fields with their machinery while also discouraging field disease problems that have been occurring in our wet fields. This week’s temperatures are seasonal, with a warming trend at the end of the week which will see us in the upper 70’s for this weekend. Sunny days should also help our Fall products to mature/ripen nicely. The cooler night time temperatures, in the upper 40’s, will adversely affect the remaining “Summer” crops, but provide great growing conditions for our “Fall” crops. In addition, apples and cranberries need cooler overnight temperatures to increase their red color.

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 3, 2011

APPLES	Fresh apples available thru Dec. Harvest quantity is a bit off this year, and quality a bit variable, due to tough growing conditions. Wholesale availability is tight since many growers have retail options. Red & Golden Delicious, Empire, Jonagold, Rome, and MacCoun harvesting. Stayman/Winesap & Fuji starting. Braeburn & Granny Smith will start in a week or so. It’s been hard to follow proper cultural practices during the last two months due to excessively wet weather so expect some less than perfect apples this season. More cool nights would help in the development of color.
ARUGULA	Harvesting a light quantity of good quality product. Volume returning a little bit with the cooler weather.
BABY SPINACH & ARUGULA	Harvesting good quality product in fair quantity as growers have been able to get their harvesters back out into drying fields.
BASIL	Likes warmer weather, so with nights getting below 50, the harvest is slowing down. Harvesting a very light volume of variable quality product as wet field conditions have caused some quality problems.
BEETS	Harvesting fair to good quality product in fair quantity.
CABBAGE	Harvesting good quality product in fair to good volume.
CILANTRO	A fair volume of good quality product harvesting with the cooler weather.
CRANBERRIES	Red harvesting began last week w/ volume off very slightly from last year due to extreme weather growing conditions. We need some cool overnight temperatures to help with berry color.
COLLARDS	Harvesting good quality product in fair to good volume.
CUCUMBERS	Harvesting light quantities of variable quality product. There will be supply shortages as field disease conditions have resulted in some locations which are negatively affecting the rest of our Fall cucurbit season.
DANDELIONS	Good quality Italian & San Pasquale varieties harvesting in fair volume.
DILL	Harvesting good quality in very light to decreasing quantity.
EGGPLANT	Harvesting variable quality in light to decreasing supplies. Hot and stressful July growing conditions, coupled with two months of excessive wetness, resulted in some growth and quality issues. Wet field disease conditions have resulted in some locations which has negatively affected the rest of the season.
ESCAROLE & ENDIVE	Harvesting good quality products in light to increasing volume with the return of cooler weather.
KALE	Good quality product harvesting in fair volume.
LEEKS	A fair volume of good quality harvesting.
LETTUCES	Almost two months of excessive rain has caused some plantings to be washed out or delayed. Some late transplants are being harvested for a couple of weeks though there’s a big shortage of normally available product.
MINT	Likes warmer weather, so with nights getting below 50, the harvest is slowing down. Good quality harvesting in light to declining volume.
PARSLEY	Harvesting a light to fair volume of good quality product.
PEPPERS	Harvesting variable quality in light supply. Supply shortages due to wet field disease conditions that have negatively affected the rest of the season.
PUMPKINS	Expect little local product due to wet growing conditions and field disease conditions which have resulted in many areas.
RADISHES & TURNIPS	Starting to return with the cooler weather over the next several weeks.
SPINACH	A light volume of good quality product as a small flush of late supply is now harvesting for a few weeks. More supply would normally be expected with the cooler Fall harvest season but adverse growing conditions these last two months have resulted in less quantity than usual and later harvesting.
SQUASH	Harvesting a light to decreasing quantity of variable quality yellow/zucchini. July’s record hot growing conditions, coupled with record wet conditions for two months, means that there will be much less supply of squash than normal. Butternut & Acorn have been harvested, cured, and stored for later sale.
SWEET CORN	Harvesting variable quality in very light to decreasing supply as much corn was knocked down by the hurricane and follow-up rains the following week. Supply shortage for the remainder of the season. The annual cycle of insect pressure is also contributing to quality variability.
SWEET POTATOES	Harvesting good quality in fair to good supply. Sweets seem fine from the wet growing weather though a bit delicate upon being first dug. With curing, volume is becoming available.
SWISS CHARD	Harvesting good quality product in light to fair volume.
TOMATOES	Harvesting variable quality product in light volume as some late plantings are harvesting for a few weeks. There are supply shortages as wet field disease conditions in some locations have resulted which are negatively affecting the rest of the season.
WHITE POTATOES	We’ve harvested mainly round white varieties, with some Yukon Gold, Redskin varieties, and a bit of Russets as well.