



Climate summary for the week ending 8am October 10, 2011

Temperatures averaged above normal north and near normal central and south, averaging 57 degrees north, 59 degrees central, and 59 degrees south. Extremes were 88 degrees at New Brunswick on October 10, 2011 and 36 degrees at Charlotteburg on October 8, 2011.

Weekly rainfall averaged 0.21 inches north, 0.00 inches central, and 0.05 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 0.33 inches at Newton on October 4, 2011 to October 5, 2011.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 96 percent north, 90 percent central, and 88 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 57 degrees north, 58 degrees central, and 59 degrees south.

Apple Harvest Progresses

Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday, October 9, 2011 were 6.5. Topsoil moisture was rated as 60% adequate and 40% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated as 65% adequate and 35% surplus. Pasture and Range condition was rated at 10% poor, 40% fair, 40% good, and 10% excellent. There were minimal amounts of rainfall during the week in a few localities. Temperatures were mostly at or above normal across the Garden State.

Agricultural producers continued harvesting corn for grain, planting fall-cover crops, baling hay, and clearing fields. Crop conditions rated mostly good for soybeans as leaves continued dropping. Vegetable growers continued harvesting fall varieties of cabbage, snap beans, and spinach in the central district. Pumpkin quality rated poor to fair as harvest neared completion. Cranberry and apple harvesting continued.

Weather Summary for the Week Ending Monday, October 10, 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	0.25	50.05	20.48	83	38	56	1	2,731	60	87
Canoe Brook ³	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Charlotteburg ³	0.20	47.88	16.33	83	36	56	3	2,537	422	91
Flemington ³	0.02	49.25	19.60	83	38	57	2	3,232	476	91
Newton	0.36	59.63	30.75	82	37	57	5	3,109	740	92
Central										
Freehold	0.00	46.42	17.60	84	39	57	0 3	3,581	625	88
Long Branch ³	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
New Brunswick	0.00	46.18	16.92	88	40	59	1	3,609	522	89
Toms River ³	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Trenton	0.01	42.26	14.64	86	44	60	2	3,914	698	71
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
Downstown ³	0.02	31.54	4.48	84	40	58	-1	3,285	41	79
Hammonton ³	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pomona	0.06	31.90	6.24	86	42	59	2	3,939	964	73
Seabrook ³	0.06	49.64	23.44	83	44	59	0	4,021	755	79
South Harrison ³	0.01	N/A	N/A	86	44	60	N/A	N/A	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

Recent dry weather and sunny skies, and warmer than usual temperatures, have helped our farm fields to dry out and allowed our fall products to mature/ripen nicely. Night time temperatures were also warmer recently though they will start to fall again towards the end of the week. 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 11, 2011

APPLES	Fresh apples available thru Dec. Wholesale availability are tight since many growers have retail options. Red & Golden Delicious, Empire, Jonagold, Rome, and MacCoun harvesting. Stayman/Winesap & Fuji harvesting. Braeburn & Granny Smith starting soon. 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. 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. Available until frost.
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. Available until frost.
BEETS	Harvesting fair to good quality product in fair quantity. Available thru Thanksgiving.
CABBAGE	Harvesting good quality product in fair to good volume. Available thru Thanksgiving.
CILANTRO	A fair volume of good quality product harvesting with the cooler weather. Available until frost.
CRANBERRIES	Red harvesting 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 volume.
CUCUMBERS	Harvesting very light quantities of variable quality product. There are supply shortages as field disease conditions have resulted in some locations which have negatively affected 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 very light to decreasing supplies. Hot and stressful growing conditions, coupled with two months of excessive wetness, have resulted in some growth and quality issues which have negatively affected the rest of the season.
ESCAROLE & ENDIVE	Harvesting good quality products in light volume.
KALE	Good quality product harvesting in fair volume. Available thru Thanksgiving.
LEEKS	A fair volume of good quality harvesting.
LETTUCES	Very light supplies of product. 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. Good quality harvesting in light to declining volume. Available until frost.
PARSLEY	Harvesting a light 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 in light volume with the cooler weather over the next several weeks.
SPINACH	A very 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 very light to decreasing quantity of variable quality yellow & zucchini. Hot growing conditions, coupled with record rainfall for two months, means that there is 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. The annual cycle of insect pressure is 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 very light volume as some late plantings are harvesting for a few weeks. There are supply shortages as wet field disease conditions in some locations 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.