



**Rain Alleviated Some Producer Concerns**

*Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday, April 22, 2012 were 6. Topsoil moisture was rated as 30% very short, 30% short, and 40% adequate. Subsoil moisture was rated as 10% very short, 45% short, and 45% adequate. Pasture and Range condition was rated at 15% very poor, 15% poor, 30% fair, and 40% good.*

*There were measurable amounts of rainfall towards the end of the week. Temperatures reached highs in the low 80s to low 90s and lows in the upper 30s to mid 40s across the Garden State. The majority of winter wheat has headed and the condition is 40% fair and 60% good. Extremely dry conditions prevailed until the rain late Saturday and Sunday. The rain alleviated some producer concerns about seed germination. Spinach harvest began this week while asparagus harvest continues. Strawberry, blueberry, and peach crops are progressing. Peaches may have suffered some additional frost damage early last week but still should have a crop. Apples condition is good. Producers continue to work the fields. The welcome moisture will make continued plowing and planting go easier. Farmers are planting corn, squash, cucumbers, and tomatoes. Cooler temperatures have slowed the season back closer to normal.*

**Climate summary for the week ending 8am April 23, 2012**

Temperatures averaged much, much above normal, averaging 60 degrees north, 61 degrees central, and 61 degrees south. Extremes were 91 degrees at New Brunswick and Canoe Brook on the April 17, 2012 and 39 degrees at Downtown on April 21, 2012.

Weekly rainfall averaged 2.42 inches north, 2.72 inches central, and 2.30 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 3.34 inches at Long Branch on April 22, 2012 to April 23, 2012.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 88 percent north, 76 percent central, and 72 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 59 degrees north, 61 degrees central and 60 degrees south.

**Agricultural Weather Advisory for New Jersey and Southeastern Pennsylvania  
Issued By Rutgers University- New Brunswick, NJ  
8 am EDT Tuesday April 23, 2012**

Rainfall amounts less than a tenth of an inch today, tonight and Tuesday. Winds for spraying southwest 15 to 20 mph and gusty today, southwest 10 to 15 mph tonight, southwest 15 to 20 mph and gusty Tuesday.

Relative humidity in percent 70 to 80 today, 90 to 100 tonight, 40 to 50 Tuesday. Dew points dropping from the mid 40s this morning to near 30 by Tuesday morning and remaining near 30 through Tuesday.

Drying conditions fair at best today, becoming good Tuesday. Frost freeze or dew little tonight but wetting in a shower is possible, little Tuesday night. Percent of possible sunshine 10 today, 30 Tuesday.

There is a 20 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 probably remain above freezing due to clouds and winds tonight and again Tuesday night.

Hay cutting will see improving drying conditions today but entering soft fields will be a problem.

Soil moisture levels have significantly increased during Sunday's heavy rainfall. Only light additional rainfall amounts are expected for the next several days. Four inch soil temperatures have dropped into the 40s.

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period April 30, 2012 to May 6, 2012 is calling for temperatures to average above normal and precipitation to average below normal.

**Weather Summary for the Week Ending Monday, April 23, 2012**

Weather Stations	Rainfall			Temperatures Last Week				Growing Degree Days <sup>1</sup>		Soil Moisture <sup>2</sup>
	Last Week	Since March 1		Max.	Min.	Avg.	Dept.*	Total	Dept.*	
		Total	Dept.*							Inches
<b>North</b>										
Belvidere Bridge .....	2.45	4.07	-2.80	86	42	57	5	173	164	100
Canoe Brook .....	2.43	4.43	-3.19	91	46	62	10	256	251	100
Charlotteburg.....	2.06	3.90	-3.53	90	40	59	9	198	198	100
Flemington.....	3.02	5.10	-2.18	90	43	60	8	212	205	100
Newton .....	2.15	3.77	-2.81	88	41	59	9	203	203	100
<b>Central</b>										
Freehold .....	2.54	4.52	-2.75	90	41	61	8	248	230	100
Long Branch .....	3.46	6.31	-1.22	82	45	58	5	173	161	100
New Brunswick.....	2.75	5.15	-1.78	91	44	61	6	250	221	100
Toms River .....	2.64	4.84	-2.47	87	41	61	8	230	217	100
Trenton.....	2.19	4.23	-2.36	91	48	64	9	340	300	100
<b>South</b>										
Cape May C.H. ....	2.71	5.16	-1.24	81	41	58	4	180	149	100
Downtown.....	2.02	3.81	-2.79	88	39	62	7	262	219	100
Glassboro.....	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hammonton.....	2.49	4.94	-1.79	90	43	62	7	269	232	100
Pomona.....	1.91	4.97	-1.52	83	40	60	6	275	253	100
Seabrook.....	2.36	4.72	-1.13	87	43	62	7	312	267	100
South Harrison.....	1.82	4.53	-1.95	87	45	62	N/A	305	N/A	N/A

\* Departure from normal.

<sup>1</sup> Growing degree days since March 1, 2012, total and departure from normal or long term average.

<sup>2</sup> Estimated soil moisture as % of field capacity based on climate data.

<sup>3</sup> Data not available.

## JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR APRIL 23, 2012

<b>ARRUGULA</b>	Harvesting in very light quantity. Volume should pick up each week.
<b>ASPARAGUS</b>	Earliest harvest in many years. Harvesting a light to slowly increasing volume of good quality product. With increasing soil temperatures, harvest volume will increase each week.
<b>BABY SPINACH &amp; ARUGULA</b>	Harvest should start this week.
<b>CILANTRO</b>	A light volume of good quality over-wintered product is finishing up while Spring planted product starts to become available.
<b>COLLARDS/KALE</b>	A very light volume of good quality over-wintered product is finishing up while Spring planted products start to become available.
<b>DANDELIONS</b>	Good quality over-wintered bunched Italian product is available now and for some time. Spring planted should be starting this week with San Pasquale variety starting in a week or so.
<b>DILL</b>	Harvesting in very light quantity. Volume should pick up each week.
<b>LEEKs</b>	A light volume of good quality over-wintered product available as it has "greened up" very quickly and will be available until Spring planted product arrives in a week or so.
<b>MINT</b>	A light volume of very good quality harvesting. Volume should increase each week.
<b>PARSLEY</b>	Harvesting a light volume of good quality over-wintered curly and plain product while Spring planted products start to become available.
<b>RADISHES</b>	Harvesting good quality product in light to increasing quantity. Volume should pick up each week.
<b>SPINACH</b>	A light volume of good quality over-wintered product is finishing up while Spring planted products start to become available.
<b>SWISS CHARD</b>	Harvest of light volume of good quality product. Volume will pick up each week.

## JERSEY FRESH FORECAST

<b>BEETS</b>	Transplanted earlier than normal. Harvesting in a week or so.
<b>CABBAGE</b>	Transplanted earlier than normal. May be harvesting late month.
<b>ESCAROLE &amp; ENDIVE</b>	Should begin harvesting in early May.
<b>LETTUCE</b>	Should begin harvesting Boston next week. Red & Green Leaf follow in two weeks or so, followed by Romaine in mid-May.
<b>STRAWBERRIES</b>	Early harvests of Chandler variety berries should begin in early to mid-May. The bulk of the crop will be harvested about the third week, with lower volumes to continue through the end of May.
<b>TURNIPS</b>	Should begin harvesting around mid-May.