



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service



New  
Jersey



# Crop Progress & Condition

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Week ending October 23, 2016

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by the Northeastern Regional Field Office of NASS

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**Excellent Week for Field Work:** New Jersey had an average of 6 days suitable for field work. Most stations reported average temperatures that were double digits above normal for this time of year. High temperatures were in the mid to high 80s. Nightly lows were mostly in the 40's. All areas reported at least 3/10 of an inch of much-needed rain. The rain at week's end should be helpful for fall crops but problematic for corn-soy harvest and pumpkin-apple picking agribusiness during the Halloween season.

Per a recent article by Len Melisurgo reporting for NJ.com, every county in the state — except for Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland — is currently under a drought watch. The primary cause of the state's drought woes is the big precipitation shortfall during recent months, per New Jersey State Climatologist David Robinson, who teaches at Rutgers University. The rainfall deficit this year has ranged from 8 inches in Cherry Hill and Sea Girt to 11 inches in Haworth and 12 inches in New Brunswick. Exacerbating the drought problem, the climatologist also stated, are the warmer-than-usual temperatures the state has faced. New Jersey had its second warmest winter on record, followed by its second warmest summer on record. "Our supplies are very resilient. They can catch up," said Steven Domber, an environmental specialist for the state DEP, but "a lot depends on how much rain Mother Nature can deliver."

The harvest carries on, despite the conditions, with the following crops being harvested: arugula, snap beans, beets, bok choy, cilantro, cabbage, collards, summer dandelion, dill, eggplant, escarole, endive, kohlrabi, kale, leeks, pumpkins, lettuce, parsley, peppers, radishes, summer squash, winter squash, Swiss chard, scallions, spinach, green and high tunnel tomatoes, turnips, apples, mint, sweet potatoes, field corn and soybeans. Combining of corn and soybeans, planting of cover crops and wheat, and hay work also continues.

## Soil Moisture for Week Ending October 23, 2016

(in percent)

Item	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
TOPSOIL	8	23	57	12
SUBSOIL	5	28	52	15

## Crop Conditions as of October 23, 2016

(in percent)

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
CORN	3	5	50	37	5
HAY, ALFALFA	0	3	26	63	8
HAY, OTHER	0	1	48	49	2
PASTURE AND RANGE	0	7	43	44	6
SOYBEANS	3	5	50	39	3

## Crop Progress as of October 23, 2016

(in percent)

Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
CORN: MATURE	98	92	99	N/A
CORN: HARVESTED FOR GRAIN	63	35	74	50
HAY, ALFALFA: FOURTH CUTTING	46	36	50	38
HAY, OTHER: THIRD CUTTING	94	90	76	87
HAY, OTHER: FOURTH CUTTING	25	17	7	27
SOYBEANS: DROPPING LEAVES	97	93	93	N/A
SOYBEANS: MATURE	78	45	83	N/A
SOYBEANS: HARVESTED	31	18	54	29
SWEET CORN: HARVESTED	97	94	95	N/A

For a complete nationwide weekly weather and crop bulletin, please visit [www.usda.gov/occe/weather](http://www.usda.gov/occe/weather) and click on "Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin."

## October 23, 2016 New Jersey Weekly Weather Summary

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						Accumulation Since April 1, 2016					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Andover	82	42	62	+14	0.37	2	21.76	-7.17	74	3215	+745	5158
Belvidere_Bridg	85	35	60	+10	0.39	3	18.76	-8.60	69	3086	+424	5014
Cape_May	83	50	66	+10	0.73	3	34.05	+11.20	67	3908	+567	5893
Estell_Manor	86	41	64	+11	0.49	2	30.11	+7.40	78	3730	+581	5703
Flemington	86	38	63	+13	0.37	2	21.67	-7.42	72	3450	+631	5395
Freehold_Marlbo	85	40	64	+12	0.97	2	22.67	-3.83	78	3587	+509	5552
Hammonton	84	41	64	+11	0.62	2	26.89	+0.90	87	3780	+495	5756
Manasquan	83	42	64	+12	1.45	3	22.54	-3.96	69	3384	+306	5321
Marlton	85	40	64	+10	0.38	2	26.21	-0.96	73	3670	+359	5640
Millville	84	45	65	+11	0.43	2	26.10	+1.87	73	3811	+428	5795
Mt_Holly_NWS	83	41	63	+9	0.31	2	22.11	-5.58	69	3549	+305	5508
Newark	87	44	66	+11	0.77	2	17.98	-8.67	64	4109	+595	6100
New_Brunswick	88	42	64	+12	0.89	2	20.48	-8.17	71	3677	+588	5649
Pennsauken	83	40	63	+8	0.43	2	25.96	-1.44	74	3756	+217	5729
Seabrook_Farms	84	45	65	+11	0.30	2	27.79	+2.06	68	3818	+406	5805
Sussex_2NW	84	41	60	+12	0.46	2	18.32	-10.65	70	2986	+542	4904
Trenton	86	43	66	+14	0.30	2	19.75	-9.06	72	3852	+858	5827

Summary based on NWS data. DFN = Departure From Normal.  
 Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.  
 Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.  
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### Reporters Comments, By County

*Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.*

#### **Cumberland County, Dr. Wesley L. Kline**

The following crops are being harvested: arugula, snap beans, beets, bok choy, cilantro, cabbage, collards, summer dandelion, dill, eggplant, escarole, endive, kohlrabi, kale, leeks, pumpkins, lettuce, parsley, peppers, radishes, summer squash, winter squash, Swiss chard, scallions, spinach, green and high tunnel tomatoes, turnips, apples, mint, sweet potatoes, field corn and soybeans. Planting cover crops and wheat.

#### **Monmouth County, Bill Sciarappa**

Rain at week's end should be helpful for fall crops but problematic for corn-soy harvest and pumpkin-apple picking agribusiness during Halloween season.

#### **Salem County, Dr. Jasen Berkowitz**

Combining corn and soybeans, planting cover crops, hay work. Livestock condition good, but milk production below average for time of year due to heat.

**JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR OCTOBER 24, 2016**

<b>APPLES</b>	Gala, Ginger Gold, McIntosh, & Early Fuji harvested & in storage. Finishing up harvest of Cortland, Honeycrisp, & Jonathan. Harvesting Red & Golden Delicious, Empire, & Jonagold. Stayman/Winesap are starting with Rome, Fuji, and Mutsu next. Cool nights are helping to develop color. Storage apples & cider available through Christmas.
<b>ARUGULA</b>	Harvesting good quality product in fair to decreasing volume. Frost will hurt.
<b>BABY KALE, SPINACH &amp; ARUGULA</b>	Harvesting very good quality products in light to decreasing volume. Frost will hurt.
<b>BASIL</b>	Cool nights are finishing up.
<b>BEETS</b>	Harvesting a fair to good volume of very good quality product. Available through Thanksgiving.
<b>CABBAGE</b>	Harvesting a good volume of good quality product. Available thru Thanksgiving.
<b>CILANTRO</b>	Harvesting good quality product in fair to decreasing volume. Frost will hurt.
<b>COLLARDS</b>	Harvesting a good volume of good quality product. Available through Thanksgiving.
<b>CRANBERRIES</b>	Harvesting. Like apples, cool nights are helping with color development.
<b>CUCUMBERS</b>	Finishing up. Frost will hurt.
<b>DANDELIONS</b>	Good quality Italian bunched product available in fair to good volume.
<b>DILL</b>	Harvesting a fair volume of very good quality product. Frost will hurt.
<b>EGGPLANT</b>	Harvesting excellent quality in light to decreasing volume. Frost will hurt.
<b>ESCAROLE &amp; ENDIVE</b>	Harvesting a fair to decreasing volume. Can tolerate a little frost.
<b>KALE</b>	Very good quality product harvesting in good volume. Available through Thanksgiving.
<b>LEEKS</b>	A fair volume of good quality product is available.

<b>LETTUCES</b>	Growers harvesting very good quality Fall lettuces in fair to declining volume though the heartier Romaine will survive a little longer than leaf lettuces. Frost will hurt
<b>MINT</b>	Cool nights are finishing up. Frost will hurt.
<b>PARSLEY</b>	Harvesting a fair volume of good quality product.
<b>PEPPERS</b>	Harvesting excellent quality in very light to finishing volume. Frost will hurt.
<b>PUMPKINS</b>	Harvesting good quality due to dry growing conditions & lack of disease pressure the last two dry months. A lighter fruit set than normal due to extreme mid-Summer heat & less than ideal bee pollination. Smaller sizes due to a lack of regular precipitation/irrigation. This should result in better hardness or shelf life.
<b>RADISHES</b>	Harvesting very good quality product in fair to good volume.
<b>SPINACH</b>	A fair to decreasing volume of good quality available. Can tolerate a little frost.
<b>SQUASH</b>	Harvesting v. light quantities of good quality Summer squashes. Fair to decreasing volume of good quality hard squashes like butternut and acorn thru Thanksgiving.
<b>SWEET CORN</b>	Finishing up.
<b>SWEET POTATOES</b>	Harvesting good quality potatoes, with a cured volume in storage & available.
<b>SWISS CHARD</b>	Harvesting a fair to decreasing volume of good quality product.
<b>TOMATOES</b>	Finishing up. Frost will hurt.
<b>TURNIPS</b>	Harvesting good quality in fair to decreasing volume.
<b>WHITE POTATOES</b>	Harvesting a good volume of mainly round white varieties, Redskin varieties, & a bit of Russets. Source your white potatoes in their distinctive "Jersey Fresh" bags.