



**Agricultural Weather Advisory For New Jersey
And Southeastern Pennsylvania
Issued by Rutgers University
New Brunswick, NJ
8 am EDT Monday, April 20, 2009**

Rainfall amounts half to one inch with locally higher amounts today and tonight, tenth of an inch with locally higher amounts possible Tuesday. Winds for spraying east 15 to 20 mph today southeast 15 to 20 mph tonight south 10 to 15 mph Tuesday.

Relative humidity in percent 80 to 90 today near 100 tonight 60 to 70 Tuesday. Dew points mid 40s today, low 50s tonight and Tuesday. Drying conditions poor today, poor Tuesday. No dew but wetting in precipitation tonight and again Tuesday night. Percent of possible sunshine near zero today 10 Tuesday.

There is a near 100 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.

Overnight low temperatures in the representative cranberry bogs will remain above freezing tonight and Tuesday night due to clouds and precipitation.

Four inch soil temperatures are now averaging in the low 50's north, mid 50's central, and upper 50's south. Soil temperatures will decrease over the next few days.

Early season hay cutting is not recommended for the next few days with slow drying and significant wetting in rain.

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period April 27, 2009 to May 3, 2009 is calling for temperatures to average above normal and precipitation to average near normal.

Climate summary for the week ending 8am 4/20/09

Temperatures averaged below normal, averaging 49 degrees north, 49 degrees central, and 49 degrees south. Extremes were 80 degrees at New Brunswick, Toms River, Long Branch, and Canoe Brook on April 19, 2009, and 26 degrees at Canoe Brook on April 18, 2009.

Weekly rainfall averaged 0.49 inches north, 0.89 inches central, and 1.53 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 1.32 inches at Atlantic City on April 14, 2009 to April 15, 2009.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 98 percent north, 96 percent central, and 96 percent south. Four inch soil temperatures averaged 46 degrees north, 47 degrees central, and 48 degrees south.

Early Corn Planting Begins

Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday, April 19, 2009, were 5.0. Topsoil moisture was rated as 85% adequate and 15% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated as 90% adequate and 10% surplus. There were measurable amounts of rainfall for the week in all localities. Temperatures were below normal across the Garden State. Producers continued field preparation for summer crops. Cabbage and lettuce plantings continued. Asparagus and arugula harvesting started in South Jersey. Wheat and barley growth rated mostly good. Farmers sprayed timothy hay for cereal rust mites. Peach trees were blooming and blueberry bushes were scouted for cranberry weevil.

Weather Summary for the Week Ending Monday, April 20, 2009

Weather Stations	Rainfall			Temperatures				Growing Degree Days ¹		Soil Moisture ²
	Last Week	Since March 1		Last Week				Total	Dept.*	
		Total	Dept.*	Max.	Min.	Avg.	Dept.*			
	Inches	Inches	Inches	Degrees	Degrees	Degrees	Degrees	Base 50°F	Base 50°F	Percent
North										
Belvidere Bridge	0.67	3.17	-3.30	78	28	49	-2	37	34	92
Canoe Brook	0.34	3.87	-3.34	80	26	48	-3	50	50	95
Charlotteburg	0.31	4.52	-2.47	76	29	49	0	31	31	95
Flemington	0.60	3.94	-2.93	78	28	50	-1	58	56	95
Newton	0.53	2.85	-3.33	76	29	50	1	40	40	94
Central										
Freehold ³	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Long Branch	1.04	5.68	-1.47	80	33	49	-3	40	35	87
New Brunswick	0.43	4.25	-2.30	80	31	49	-5	55	39	95
Toms River	1.59	6.27	-0.64	80	29	48	-4	66	61	89
Trenton	0.50	3.75	-2.51	78	32	51	-3	79	53	87
South										
Cape May C.H.	1.93	6.00	-0.08	75	28	48	-5	73	54	90
Downstown 3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Glassboro	1.38	6.97	0.39	78	35	52	-2	76	50	88
Hammonton	1.33	4.73	-1.64	77	28	49	-5	93	69	89
Pomona	1.74	6.31	0.14	79	27	49	-4	98	86	87
Seabrook	1.29	5.06	-0.48	75	29	49	-5	87	57	90
South Harrison ³	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

* Departure from normal.

¹ Growing degree days since March 1, 2009, 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.

JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR APRIL 20, 2009

ARUGULA	Harvest should start by this weekend in very light quantity. Volume should pick up each week.
ASPARAGUS	Harvest has begun with a very light quantity of good quality product. With warmer weather, and increased soil temperatures, the harvest should ramp up quickly.
CILANTRO	A light volume of good quality over-wintered product is harvesting and will be available for at least several weeks. Spring planted should be available by early May.
DANDELIONS	A fair quantity of good quality over-wintered bunched product is available now and for some time. Spring planted should be available by mid-May.
KALE	A light quantity of good quality over-wintered product just starting. Volume should pick up each week.
LEEKS	A light volume of good quality over-wintered product is available now and for some time.
PARSLEY	A very light quantity of good quality over-wintered curly and plain product is starting to be harvested.
SPINACH	A light volume of good quality over-wintered product is available now and for another few weeks. Spring planted should be available by the end of the month.

JERSEY FRESH FORECAST

BABY SPINACH & ARUGULA	Harvest should start towards the end of the month due to cool weather and soil temperatures.
BEETS	Just transplanted recently. Harvest should begin in mid-May.
CABBAGE	Just transplanted recently. Won't be ready until late May.
COLLARDS	Should begin harvesting around the third week of May.
DILL	Harvest should start next week in very light quantity. Volume should pick up each week after that.
ESCAROLE & ENDIVE	Should begin harvesting around the third week of May.
LETTUCE	Should begin harvesting Boston & Red & Green Leaf in mid-May, followed by Romaine a week later.
RADISHES	Harvest of good quality product should start early next week. Volume should pick up over the next several weeks.
STRAWBERRIES	Early harvests of Chandler variety berries are expected to begin in mid-May, while the bulk of the crop will be harvested towards the end of May, with lower volumes to continue through early June.
SWISS CHARD	Harvest of good quality product should start early next week. Volume should pick up over the next several weeks.
TURNIPS	Should begin harvesting around the end of May.