



**Agricultural Weather Advisory For New Jersey
And Southeastern Pennsylvania
Issued by Rutgers University
New Brunswick, NJ
8 am EDT Monday, May 4, 2009**

Rainfall amounts additional rainfall totals of one half to one inch over the next 36 hours. Winds for spraying generally northeast 5 to 10 mph through Tuesday but becoming northwest late on Tuesday.

Relative humidity in percent 80 to 90 today, near 100 tonight, 80 to 90 Tuesday. Dew points 45 to 50 through Tuesday. Drying conditions generally poor through Tuesday. No dew tonight and Tuesday night but wetting in showers is possible both nights. Percent of possible sunshine near zero today and Tuesday.

There is a 90 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 should remain above freezing tonight and Tuesday night due to clouds and showers.

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

Hay cutting is not recommended for the next several days with scattered showers possible each day through mid week.

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period May 11, 2009 to May 17, 2009 is calling for temperatures to average near normal and precipitation to average below normal.

Climate summary for the week ending 8am 5/4/09

Temperatures averaged much above normal, averaging 61 degrees north, 61 degrees central, and 63 degrees south. Extremes were 95 degrees at Toms River on April 28, 2009, and 38 degrees at Toms River on May 1, 2009.

Weekly rainfall averaged 0.59 inches north, 1.08 inches central, and 0.65 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 0.83 inches at New Brunswick and Freehold on May 3, 2009 to May 4, 2009.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 85 percent north, 79 percent central, and 70 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 62 degrees north, 62 degrees central, and 64 degrees south.

Apple Trees Began to Bloom

Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday, May 3, 2009, were 5.0. Topsoil moisture was rated as 5% short, 75% adequate, and 20% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated as 5% short, 85% adequate and 10% surplus. There were measurable amounts of rainfall for the week in all localities. Temperatures were above normal across the Garden State. Pastures were greening up nicely. Producers continued preparing fields for planting when weather permitted. Harvesting began for Romaine, Boston, and red-leaf lettuce varieties. Reports for wheat growth were favorable. Blueberry pollination was delayed due to rainfall, grapevines were sprayed with fungicide, and apple trees were blooming. Farmers continued working on equipment and fertilizing fields.

Weather Summary for the Week Ending Monday, May 4, 2009

| 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 | Base 50°F | Base 50°F | Percent |
| North | | | | | | | | | | |
| Belvidere Bridge | 0.59 | 4.34 | -3.92 | 90 | 45 | 61 | 5 | 162 | 105 | 85 |
| Canoe Brook | 0.51 | 5.94 | -3.15 | 90 | 43 | 62 | 7 | 190 | 145 | 89 |
| Charlotteburg | 0.24 | 5.48 | -3.47 | 90 | 44 | 61 | 8 | 159 | 144 | 78 |
| Flemington | 1.14 | 5.81 | -2.88 | 93 | 41 | 62 | 6 | 207 | 156 | 99 |
| Newton | 0.45 | 3.91 | -4.06 | 90 | 47 | 61 | 7 | 166 | 140 | 84 |
| Central | | | | | | | | | | |
| Freehold | 1.07 | 8.04 | -0.57 | 87 | 40 | 60 | 3 | 199 | 122 | 98 |
| Long Branch | 1.02 | 8.22 | -0.69 | 90 | 41 | 59 | 3 | 148 | 87 | 100 |
| New Brunswick | 1.48 | 7.12 | -1.19 | 90 | 40 | 61 | 3 | 190 | 94 | 100 |
| Toms River | 0.78 | 8.65 | -0.05 | 95 | 38 | 62 | 6 | 212 | 145 | 88 |
| Trenton | 1.07 | 5.57 | -2.24 | 90 | 41 | 63 | 5 | 237 | 122 | 98 |
| South | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cape May C.H. | 0.25 | 7.65 | 0.07 | 91 | 48 | 62 | 4 | 228 | 130 | 65 |
| Downstown | 0.55 | 6.81 | -1.00 | 92 | 43 | 63 | 4 | 219 | 96 | 79 |
| Glassboro | 1.03 | 9.18 | 0.94 | 89 | 46 | 62 | 4 | 230 | 115 | 95 |
| Hammonton | 0.53 | 6.03 | -1.98 | 92 | 40 | 63 | 5 | 257 | 147 | 74 |
| Pomona | 0.49 | 8.50 | 0.87 | 92 | 41 | 63 | 6 | 264 | 183 | 74 |
| Seabrook | 1.05 | 7.20 | 0.20 | 89 | 47 | 62 | 3 | 247 | 121 | 95 |
| 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 MAY 4, 2009

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| ARUGULA | Harvesting very good quality in fair to good quantity. |
| ASPARAGUS | Harvesting a fair to good volume of very good quality product. |
| BABY SPINACH & ARUGULA | Harvesting fair quantities of excellent quality products. |
| BEETS | Just started harvesting very good quality in light quantity. |
| CILANTRO | A fair volume of good quality over-wintered product is still harvesting though a light quantity of very good quality Spring planted is just becoming available. |
| COLLARDS | Harvesting very good quality in fair quantity. |
| DANDELIONS | A fair quantity of very good quality over-wintered bunched product is available though Spring planted is just becoming available. |
| DILL | Harvesting excellent quality product in fair to good volume. |
| KALE | A good quantity & quality of over-wintered product harvesting while transplanted product is just starting. |
| LEEKS | A fair volume of good quality over-wintered product is available. |
| LETTUCES | Just starting to harvest excellent quality Boston & Romaine in light quantities. Red & Green Leaf by the end of the week. |
| PARSLEY | A fair to good quantity of good quality over-wintered curly and plain product is being harvested with Spring planted starting. |
| RADISHES | Harvesting good quality product in fair to good volume. |
| SPINACH | A good volume of very good quality over-wintered product is available though excellent Spring planted is becoming available. |
| SWISS CHARD | Harvesting very good quality product in fair to increasing volume. |

JERSEY FRESH FORECAST

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| CABBAGE | Harvest should begin in two to three weeks. |
| ESCAROLE & ENDIVE | Should begin harvesting by mid-May. |
| STRAWBERRIES | Early harvests of Chandler variety berries are expected to begin in about two weeks, while the bulk of the crop will be harvested towards the end of the month, with lower volumes to continue through early June. |
| TURNIPS | Should begin harvesting in mid-May. |