



**Agricultural Weather Advisory For New Jersey
And Southeastern Pennsylvania
Issued By Rutgers University
New Brunswick, NJ
8 am EDT Monday, May 18, 2009**

**FROST ADVISORY FOR INLAND AND NON URBAN
LOCATIONS TONIGHT**

Rainfall amounts none through Tuesday. Winds for spraying north 10 to 15 mph today, light and variable tonight and Tuesday.

Relative humidity in percent 30 to 40 today 85 to 95 tonight 30 to 40 Tuesday. Dew points 30 to 35 through Tuesday. Drying conditions very good today and Tuesday. Light dew tonight with scattered frost likely in the more extreme inland locations, light dew Tuesday night. Percent of possible sunshine 50 today, 90 Tuesday.

There is a near zero percent probability of precipitation during the 12 hour period beginning at 8 am and ending at 8 pm. Rainfall could adversely affect the performance of pesticides that require a rain-free period after application.

Overnight low temperatures in the representative cranberry bogs could fall to 21 to 25 tonight and 22 to 26 Tuesday night.

Four inch soil temperatures are now averaging in the upper 50s north, low 60s central, and mid 60s south. Soil temperatures will hold steady over the next few days.

Hay cutting will see good drying through Thursday with the next threat of showers on Friday.

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period May 25, 2009 to May 31, 2009 is calling for temperatures to average above normal and precipitation to average below normal.

Climate summary for the week ending 8am 5/18/09

Temperatures averaged below normal, averaging 58 degrees north, 60 degrees central, and 61 degrees south. Extremes were 82 degrees at Flemington on May 16, 2009, and 37 degrees at Long Branch on May 13, 2009.

Weekly rainfall averaged 0.63 inches north, 0.37 inches central, and 0.47 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 0.86 inches at Flemington on May 16, 2009 to May 17, 2009.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 94 percent north, 85 percent central, and 74 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 59 degrees north, 61 degrees central, and 62 degrees south.

Spring Vegetable Harvest Underway

Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday, May 17, 2009, were 5.0. Topsoil moisture was rated as 90% adequate and 10% 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. Fields were drying throughout the week with some minimal rainfall received over the weekend. Planting of peppers, snap beans, and fresh-market tomatoes began while early season vegetable harvesting including lettuce, cabbage, asparagus, and spinach continued. Farmers transplanted summer crops from the greenhouses. Early strawberry harvest began, while blueberry bushes were blooming. Apple and peach trees were thinned and sprayed for disease control. Other activities included planting field corn, applying fertilizer, and mowing cover crops.

Weather Summary for the Week Ending Monday, May 18, 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.*			
	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Base 50°F</i>	<i>Base 50°F</i>	<i>Percent</i>
North										
Belvidere Bridge	1.03	7.51	-2.37	79	38	59	-1	285	110	98
Canoe Brook ³	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Charlotteburg	0.25	7.57	-3.14	78	38	58	1	275	185	87
Flemington	1.03	9.85	-0.51	82	38	60	0	340	175	99
Newton	0.23	5.93	-3.62	77	39	57	-1	282	165	90
Central										
Freehold	0.30	10.19	-0.12	77	43	61	-1	351	140	82
Long Branch	0.82	11.14	0.49	69	37	57	-3	267	90	88
New Brunswick	0.13	9.77	-0.30	77	42	61	-1	338	101	86
Toms River ³	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Trenton	0.24	8.27	-1.06	81	44	62	-1	404	137	66
South										
Cape May C.H.	0.37	10.14	1.09	74	43	60	-2	378	143	77
Downstown	0.34	8.73	-0.57	81	38	61	-2	386	108	73
Glassboro	1.15	12.22	2.36	74	45	61	-2	391	126	97
Hammonton	0.39	8.04	-1.56	80	39	62	-1	440	182	69
Pomona	0.21	11.01	1.99	75	39	61	0	426	213	64
Seabrook	0.38	9.20	0.74	80	43	61	-2	404	121	75
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 18, 2009

ARUGULA	Harvesting very good quality in good quantity.
ASPARAGUS	Harvesting a good volume of very good quality product.
BABY SPINACH & ARUGULA	Harvesting good quantities of excellent quality products.
BEETS	Harvesting very good quality in fair to good quantity.
CILANTRO	A fair volume of very good quality Spring planted product.
COLLARDS	Harvesting very good quality in good quantity.
DANDELIONS	A fair quantity of very good quality Spring planted product.
DILL	Harvesting excellent quality product in good volume.
ESCAROLE & ENDIVE	Harvest of very good quality product just starting.
KALE	A fair to increasing quantity of good quality transplanted product.
LEEKS	A fair volume of good quality over-wintered product is available.
MINT	Very good quality harvesting in good quantity.
LETTUCES	Harvesting excellent quality Boston & Romaine in good quantities. Red & Green Leaf harvesting in fair to increasing quantities.
PARSLEY	Fair to increasing quantities of very good quality Spring planted curly and plain products are available.
RADISHES	Harvesting good quality product in good volume.
SPINACH	A fair to increasing volume of excellent Spring planted product.
STRAWBERRIES	The harvest of very good quality berries has begun in light quantity, with the bulk of the crop harvested towards the end of the month, with lower volumes to continue through early June.
SWISS CHARD	Harvesting very good quality product in good volume.

JERSEY FRESH FORECAST

BASIL	Likes warmer weather. Should be ready by mid-June.
BLUEBERRIES	Minor quantities of early varieties like Weymouth starting in mid-June. Much more widely planted Duke variety starting 3-4 days later with volume available a week after that.
CABBAGE	Harvest should begin next week.
CUCUMBERS	Harvesting light quantities of tunnel grown by late May or early June. Field grown will be available two weeks later, in mid-June. Pickles should be ready by the first week of June.
SQUASH	Should begin harvesting light quantities of Yellow/Zucchini started in tunnels by the end of May. Field grown by the 1 st or 2 nd week of June.
TURNIPS	Harvest should begin by the weekend.