



**Agricultural Weather Advisory For New Jersey  
And Southeastern Pennsylvania  
Issued By Rutgers University  
New Brunswick, NJ  
8 am EDT Tuesday, May 26, 2009**

Rainfall amounts rainfall totals exceeding one inch are possible over the next 48 hours. Winds for spraying east 10 to 15 mph today and tonight, becoming southwest around 10 mph Wednesday.

Relative humidity in percent increasing from 60 to 70 percent this afternoon, near 100 tonight, 70 to 80 Wednesday. Dew points rising from near 40 this morning to near 60 by later Wednesday. Drying conditions becoming poor this afternoon and remaining poor through Wednesday. No frost freeze or dew tonight or Wednesday night but wetting in showers is possible both nights. Percent of possible sunshine, less than 10 today and Wednesday.

There is a 70 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 for the next several nights.

Four inch soil temperatures are now averaging in the mid 60s north, upper 60s central, and near 70 south. Soil temperatures will hold steady over the next few days.

Hay cutting is not recommended for the next few days with high humidity levels and significant precipitation.

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period June 2, 2009 to June 8, 2009 is calling for temperatures to average near normal and precipitation to average near normal.

**Climate summary for the week ending 8am 5/25/09**

Temperatures averaged near normal, averaging 62 degrees north, 63 degrees central, and 63 degrees south. Extremes were 87 degrees at several locations on May 23, 2009 and May 24, 2009, and 32 degrees at Flemington on May 19, 2009.

Weekly rainfall averaged 0.60 inches north, 0.19 inches central, and 0.01 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 1.26 inches at Belvidere on May 24, 2009 to May 25, 2009.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 89 percent north, 78 percent central, and 71 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 56 degrees north, 57 degrees central, and 61 degrees south.

**Strawberry Harvest Continues**

Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday, May 24, 2009, were 6.0. Topsoil moisture was rated as 15% short and 85% adequate. Subsoil moisture was rated as 5% short and 95% adequate. There were minimal amounts of rainfall for the week in most localities. Temperatures were variable across the Garden State. Dry weather allowed producers to make progress harvesting lettuce, spinach, and zucchini squash. Vegetable planting progressed for eggplant, cucumbers, and peppers. Field corn planting continued and started to emerge. Early strawberry harvesting continued with crop condition rated as mostly good to excellent. Peach fruit thinning and spraying continued. Other activities included planting soybeans, baling hay, and spreading fertilizer.

**Weather Summary for the Week Ending Monday, May 26, 2009**

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	Inches	Inches	Degrees	Degrees	Degrees	Degrees			Percent
<b>North</b>										
Belvidere Bridge	1.32	8.83	-1.86	84	33	62	0	370	115	100
Canoe Brook <sup>3</sup>	0.00	5.94	-5.86	87	36	65	3	299	69	82
Charlotteburg	0.25	7.82	-3.81	78	38	58	-1	329	180	78
Flemington	0.54	10.39	-0.80	86	32	63	1	439	195	93
Newton	0.87	6.80	-3.54	85	34	61	1	365	181	93
<b>Central</b>										
Freehold	0.12	10.31	-0.84	86	37	64	0	454	154	74
Long Branch	0.12	11.26	-0.25	84	39	62	0	352	93	66
New Brunswick	0.26	10.03	-0.93	86	34	64	0	441	112	80
Toms River	0.06	10.11	-1.03	87	36	62	-1	375	93	66
Trenton	0.39	8.66	-1.43	84	37	63	-2	500	135	68
<b>South</b>										
Cape May C.H.	0.00	10.14	0.36	82	39	61	-2	460	137	59
Downstown	0.00	8.73	-1.32	87	35	63	-2	480	102	59
Glassboro	0.05	12.27	1.59	86	36	64	-1	493	131	67
Hammonton	0.00	8.04	-2.35	87	37	64	-1	539	185	53
Pomona	0.00	11.01	1.30	86	39	63	0	521	221	51
Seabrook	0.00	9.20	0.02	84	37	63	-2	496	113	59
South Harrison <sup>3</sup>	0.00	N/A	N/A	85	39	65	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

\* Departure from normal.

<sup>1</sup> Growing degree days since March 1, 2009, 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 for all historic comparisons.

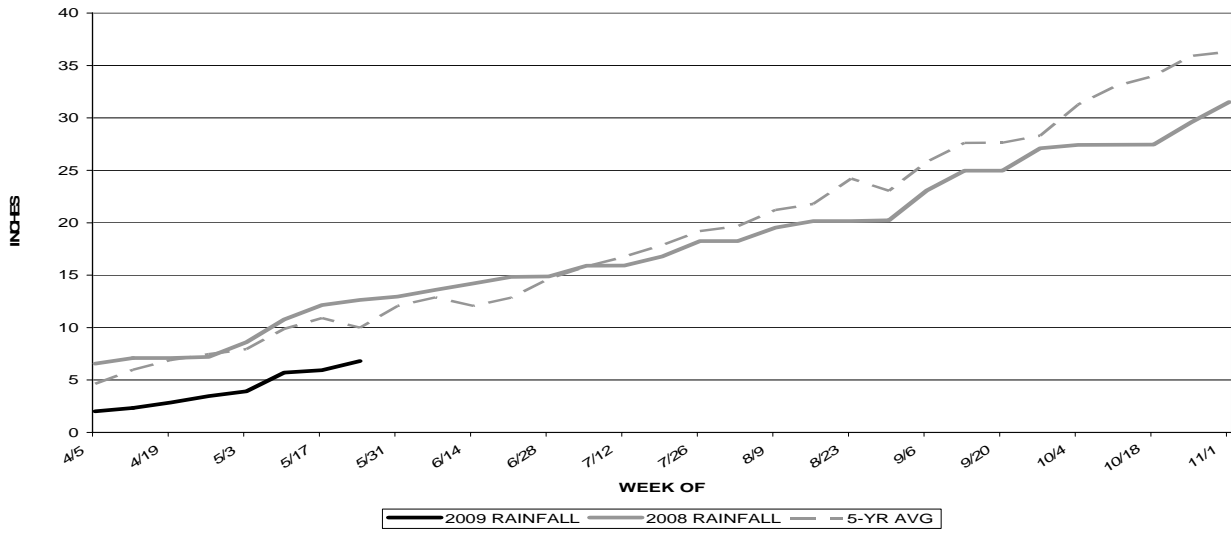
**JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR MAY 25, 2009**

<b>ARUGULA</b>	Harvesting very light quantity in fair quality, due to weather related issues.
<b>ASPARAGUS</b>	Harvesting a good volume of very good quality product. As temperatures rise over the next few weeks, product will start to “bolt”, expect color and volume to fade.
<b>BABY SPINACH &amp; ARUGULA</b>	Growers between plantings now due to weather interrupted planting schedules. Harvesting a light quantity of arugula, fair quantity of spinach, with a good quality to both products.
<b>BEETS</b>	Harvesting good quality in fair to good volume.
<b>CABBAGE</b>	Harvest should begin this week.
<b>CILANTRO</b>	A fair volume of fair to good quality Spring planted product.
<b>COLLARDS</b>	Harvesting fair to good quality in good quantity.
<b>CUCUMBERS</b>	Starting to harvest light quantities of tunnel grown cukes. Expect volume to vary over the next few weeks during the transition from covered to field grown product by mid-June. Pickles should be ready in early June.
<b>DANDELIONS</b>	A fair quantity of very good quality Spring planted product.
<b>DILL</b>	Harvesting very light volume, not expected to increase much over the next several weeks, and fair quality due to weather related issues.
<b>ESCAROLE &amp; ENDIVE</b>	Harvest of fair to good quality product started under row cover in light to increasing volume though volume will vary over the next few weeks during the transition from covered to field grown product.
<b>KALE</b>	A fair to increasing quantity of good quality transplanted product.
<b>LEEKS</b>	A fair volume of good quality over-wintered product is available.
<b>MINT</b>	Good quality harvesting in good quantity.
<b>LETTUCES</b>	Harvesting fair to good quality Boston, Romaine, Red & Green Leaf in fair to good quantities. Weather from two weeks ago damaged some products.
<b>PARSLEY</b>	Fair to increasing quantities of fair to good quality Spring planted curly and plain products are available.
<b>RADISHES</b>	Harvesting good quality product in good volume.
<b>SPINACH</b>	A fair to good volume of fair to good quality Spring product.
<b>STRAWBERRIES</b>	The harvest of very good quality berries is in fair to good volume, with strong “local” marketplace demand boosting prices \$5+ over the best Ca. berries. The bulk of the crop will be harvested over the next two weeks, with lower volumes to continue through early June.
<b>SQUASH</b>	Starting to harvest light quantities of tunnel grown Yellow/Zucchini. Expect volume to vary over the next few weeks during the transition from covered to field grown product by mid-June.
<b>SWISS CHARD</b>	Harvesting fair to good quality in light volume due to weather issues.
<b>TURNIPS</b>	Harvest should begin later this week.

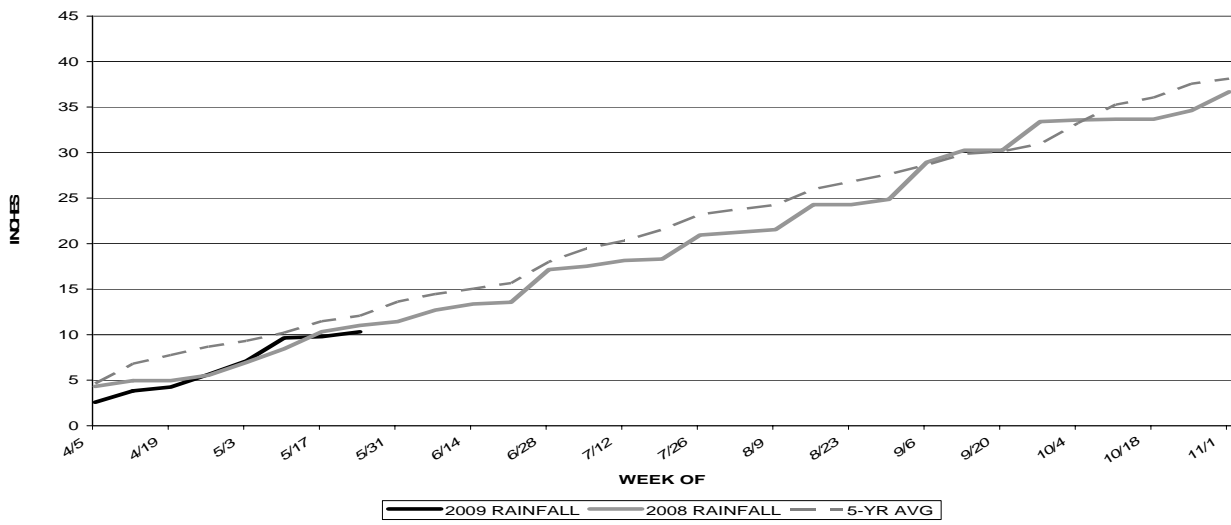
**JERSEY FRESH FORECAST**

<b>BASIL</b>	Likes warmer weather. Should be ready by mid-June.
<b>BLUEBERRIES</b>	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.

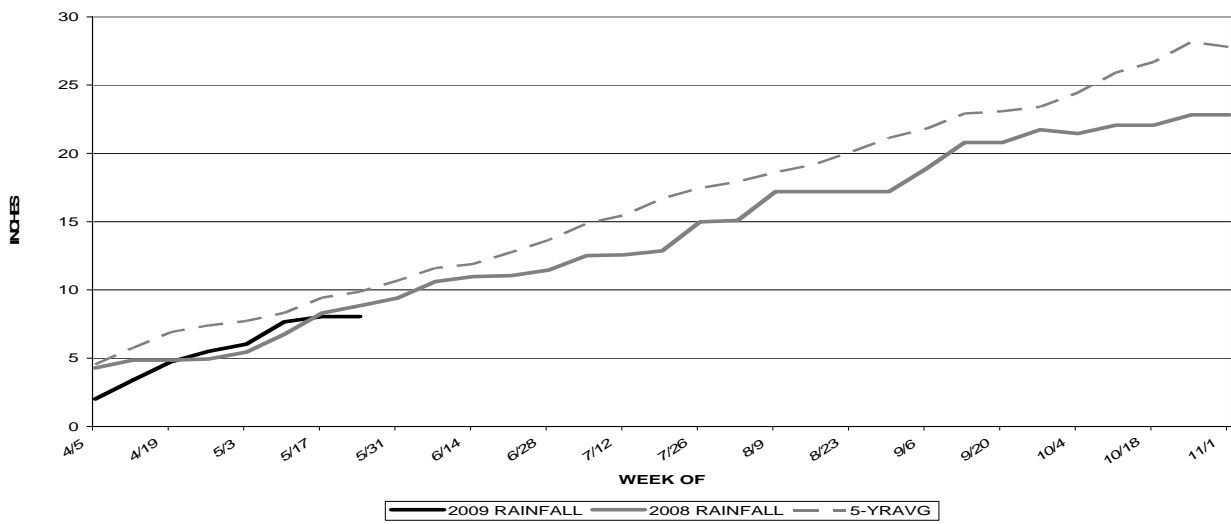
**2009 TOTAL RAINFALL (NEWTON)**



**2009 TOTAL RAINFALL (NEW BRUNSWICK)**



**2009 TOTAL RAINFALL (HAMMONTON)**



Source: [http://www.envsci.rutgers.edu/fcst/NJ\\_AG.htm](http://www.envsci.rutgers.edu/fcst/NJ_AG.htm)