



**Agricultural Weather Advisory for New Jersey
And Southeastern Pennsylvania
Issued by Rutgers University
New Brunswick, NJ
8 am EDT Monday, April 12, 2010**

Rainfall amounts none through mid-day Tuesday, quarter of an inch possible Tuesday afternoon. Winds for spraying northwest 5 to 10 mph today, north 5 to 10 mph tonight, northeast 5 to 10 mph Tuesday.

Relative humidity in percent 30 to 40 today, 80 to 90 tonight, 40 to 50 Tuesday. Dew points upper 20s to mid 30s through Tuesday. Drying conditions good today and Tuesday morning but maybe turning poor Tuesday afternoon. Light dew tonight as well as possible early wetting in a shower. Percent of possible sunshine 90 today, 30 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 drop to 20 to 24 tonight but will probably remain above freezing due to clouds Tuesday night.

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

Early season hay cutting will be good today but will run a moderate risk of wetting in showers Tuesday afternoon. Dry weather should return for Wednesday and Thursday with fairly good drying.

Field work has been increasing during the past week as fields continue to improve in moisture levels. Showers on Tuesday afternoon should not significantly affect soil moisture.

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period April 19, 2010 to April 25, 2010 is calling for temperatures to average below normal and precipitation to average below normal.

Climate summary for the week ending 8am 04/12/10

Temperatures averaged much above normal, averaging 60 degrees north, 63 degrees central, and 64 degrees south. Extremes were 92 degrees at Toms River on April 8, 2010, and 36 degrees at Belvidere on April 12, 2010.

Weekly rainfall averaged 0.43 inches north, 0.37 inches central, and 0.47 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 0.70 inches at Glassboro on April 8, 2010 to April 9, 2010.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 89 percent north, 80 percent central, and 77 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 56 degrees north, 57 degrees central, and 58 degrees south.

Field Preparation and Spring Planting Underway

Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday, April 11, 2010, were 6.0. Topsoil moisture was rated as 60% adequate and 40% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated as 50% adequate and 50% surplus. There were minimal amounts of rainfall for the week in most localities. Temperatures were above normal across the Garden State. Ground preparation for spring plantings continued as fields dried. Farmers spread fertilizer on hay and small grains. Vegetable growers continued planting asparagus, cabbage, lettuce, and sweet corn. Overwintered spinach harvest progressed. Conditions rated mostly good as fruit trees were blooming. Other activities included spraying herbicides, transplanting vegetable crops, and livestock care.

Weather Summary for the Week Ending Monday, April 12, 2010

Weather Stations	Rainfall			Temperatures Last Week				Growing Degree Days ¹		Soil Moisture ²
	Last Week	Since March 1		Max.	Min.	Avg.	Dept.*	Total	Dept.*	
	Inches	Total	Dept.*							Inches
North										
Belvidere Bridge	0.54	7.11	1.70	87	36	59	10	110	110	89
Canoe Brook ³	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Charlotteburg	0.40	13.24	7.40	86	37	60	14	116	116	86
Flemington	0.42	10.63	4.83	89	37	61	13	140	140	91
Newton	0.37	9.05	3.94	86	39	60	13	123	123	86
Central										
Freehold	0.30	10.78	4.86	91	41	64	14	170	170	82
Long Branch	0.30	11.03	4.89	91	42	62	13	107	107	72
New Brunswick	0.36	11.49	5.94	91	40	63	13	154	154	88
Toms River	0.33	10.19	4.33	92	42	64	15	136	136	71
Trenton	0.56	7.97	2.60	89	42	64	13	193	190	77
South										
Cape May C.H.	0.38	8.38	3.16	89	42	60	9	100	98	81
Downstown	0.33	8.32	2.96	89	39	64	13	162	159	71
Glassboro	0.70	8.47	2.85	87	46	64	13	190	187	83
Hammonton	0.39	8.68	3.26	90	42	65	14	189	186	70
Pomona	0.41	9.00	3.68	91	41	63	13	151	151	74
Seabrook	0.58	7.85	3.14	89	41	64	12	198	193	80
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, 2010, 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 12, 2010

ASPARAGUS	Harvest has begun with a very light quantity of good quality product. With continued warm weather, and increasing soil temperatures, the harvest should ramp up quickly.
CILANTRO	A small volume of very good quality over-wintered product is just starting to be harvested and will be available for at least several weeks. Spring planted should be available by early May.
DANDELIONS	Good quality over-wintered bunched product is available now and for some time. Spring planted should be available by mid-May.
KALE	Good quality over-wintered product just starting in very light volume. Volume should pick up each week.
LEEKS	A small volume of good quality over-wintered product is available now and for some time.
MINT	Very good quality starting to be harvested later in the week. Volume should increase each week.
PARSLEY	Harvest of good quality over-wintered curly and plain product should begin this weekend or early next week.
SPINACH	A very 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

ARUGULA	Harvest should start in ten days to two weeks in light quantity. Volume should pick up each week after that.
BABY SPINACH & ARUGULA	Harvest should start at the end of the month, or in early May, due to rainy weather which prevented early planting.
BEETS	Transplanting now. Harvest should begin in mid-May.
CABBAGE	Transplanting now. Won't be ready until late May.
COLLARDS	Should begin harvesting around the third week of May.
DILL	Harvest should start in two weeks 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 some Boston by the end of the month. Red & Green Leaf will follow in early to mid-May, followed by Romaine around the third week of May.
RADISHES	Harvest of good quality product should start in ten days. Volume should pick up each week after that.
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 in about ten days to two weeks. Volume should pick up each week after that.
TURNIPS	Should begin harvesting around the end of May.