



**Agricultural Weather Advisory For New Jersey  
 And Southeastern Pennsylvania  
 Issued By Rutgers University  
 New Brunswick, NJ  
 8 am EDT Monday, April 19, 2010**

Rainfall amounts none through Tuesday. Winds for spraying northwest 5 to 10 mph today and Tuesday, northwest 5 mph tonight.

Relative humidity in percent 40 to 50 today 90 to 100 tonight 40 to 50 Tuesday. Dew points low to mid 30s through Tuesday. Drying conditions good today and Tuesday. Light dew with scattered frost possible in the more sensitive inland areas tonight and again Tuesday night. Percent of possible sunshine 80 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 drop to 21 to 26 tonight and 23 to 28 Tuesday night.

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 couple of days.

Early season hay cutting should be good for much of the week with good drying and little threat of rain except a slight chance of some showers Thursday night.

Field work will continue to increase as soil moisture levels continue to drop.

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period April 26, 2010 to May 2, 2010 is calling for temperatures to average near normal and precipitation to average near normal.

**Climate summary for the week ending 8am 04/19/10**

Temperatures averaged near normal, averaging 50 degrees north, 52 degrees central, and 54 degrees south. Extremes were 82 degrees at Seabrook on April 8, 2010 and 32 degrees at Flemington and Downtstown on April 14, 2010.

Weekly rainfall averaged 0.41 inches north, 0.13 inches central, and 0.28 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 0.62 inches at Belvidere on April 16, 2010 to April 17, 2010.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 92 percent north, 81 percent central, and 81 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 52 degrees north, 54 degrees central, and 56 degrees south.

**Farmers Continue Preparing Fields**

Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday, April 18, 2010, were 6.0. Topsoil moisture was rated as 80% adequate and 20% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated as 65% adequate and 35% surplus. There were measurable amounts of rainfall for the week in most localities. Temperatures were variable across the Garden State. Farmers continued field preparation for spring crops. Other activities during the week included transplanting vegetable crops, top-dressing hay fields, spraying herbicides, and harvesting overwintered crops. Spring vegetable planting progressed for carrots, cabbage, lettuce, and sweet corn with snap beans underway. Asparagus harvesting continued. Peach trees were in petal-fall stage, apple buds were swelling, and blueberry bushes began to bloom.

**Weather Summary for the Week Ending Monday, April 19, 2010**

Weather Stations	Rainfall			Temperatures				Growing Degree Days <sup>1</sup>		Soil Moisture <sup>2</sup>
	Last Week	Since March 1		Last Week				Total	Dept.*	
	<i>Inches</i>	Total	Dept.*	Max.	Min.	Avg.	Dept.*	Base 50° F	Base 50° F	Percent
<b>North</b>										
Belvidere Bridge	0.63	7.74	1.40	71	34	49	-2	122	120	98
Canoe Brook <sup>3</sup>	0.51	12.50	5.42	74	34	52	2	179	179	87
Charlotteburg	0.16	13.40	6.55	70	34	50	2	127	127	89
Flemington	0.36	10.99	4.25	72	32	50	-1	157	156	95
Newton	0.39	9.44	3.39	70	34	49	0	130	130	95
<b>Central</b>										
Freehold	0.10	10.88	4.10	71	34	52	0	191	184	82
Long Branch	0.15	11.18	4.16	72	38	51	0	120	117	74
New Brunswick	0.15	11.64	5.21	74	36	52	-1	173	161	90
Toms River	0.11	10.30	3.52	73	34	52	1	156	153	68
Trenton	0.16	8.13	1.98	73	37	53	-1	217	195	77
<b>South</b>										
Cape May C.H.	0.17	8.55	2.58	77	34	54	1	133	117	76
Downtstown	0.26	8.58	2.43	81	32	53	-1	192	168	75
Glassboro	0.38	8.85	2.39	76	40	54	0	221	199	85
Hammonton	0.21	8.89	2.64	78	34	54	1	222	202	71
Pomona	0.21	9.21	3.15	74	34	53	1	181	172	73
Seabrook	0.43	8.28	2.84	82	37	55	1	241	215	87
South Harrison <sup>3</sup>	0.37	6.97	0.98	78	40	54	NA	220	NA	NA

\*Departure from normal.

<sup>1</sup> Growing degree days since March 1, 2010, 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 historic comparisons.

## JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY & FORECAST REPORT

So far, this spring has been much wetter and milder than usual. With an average of over 9" of rain last month, we have had the wettest March in recorded history. This wet weather, combined with cool soil temperatures, had procrastinated some growers' desires/abilities to get seed or transplant into the soil. Recent warmer temperatures and drier conditions have helped to dry out our fields and encourage more plowing and planting. The cool overnight temperatures that we continue to get should also create quality lettuces and greens. Other than our slightly early over-wintered crops, the season is on a normal schedule at this point. Look for mid 60's straight through this weekend, with a 30% chance of showers on Thursday and then this weekend again.

Please let me know how I can make this report of more use to you. Feel free to respond to [william.walker@ag.state.nj.us](mailto:william.walker@ag.state.nj.us) at any time if you have questions or need more information about Jersey Fresh availability. If you know anyone that would benefit from receiving this report, please drop me their e-mail address and I'd be glad to add to the e-mailing list. Thanks for your support of the Jersey Fresh program and the New Jersey produce industry.

*Bill Walker – NJ Dept. Of Agriculture*

### AVAILABILITY FOR APRIL 19, 2010

<b>ASPARAGUS</b>	Harvesting a light quantity of good quality product. With continued warm weather, and increasing soil temperatures, the harvest should ramp up quickly.
<b>CILANTRO</b>	A light 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.
<b>DANDELIONS</b>	Good quality over-wintered bunched product is available now and for some time. Spring planted should be available by mid-May.
<b>KALE</b>	Good quality over-wintered product just starting in light volume. Volume should pick up each week.
<b>LEEKS</b>	A light volume of good quality over-wintered product is available now and for some time.
<b>MINT</b>	Just started harvesting very good quality product. Volume should increase each week.
<b>PARSLEY</b>	Just starting to harvest good quality over-wintered curly and plain.
<b>SPINACH</b>	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.

### FORECAST

<b>ARUGULA</b>	Harvest should start later on this week or early next week in very light quantity. Volume should pick up each week after that.
<b>BABY SPINACH &amp; ARUGULA</b>	Harvest should start at the end of the month, or in early May, due to rainy weather which prevented early planting.
<b>BEEETS</b>	Recently transplanted. Harvest should begin in mid-May.
<b>CABBAGE</b>	Recently transplanted. Won't be ready until late May.
<b>COLLARDS</b>	Should begin harvesting around the third week of May.
<b>DILL</b>	Harvest should start next week in very light quantity. Volume should pick up each week after that.
<b>ESCAROLE &amp; ENDIVE</b>	Should begin harvesting around the third week of May.
<b>LETTUCE</b>	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.
<b>RADISHES</b>	Harvest of good quality product should start later on in the week. Volume should pick up each week after that.
<b>STRAWBERRIES</b>	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.
<b>SWISS CHARD</b>	Harvest of good quality product should start later on this week or early next week in very light quantity. Volume should pick up each week after that.
<b>TURNIPS</b>	Should begin harvesting around the end of May.