



**Agricultural Weather Advisory For New Jersey
And Southeastern Pennsylvania
Issued By Rutgers University
New Brunswick, NJ
8 am EDT Monday, May 03, 2010**

Rainfall amounts one to two tenths of an inch with locally higher amounts possible today, none later this afternoon through Tuesday. Winds for spraying west 10 to 15 mph today, west 5 mph tonight, west 10 to 15 mph Tuesday.

Relative humidity in percent 60 to 70 today, 90 to 100 tonight 35 to 45 Tuesday. Dew points near 70 this morning then dropping through the 60s today and through the 50s tonight and into the mid 40s Tuesday. Drying conditions becoming fair this afternoon, good Tuesday. Light dew tonight and again Tuesday night. Percent of possible sunshine 30 today, 90 Tuesday.

There is a 40 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 could drop to 30 to 34 Tuesday night.

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

Hay cutting will run a risk of wetting this morning but then drier air will move back into the region for this afternoon through Thursday.

Field work should continue to be active for the next several days.

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period May 10, 2010 to May 16, 2010 is calling for temperatures to average below normal and precipitation to average near normal.

Climate summary for the week ending 8am 5/3/10

Temperatures averaged above normal, averaging 58 degrees, north 60 degrees central, and 60 degrees south. Extremes were 94 degrees at Hammonton on May 2, 2010 and 32 degrees at Newton on May 29, 2010.

Weekly rainfall averaged 1.27 inches north, 0.66 inches central, and 0.28 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 1.47 inches at Canoe Brook on May 2, 2010 to May 3, 2010.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 96 percent north, 92 percent central, and 89 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 55 degrees north, 57 degrees central, and 57 degrees south.

Sunny Conditions Aid Spring Plantings

Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday May 2, 2010, were 6.0. Topsoil moisture was rated as 85% adequate and 15% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated as 80% adequate and 20% surplus. There were measurable amounts of rainfall for the week in most localities. Temperatures were above normal across most of the Garden State. Field corn plantings were well underway. Conditions for wheat were mostly good. Spring vegetable planting progressed for potatoes, carrots, cabbage, lettuce, sweet corn, and snap beans. Asparagus and spinach harvesting continued. Peaches and apples started to size as orchards were sprayed for pest control. Early season strawberries were picked in south Jersey. Other activities during the week included spreading fertilizer, spraying herbicides, and transplanting vegetables.

Weather Summary for the Week Ending Monday, May 3, 2010

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	1.05	10.16	2.01	87	34	57	1	197	146	98
Canoe Brook ³	2.00	16.48	7.52	93	34	60	5	289	249	100
Charlotteburg	0.96	16.07	7.25	89	34	57	4	212	200	87
Flemington	1.74	13.98	5.40	92	37	60	5	263	218	100
Newton	0.62	11.68	3.82	88	32	56	2	200	178	89
Central										
Freehold	0.79	12.80	4.31	90	35	61	4	312	242	87
Long Branch	0.80	13.32	4.54	90	37	59	3	217	162	78
New Brunswick	0.75	13.75	5.56	93	33	61	4	289	200	90
Toms River	0.46	11.89	3.31	93	34	60	4	256	195	71
Trenton	0.51	9.92	2.22	91	39	60	2	331	224	72
South										
Cape May C.H.	0.12	10.33	2.86	87	35	57	0	219	129	76
Downstown	0.19	9.82	2.12	92	33	60	1	295	181	76
Glassboro	1.04	11.44	3.31	88	41	59	1	334	227	92
Hammonton	0.23	10.46	2.56	94	38	61	3	340	238	69
Pomona	0.04	10.12	2.59	91	36	62	5	299	225	69
Seabrook ³	0.06	9.70	N/A	88	37	63	4	376	259	71
South Harrison ³	0.78	8.88	N/A	88	41	61	N/A	340	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 for all historic comparisons.

So far, this Spring has been much wetter and warmer than usual. We had the wettest March in recorded history. We also had the 5th warmest March ever. The wet weather delayed most growers' abilities to get seed or transplant into the soil since the ground was too wet to work with heavy farm equipment. Our early warmth helped crops already in the fields; "over-winter" crops, asparagus, tree fruits and berries, to get a good start to the season. This same early warmth also caused some of our early produce to "bolt" and caused the premature blooming of some fruit trees and bushes. Slowly warming daytime and nighttime temperatures, and less frequent moisture, have helped to raise our surface soil temperatures, dry out our fields, and encourage more plowing and planting. Until very recently, cool overnight temperatures, which helped to create quality lettuces and greens, had not raised our soil temperatures enough to hasten the development of some crops or encourage the early planting of Summer crops. These overnight temperatures have warmed significantly over the last week or so and raised our soil temperatures; especially encouraging the growth and ripening of asparagus and strawberries. Look for some rain tonight as record hot temperatures yield to more seasonal weather starting tomorrow. A 40% chance of rain is also expected Thursday night through Sunday. Daytime temperatures in the high 70's to low 80's until Friday will cool down to the mid-60's by Sunday. We can expect our current warm night time temperatures to also decline each day until they reach down into the upper 40's by Saturday night. Our slowing warming temperatures will continue to provide a slow and steady growing environment for our early season produce. The season is on a normal schedule at this point. Feel free to respond to William.walker@ag.state.nj.us at any time if you have questions or need more information about Jersey Fresh availability.

Bill Walker – NJ Dept. Of Agriculture

AVAILABILITY FOR MAY 3, 2010

ARUGULA	Harvesting a fair quantity of very good quality product. Volume increasing each week.
ASPARAGUS	Harvesting a fair to good quantity of very good quality product. With warming weather, and slowly increasing soil temperatures, the harvest is slowly increasing.
CILANTRO	A fair volume of very good quality over-wintered product is harvesting and will be available for at least several weeks. Spring planted should be available next week.
DANDELIONS	Good quality over-wintered bunched product is available now and for some time. Spring planted should be available by mid-May.
DILL	Harvest starting in light quantity. Volume will increase each week.
KALE	Good quality over-wintered product harvesting in fair volume. Volume increasing each week. Transplanted product available next week.
LEEKS	A light to fair volume of good quality over-wintered product is available now and for some time.
LETTUCE	Harvesting Boston in light volume. Red & Green Leaf starting in very light volume. Romaine should start in a week to ten days.
MINT	Harvesting a light to fair quantity of very good quality product. Volume increasing each week.
PARSLEY	Harvesting a light to fair quantity of good quality over-wintered curly and plain.
RADISHES	Harvesting a light to fair volume of very good quality product. Volume increasing each week.
SPINACH	A fair volume of good quality over-wintered product is available for several weeks. Spring planted harvesting starting later on this week.
STRAWBERRIES	Early harvests of a light to quickly increasing volume of tunnel started Chandler variety berries are beginning as warm temperatures have also hastened the ripening of early field grown product. The bulk of the crop will be harvested towards the later half of the month. This early start to the season will probably mean that volume won't be available into June.
SWISS CHARD	Harvesting a light to fair quantity of very good quality product. Volume increasing each week.

FORECAST

BABY SPINACH & ARUGULA	Harvest should start next week due to rainy weather which prevented early planting.
BEETS	Harvest should begin next week.
CABBAGE	Harvest should begin in two weeks.
COLLARDS	Harvest should begin in two weeks.
CUCUMBERS	Pickles should begin in three weeks, followed a week later by cukes.
ESCAROLE & ENDIVE	Should begin harvesting in two weeks.
SQUASH	Tunnel started should start in late May, field grown by early June.
TURNIPS	Should begin harvesting around the end of May.

USDA, NASS
 New Jersey Field Office
 Rm 205 Health and Ag Bldg
 P.O. Box 330
 Trenton, NJ 08625