



**Agricultural Weather Advisory For New Jersey  
And Southeastern Pennsylvania  
Issued by Rutgers University  
New Brunswick, NJ  
8 am EDT Monday, May 10, 2010**

Rainfall amounts none through Tuesday afternoon, tenth of an inch possible late Tuesday. Winds for spraying northwest 10 to 15 mph today, northeast 5 mph tonight, southeast 5 to 10 mph Tuesday.

Relative humidity in percent 25 to 35 today, 90 to 100 tonight, 40 to 50 Tuesday. Dew points 20 to 25 through tonight, near 30 Tuesday. Drying conditions very good today, good most of Tuesday but possibly turning poor late in the day. Light dew tonight with scattered frost in the more sensitive inland locations and some below freezing temperatures in the north, none expected Tuesday night with clouds and some rainfall expected. Percent of possible sunshine greater than 90 today 50 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 18 to 22 if winds subside tonight but should remain above freezing Tuesday night with clouds and precipitation moving into the region.

Four inch soil temperatures now average in the upper 50s north, low 60s Central, and mid 60s south. Soil temperatures will hold steady for the next few days.

Hay cutting will be very good today and fairly good Tuesday but then with the risk of rain moving in late Tuesday and continuing threat into Thursday. Warmer and drier weather should return by late in the week and into the weekend.

Field work should continue to be active today and Tuesday but then will slow down for Wednesday and Thursday with some precipitation.

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period May 17, 2010 to May 23, 2010 is calling for temperatures to average above normal and precipitation to average above normal.

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

Temperatures averaged much above normal, averaging 61 degrees north, 64 degrees central, and 65 degrees south. Extremes were 87 degrees at Pomona on May 7, 2010 and 35 degrees at Belvidere on May 10, 2010.

Weekly rainfall averaged 0.64 inches north, 0.32 inches central, and 0.01 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 1.16 inches at Newton on May 3, 2010 to May 4, 2010.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 94 percent north, 74 percent central, and 59 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 59 degrees north, 62 degrees central, and 66 degrees south.

**Early Season Strawberry Harvest Continues**

Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday May 9, 2010, were 6.0. Topsoil moisture was rated as 90% adequate and 10% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated as 85% adequate and 15% surplus. There were measurable amounts of rainfall for the week in most localities. Temperatures were above normal across most of the Garden State. Producers continued field preparation for spring crops. Activities during the week included planting, spreading fertilizer, spraying pesticides, and transplanting vegetable crops. Soybean plantings began in some areas. Condition of grain and hay crops was rated mostly good. Early-season vegetable harvest of asparagus, lettuce, and spinach continued. Fruit sets were heavy as apple and peach tree thinning continued. Early season strawberry harvest progressed and post-bloom sprays were applied to blueberry bushes.

**Weather Summary for the Week Ending Monday, May 10, 2010**

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.*							
	<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>
<b>North</b>										
Belvidere Bridge	0.34	10.50	1.55	78	35	58	0	260	160	86
Canoe Brook <sup>3</sup>	0.48	16.96	7.10	82	36	63	6	386	302	94
Charlotteburg	0.99	17.06	7.35	81	39	61	6	292	252	87
Flemington	0.22	14.20	4.79	81	36	60	2	342	250	92
Newton	1.17	12.85	4.20	79	39	60	4	279	222	88
<b>Central</b>										
Freehold	0.26	13.06	3.72	83	37	64	5	412	285	74
Long Branch	0.18	13.50	3.85	83	40	63	5	314	210	58
New Brunswick	0.53	14.28	5.21	83	38	63	3	384	234	84
Toms River	0.23	12.12	2.73	84	44	66	7	368	256	53
Trenton	0.39	10.31	1.85	86	40	65	5	439	267	60
<b>South</b>										
Cape May C.H.	0.00	10.33	2.12	82	46	64	5	322	173	52
Downstown	0.01	9.83	1.38	83	45	65	4	406	224	52
Glassboro	0.00	11.44	2.50	81	42	64	4	435	263	64
Hammonton	0.01	10.47	1.78	83	46	66	6	455	289	46
Pomona	0.00	10.12	1.89	87	45	66	7	413	283	46
Seabrook <sup>3</sup>	0.02	9.72	2.10	83	40	66	5	492	307	50
South Harrison <sup>3</sup>	0.18	9.06	N/A	82	47	67	N/A	462	N/A	N/A

\*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 all historic comparisons.

So far, this spring has been wetter and warmer than usual. We had the wettest March in recorded history. We also had the 5<sup>th</sup> warmest March, and 2<sup>nd</sup> warmest April, 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 night-time temperatures, and much less frequent April moisture, 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, mitigated the general daytime warmth and had not raised our soil temperatures enough to hasten the development of some crops or encourage the early planting of Summer crops. Half the days of April had frost warnings at some location in the State. Although cool overnight temperatures started to warm two weeks ago, we've had cool overnight temperatures since and spotty frost warnings for the last week. There is a frost warning tonight as overnight temperatures are expected to go down into the mid-30's and only rise into the mid-50's tomorrow. There's an even chance of rain tonight and a very probable forecast (90%) for tomorrow. A 30% chance of rain Thursday night increases to 40% through Friday night. Look for mid-50's highs tomorrow to increase five degrees a day and top out at a high of upper 70's on Friday. A partly sunny weekend in the mid-70's awaits us. Our slowing warming temperatures will continue to provide a slow and steady growing environment for our produce while our expected rains are welcome. The season for established crops (already in the ground) is at least a week early while wet fields caused most Spring plantings to be made a little bit late. It is thought that March and April's record warmth has helped later planted crops to catch up to a normal production schedule. . 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.

**Bill Walker – NJ Dept. Of Agriculture**

**JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR MAY 10, 2010**

<b>ARUGULA</b>	Harvesting a fair to good quantity of very good quality product.
<b>ASPARAGUS</b>	Harvesting a good quantity of very good quality product. Slowly warming weather and soil temperatures have brought the harvest along gradually.
<b>BABY SPINACH &amp; ARUGULA</b>	Harvest of very good quality product starting in light to fair quantity. Rainy early season weather prevented early planting.
<b>BEETS</b>	Harvesting very good quality product in light quantity.
<b>CILANTRO</b>	A fair to good volume of very good quality over-wintered product is harvesting. Spring planted is becoming available.
<b>COLLARDS</b>	Harvesting very good quality in light volume.
<b>DANDELIONS</b>	Good quality over-wintered bunched product is available now and for some time. Spring planted becoming available.
<b>DILL</b>	Harvesting in light to fair quantity with volume increasing each week.
<b>ESCAROLE &amp; ENDIVE</b>	Harvesting very good quality in light to increasing volume.
<b>KALE</b>	Good quality over-wintered product harvesting in fair to good volume. Transplanted product becoming available.
<b>LEEEKS</b>	A fair to good volume of good quality over-wintered product is available now and for some time.
<b>LETTUCE</b>	Harvesting Boston in good volume. Romaine harvesting in fair volume. Red & Green Leaf harvesting in light to fair volume. All lettuces in excellent quality due to great growing conditions.
<b>MINT</b>	Harvesting a fair to good quantity of very good quality product.
<b>PARSLEY</b>	Harvesting a fair to good quantity of good quality over-wintered curly and plain. Spring planted is becoming available.
<b>RADISHES</b>	Harvesting a fair to increasing volume of very good quality product.
<b>SPINACH</b>	A fair to good volume of good quality over-wintered product is available. Spring planted now harvesting in light to increasing volume.
<b>STRAWBERRIES</b>	Harvesting a fair to good volume of Chandler variety berries as warm temperatures have hastened ripening. The bulk of the crop will be harvested over the next two weeks. The early start to the season will probably mean that volume won't be available into June.
<b>SWISS CHARD</b>	Harvesting a fair to increasing quantity of very good quality product.

**JERSEY FRESH FORECAST**

<b>CABBAGE</b>	Harvest should begin next week.
<b>CUCUMBERS</b>	Pickles should begin in two weeks, followed a week later by cukes.
<b>SQUASH</b>	Tunnel started should start in late May, field grown by early June.
<b>TURNIPS</b>	Should begin harvesting around the end of May.