



**Agricultural Weather Advisory For New Jersey  
And Southeastern Pennsylvania  
Issued By Rutgers University  
New Brunswick, NJ  
8 am EDT Monday, May 24, 2010**

Rainfall amounts less than a tenth of an inch today, none tonight and Tuesday. Winds for spraying mostly east southeast 5 to 10 mph through Tuesday.

Relative humidity in percent 50 to 60 today near 100 tonight 45 to 55 Tuesday. Dew points 55 to 60 through Tuesday. Drying conditions fair at best today, fair to good Tuesday. Moderate dew tonight, light dew Tuesday night. Percent of possible sunshine 10 today 70 Tuesday.

There is a 20 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 will remain above freezing tonight and Tuesday night.

Four inch soil temperatures are averaging in the upper 50s north, low 60s central, and mid 60s south. Soil temperatures will hold steady over the next couple of days.

Hay cutting runs a slight risk of wetting today but then drier air should start to move into the region on Tuesday and it appears a favorable haying period will continue through most of the week.

Field work should remain fairly active for the next several days, since rainfall amounts were in general very light.

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period May 31, 2010 to June 6, 2010 is calling for temperatures to average below normal and precipitation to average near normal.

**Climate summary for the week ending 8am 5/24/10**

Temperatures averaged near normal north and central and below normal south, averaging 62 degrees north, 62 degrees central, and 62 degrees south. Extremes were 89 degrees at Hammonton on May 22, 2010 and 44 degrees at Charlotteburg on May 18, 2010.

Weekly rainfall averaged 1.01 inches north, 1.47 inches central, and 1.92 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 2.25 inches at Hammonton on May 18, 2010 to May 19, 2010.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 94 percent north, 91 percent central, and 88 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 59 degrees north, 61 degrees central, and 64 degrees south.

**First Hay-Cuttings Well Underway**

Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday May 23, 2010, were 5.5. Topsoil moisture was rated as 90% adequate and 10% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated as 90% adequate and 10% surplus. There were measurable amounts of rainfall for the week in all localities. Temperatures were below normal across most of the Garden State. Farmers continued planting field crops when weather permitted. Field corn began to emerge in some localities. First hay-cuttings continued with crop conditions rated mostly good. Barley and wheat were mostly headed and sprayed for cereal leaf beetles. Vegetable growers continued harvesting spring crops. There were reports of frost and wind damages to vegetable plants and fruit. Strawberry harvest progressed. Post-bloom sprays were applied to blueberries.

**Weather Summary for the Week Ending Monday, May 24, 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.*     |                            |
|                             |           | Total         | Dept.* | Max.         | Min.    | Avg.    | Dept.*  |                                  |            |                            |
|                             | Inches    | Inches        | Inches | Degrees      | Degrees | Degrees | Degrees | Base 50° F                       | Base 50° F | Percent                    |
| <b>North</b>                |           |               |        |              |         |         |         |                                  |            |                            |
| Belvidere Bridge            | 0.98      | 12.24         | 1.67   | 85           | 48      | 62      | 0       | 388                              | 145        | 87                         |
| Canoe Brook <sup>3</sup>    | NA        | NA            | NA     | NA           | NA      | NA      | NA      | NA                               | NA         | NA                         |
| Charlotteburg               | 1.22      | 18.99         | 7.49   | 82           | 44      | 60      | 1       | 407                              | 267        | 89                         |
| Flemington                  | 0.82      | 15.83         | 4.76   | 87           | 48      | 63      | 1       | 484                              | 252        | 90                         |
| Newton <sup>3</sup>         | NA        | NA            | NA     | NA           | NA      | NA      | NA      | NA                               | NA         | NA                         |
| <b>Central</b>              |           |               |        |              |         |         |         |                                  |            |                            |
| Freehold                    | 1.36      | 15.01         | 3.98   | 85           | 47      | 63      | 0       | 556                              | 270        | 94                         |
| Long Branch                 | 1.70      | 15.82         | 4.43   | 80           | 49      | 60      | -2      | 436                              | 189        | 76                         |
| New Brunswick               | 1.16      | 16.10         | 5.27   | 87           | 48      | 63      | -1      | 531                              | 216        | 92                         |
| Toms River                  | 2.12      | 15.12         | 4.10   | 80           | 48      | 61      | -2      | 493                              | 224        | 85                         |
| Trenton                     | 1.03      | 12.90         | 2.92   | 86           | 50      | 64      | -1      | 589                              | 239        | 75                         |
| <b>South</b>                |           |               |        |              |         |         |         |                                  |            |                            |
| Cape May C.H.               | 2.29      | 13.36         | 3.68   | 83           | 43      | 57      | -6      | 432                              | 122        | 85                         |
| Downstown                   | 1.93      | 12.16         | 2.22   | 89           | 46      | 62      | -3      | 546                              | 183        | 76                         |
| Glassboro                   | 0.96      | 13.51         | 2.95   | 87           | 50      | 63      | -1      | 592                              | 245        | 78                         |
| Hammonton                   | 2.28      | 13.85         | 3.57   | 89           | 48      | 63      | -1      | 609                              | 270        | 70                         |
| Pomona                      | 2.17      | 13.20         | 3.59   | 84           | 48      | 62      | -1      | 555                              | 268        | 75                         |
| Seabrook <sup>3</sup>       | 1.89      | 13.65         | 4.57   | 86           | 50      | 65      | 0       | 663                              | 295        | 78                         |
| South Harrison <sup>3</sup> | 1.20      | 11.64         | 1.00   | 86           | 50      | 64      | NA      | 620                              | 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 all historic comparisons.

## JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY AND FORECAST

Although this spring has been wetter and warmer than usual, cool overnight temperatures, which helped to create quality lettuces and greens, have mitigated the general daytime warmness and have not raised our soil temperatures enough to hasten the development of some crops. Although cool overnight temperatures started to warm a few weeks ago, we still had cool overnight temperatures and spotty frost warnings two weeks ago with some very minor localized damage. Our overnight temperatures are now in the low 60's and soil temperatures have been rising steadily over the past two weeks. There's a slight chance of rain tonight, and then again on Wednesday and Thursday. Temperatures will rise tomorrow into the low 80's, rise to near 90 on Wednesday, and then fall back into the mid 80's through Friday. The weekend will be sunny but only into the mid 70's. 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. Our season is on a slightly early production schedule. 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.

*Bill Walker – NJ Dept. of Agriculture*

### AVAILABILITY FOR MAY 24, 2010

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <b>ARUGULA</b>                    | Harvesting a good quantity of very good quality product.  |
| <b>ASPARAGUS</b>                  | Harvesting a fair quantity of good quality product as cool soil temperatures have caused slow and gradual growing conditions.   |
| <b>BABY SPINACH &amp; ARUGULA</b> | Harvesting very good quality product in fair to good quantity. Rainy early season weather prevented early planting and caused a later season.   |
| <b>BEETS</b>                      | Harvesting very good quality product in fair to good quantity.  |
| <b>CABBAGE</b>                    | Harvest beginning in light to quickly increasing volume. Cool soil temperatures have caused slow and gradual growing conditions.  |
| <b>CILANTRO</b>                   | A good volume of very good quality product.   |
| <b>COLLARDS</b>                   | Harvesting very good quality in fair volume.  |
| <b>CUCUMBERS</b>                  | Pickles beginning in light quantity, followed by cukes next week.   |
| <b>DANDELIONS</b>                 | A good volume of very good quality product.   |
| <b>DILL</b>                       | Harvesting very good quality in good quantity.  |
| <b>ESCAROLE &amp; ENDIVE</b>      | Harvesting very good quality in good quantity.  |
| <b>KALE</b>                       | Good quality product harvesting in fair to good volume.   |
| <b>LEEKs</b>                      | A fair to good volume of good quality over-wintered product is available.   |
| <b>LETTUCE</b>                    | Harvesting all in good volume and excellent quality due to great growing conditions.  |
| <b>MINT</b>                       | Harvesting a good quantity of very good quality product.  |
| <b>PARSLEY</b>                    | Harvesting a good quantity of good quality curly and plain.   |
| <b>RADISHES</b>                   | Harvesting a fair to good volume of very good quality product.  |
| <b>SPINACH</b>                    | A good volume of good quality product is available.   |
| <b>STRAWBERRIES</b>               | Harvesting a good to quickly decreasing volume of Chandler variety berries as early warm temperatures hastened ripening. The last of our commercial volume will be harvested this week. The early start to the season will mean that volume won't be available into June. |
| <b>SQUASH</b>                     | Tunnel started harvesting in light volume, field grown next week.   |
| <b>SWISS CHARD</b>                | Harvesting a good quantity of very good quality product.  |

### FORECAST

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>BLUEBERRIES</b> | Minor quantities of early varieties like Weymouth starting in two weeks due to early warm growing conditions. The much more widely planted Duke variety will start 3-4 days later, with volume available a week later. |
| <b>TURNIPS</b>     | Should begin harvesting next week.   |