



Agricultural Weather Advisory For New Jersey
And Southeastern Pennsylvania
Issued By Rutgers University
New Brunswick, NJ
8 am EDT Tuesday, July 6, 2010

Rainfall amounts none through Wednesday. Winds for spraying mostly from the north around 5 mph through Wednesday.

Relative humidity in percent 30 to 40 today, 90 to 100 tonight, 30 to 40 Wednesday. Dew points 65 to 70 through Wednesday. Drying conditions excellent today, excellent Wednesday. Light dew tonight and again Wednesday night. Percent of possible sunshine 90 today 80 Wednesday.

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.

Conditions do not appear favorable for cranberry scald today and again Wednesday.

Hay cutting will continue to see excellent conditions into Thursday with the next slight threat of showers later Thursday.

Estimated soil moisture in percent continues very low and therefore the need for irrigation will remain high for the next several days. There is an increasing chance of showers later in the week.

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period July 13, 2010 to July 19, 2010 is calling for temperatures to average above normal and precipitation to average above normal.

Climate summary for the week ending 8am 7/5/10

Temperatures averaged slightly above normal, averaging 71 degrees north, 75 degrees central, and 74 degrees south. Extremes were 99 degrees at several locations on July 5, 2010 and 48 degrees at Charlotteburg on July 2, 2010.

Weekly rainfall averaged 0.04 inches north, 0.07 inches central, and 0.44 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 0.98 inches at Seabrook on June 28, 2010 to June 29, 2010.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 66 percent north, 49 percent central, and 63 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 72 degrees north, 76 degrees central, and 76 degrees south.

Hot, Dry Weather Affects Field Crops

Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday July 4, 2010, were 7.0. Topsoil moisture was rated as 5% very short, 45% short and 50% adequate. Subsoil moisture was rated as 40% short and 60% adequate. There were no measurable amounts of rainfall during the week in most localities. Temperatures were above normal across the Garden State, reaching record highs of 99 degrees in some areas. Activities during the week included planting soybeans, irrigating fields, spraying pesticides, and side-dressing fertilizer. Hay harvesting continued with minimal re-growth for second-cuttings due to lack of moisture. Corn began to show stress as a result of dry weather. Farmers continued harvesting barley and wheat. Harvest of early season cucumbers, peppers, squash, sweet corn, and tomatoes progressed. Blueberries approached mid-harvest with increasing volumes of the Bluecrop variety. Peach harvest started in north Jersey.

Weather Summary for the Week Ending Monday, July 6, 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.*	
		Total	Dept.*							Base 50° F
	Inches	Inches	Inches	Degrees	Degrees	Degrees	Degrees			Percent
North										
Belvidere Bridge	0.03	16.51	0.56	95	49	70	-1	247	294	53
Canoe Brook ³	0.15	21.32	4.26	99	52	74	2	403	458	61
Charlotteburg	0.01	20.61	3.35	93	48	71	3	272	525	57
Flemington	0.01	18.78	2.43	97	49	72	1	413	435	65
Newton ³	0.00	17.70	2.08	93	49	69	-1	237	404	60
Central										
Freehold	0.00	18.01	2.01	99	50	75	2	557	483	49
Long Branch	0.00	17.75	1.74	98	55	76	4	406	404	27
New Brunswick	0.00	19.02	3.34	99	51	74	1	520	376	64
Toms River	0.33	17.03	1.03	99	52	74	1	463	459	33
Trenton	0.03	14.51	-0.19	99	56	76	2	634	441	29
South										
Cape May C.H.	0.42	15.96	1.83	94	55	74	1	305	221	50
Downstown	0.61	15.28	0.78	95	51	72	-2	547	337	60
Glassboro	0.08	15.83	0.20	95	51	73	-1	667	478	47
Hammonton	0.49	16.16	0.85	97	53	75	1	663	481	45
Pomona	0.04	15.05	1.20	97	54	76	3	581	494	39
Seabrook ³	0.98	15.80	1.83	97	57	75	1	781	564	57
South Harrison ³	0.95	15.77	0.09	94	58	75	N/A	703	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.

Jersey Fresh Availability & Forecast Report

June continued our four month run of record warmth, as it was the warmest on record; about 5 degrees above normal. This warmth caused us to have a historically early start to our summer season produce and crops are at least a week to ten days earlier than normal. Record breaking high temperatures about 100 degrees will occur the next two days. These readings are 15 to 20 degrees above normal. There will also be little relief during the overnight hours as temperatures will only fall into the upper 70's. The excessive heat should ease on Thursday "as the onshore flow increases and the hot ridge of high pressure shifts westward". It will remain quite humid and temperatures will still be close to 90 degrees. A cold front from the northwest is anticipated to arrive during the weekend with a fair chance (40%) of rain forecasted.

Precipitation was off in June, almost 1 ½ inches less than normal. The majority of our June rainfall also came in the form of thunderstorms. This month's hot and dry weather has been hard on our crops. Despite the dry spell, New Jersey is under no drought warnings or emergencies across any of its six zones, according to the NJ Department of Environmental Protection. This is because New Jersey had record-high water tables this year as lots of snow and rain recharged reservoirs and aquifers that supply the state's drinking and irrigation water. Our NJ farmers can irrigate like no one else though it comes at a price of time and labor costs. Remember one thing; our farmers would much rather put water on their crops than deal with too much water. That's a problem that they can't do anything about. Let's hope for some rain this weekend.

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 at any time if you have questions or need more information about Jersey Fresh availability.

Bill Walker – NJ Dept. of Agriculture

AVAILABILITY FOR JULY 5, 2010

ARUGULA	Harvesting a fair quantity of very good quality product in this heat.
BABY SPINACH & ARUGULA	Harvesting very good quality product in fair quantity.
BASIL	Likes warm weather. Harvesting a fair to good volume of good quality product.
BEETS	Harvesting very good quality product in fair to good quantity.
BLUEBERRIES	The crop is harvesting in very good quality and good to decreasing volume as the widely planted Duke variety gives way to Bluecrop berries. The harvest is past our peak.
CABBAGE	Harvesting very good quality product in good volume.
CILANTRO	A fair volume of very good quality product in this heat.
COLLARDS	Harvesting good quality in fair to good volume.
CUCUMBERS	Harvesting good quantities of good quality product.
DANDELIONS	A good volume of good quality Spring planted product.
DILL	Harvesting good quality in fair quantity in this heat.
EGGPLANT	Just starting to harvest very good quality product in light to fair supply. Quantity will increase quickly with warming temperatures but it will be at least a week before good volume is available.
ESCAROLE & ENDIVE	Harvesting good quality in light to fair quantity in this heat.
KALE	Good quality product harvesting in fair to good volume.
LEEKs	A fair to good volume of good quality product is available.
LETTUCE	These temperature sensitive products are finishing up due to hot temperatures. "Mucklands" of NW Jersey still harvesting for a week or two.
MINT	Harvesting a fair to good quantity of good quality product.
PARSLEY	Harvesting a fair to good quantity of good quality curly and plain.
PEACHES	The harvest has started with very good quality "cling" peaches, with volume by mid-month. The widely planted John Boy "clingless" varieties starting next week. White peaches starting in mid July, with volume by the end of the month.
PEPPERS	Harvesting very good quality product in light supply. Quantity will increase quickly with warm temperatures but it will be at least a week before good volume is available.
RADISHES	Harvesting a very light to decreasing volume of very good quality. Doesn't like the hot temperatures and volume will fade during the Summer heat.
SPINACH	A light volume of good quality product is available in this heat.
SQUASH	Harvesting good quantities of excellent quality yellow & zucchini.
SWEET CORN	Harvesting very good quality corn in good volume.
SWISS CHARD	Harvesting a fair quantity of good quality product.
TOMATOES	Harvesting very good quality product in fair to quickly increasing volume.
TURNIPS	Harvest very good quality product in light to fair quantity in this heat.

FORECAST

NECTARINES	Harvest will start mid July, with volume by the end of the month.
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