



Agricultural Weather Advisory For New Jersey
And Southeastern Pennsylvania
Issued By Rutgers University
New Brunswick, NJ
8 am EDT Monday, July 12, 2010

Rainfall amounts none today, tenth of an inch possible tonight, quarter of an inch with locally heavier amounts Tuesday. Winds for spraying southwest 5 to 10 mph today, southwest 5 mph tonight, southeast 5 to 10 mph Tuesday.

Relative humidity in percent 30 to 40 today, 90 to 100 tonight, 50 to 60 Tuesday. Dew points upper 50s to low 60s today, mid 60s tonight, low 70s Tuesday. Drying conditions excellent today, fair at best Tuesday. Some dew as well as possible wetting in a shower tonight, little dew but wetting in showers likely Tuesday night. Percent of possible sunshine 90 today 10 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.

Conditions might be favorable today but do not appear favorable for cranberry scald Tuesday.

Hay cutting will see excellent drying today but then with slower drying and an increasing threat of showers on Tuesday.

Soil moisture levels remain very low with only modest improvement in the western part of the district with Saturday's showers. Some additional improvement is likely Tuesday through Wednesday.

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period July 19, 2010 to July 25, 2010 is calling for temperatures to average near normal and precipitation to average below normal.

Climate summary for the week ending 8am 7/12/10

Temperatures averaged much, much above normal, averaging 80 degrees north, 82 degrees central, and 81 degrees south. Extremes were 107 degrees at Canoe Brook on July 7, 2010 and 57 degrees at Cape May Courthouse on July 12, 2010.

Weekly rainfall averaged 1.69 inches north, 0.41 inches central, and 0.62 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 3.77 inches at Newton on July 10, 2010 to July 11, 2010.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 70 percent north, 51 percent central, and 48 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 77 degrees north, 79 degrees central, and 78 degrees south.

Early-Season Peach Harvest Continues

Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday July 11, 2010, were 7.0. Topsoil moisture was rated as 5% very short, 55% short and 40% adequate. Subsoil moisture was rated as 50% short and 50% adequate. There were measurable amounts of rainfall during the week in all localities. Temperatures were above normal across the Garden State. Farmers were finishing wheat harvesting and prepared for second hay-cuttings. Corn and soybeans continued to show dry-weather related stress. Irrigation was necessary for various crops including fresh-market tomatoes, pumpkins, and sweet corn. Producers continued harvesting blueberries and peaches with crop conditions rated mostly good. Cranberry growers watered plants to reduce heat stress. Other activities included planting and harvesting vegetables, spraying pesticides, and livestock care.

Weather Summary for the Week Ending Monday, July 12, 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.* | | | | | | | |
| | Inches | Inches | Inches | Degrees | Degrees | Degrees | Degrees | | | Percent |
| North | | | | | | | | | | |
| Belvidere Bridge | 1.19 | 17.70 | 0.78 | 98 | 60 | 79 | 7 | 1,449 | 346 | 75 |
| Canoe Brook ³ | 0.50 | 21.82 | 3.79 | 107 | 64 | 82 | 9 | 1,628 | 527 | 64 |
| Charlotteburg | 1.97 | 22.58 | 3.86 | 100 | 62 | 80 | 10 | 1,483 | 602 | 93 |
| Flemington | 0.63 | 19.41 | 2.07 | 103 | 59 | 81 | 8 | 1,635 | 498 | 69 |
| Newton ³ | 4.14 | 21.84 | 5.29 | 100 | 62 | 79 | 8 | 1,443 | 469 | 96 |
| Central | | | | | | | | | | |
| Freehold | 0.06 | 18.07 | 1.16 | 104 | 63 | 82 | 8 | 1,782 | 545 | 51 |
| Long Branch | 1.32 | 19.07 | 2.19 | 98 | 68 | 81 | 8 | 1,625 | 463 | 76 |
| New Brunswick | 0.21 | 19.23 | 2.56 | 105 | 63 | 82 | 8 | 1,743 | 431 | 64 |
| Toms River | 0.08 | 17.11 | 0.06 | 98 | 68 | 80 | 6 | 1,674 | 502 | 31 |
| Trenton | 0.36 | 14.87 | -0.87 | 104 | 68 | 84 | 9 | 1,872 | 505 | 39 |
| South | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cape May C.H. | 0.60 | 16.56 | 1.62 | 100 | 57 | 76 | 1 | 1,492 | 240 | 57 |
| Downtown | 0.43 | 15.71 | 0.24 | 102 | 67 | 81 | 6 | 1,765 | 383 | 50 |
| Glassboro | 1.20 | 17.03 | 0.47 | 103 | 63 | 81 | 6 | 1,884 | 523 | 73 |
| Hammonton | 0.29 | 16.45 | 0.11 | 104 | 69 | 82 | 7 | 1,889 | 534 | 38 |
| Pomona | 0.49 | 15.54 | 0.78 | 102 | 69 | 82 | 8 | 1,806 | 554 | 42 |
| Seabrook ³ | 0.68 | 16.48 | 1.55 | 103 | 67 | 82 | 7 | 2,007 | 617 | 57 |
| South Harrison ³ | 0.40 | 16.17 | -0.49 | 102 | 69 | 82 | N/A | 1,918 | 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. 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. Temperatures are much more manageable this week with today's low 90's dipping into the upper 80's for the next couple of days and then rising back up to the low 90's for the rest of the week. These readings are still 5 to 10 degrees above normal. There will also be a little relief during the overnight hours this week as temperatures will fall into the low 70's.

Saturday's rainfall, while not substantial, provided some relief to our crops which have been under heat stress conditions. Heat stress can cause decreased production levels and smaller sizes and this is a concern, though our farmers continue to irrigate around the clock to mitigate these affects. Our forecasts for rain look good this week though as we have rainfall expectations starting at 40% tonight and rising to 70% tomorrow night and Wednesday. Thursday brings a 30-40% chance of rain which continues through the weekend. There are actually two good benefits of hot and dry weather. Our growers don't have to deal with bacterial and fungal problems caused by hot and wet conditions. Fruit flavors, in particular, also tend to be more concentrated and flavorful. Peaches are already registering "sweet" brix levels, which they don't normally have this early in the season.

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 12, 2010

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| ARUGULA | Harvesting a light quantity of good quality product in this heat. |
| BABY SPINACH & ARUGULA | Harvesting good quality product in fair quantity. Not as affected by the heat. |
| BASIL | Likes warm weather. Harvesting a fair to good volume of good quality basil. |
| BEETS | Harvesting very good quality product in fair quantity. |
| BLUEBERRIES | Harvesting in good quality and fair to quickly decreasing volume as the picking of Bluecrop and Elliot (late season) berries continues. Our last week of any volume. Finishing up the commercial season next week. |
| CABBAGE | Harvesting good quality product in good volume. |
| CANTALOUPE & MELONS | Harvesting good quality in fair to good quantities. |
| CILANTRO | A light volume of good quality product in this heat. |
| COLLARDS | Harvesting good quality in fair 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 | Harvesting very good quality product in fair to good supply. |
| ESCAROLE & ENDIVE | Harvesting good quality in light quantity. Finishing up with this heat. Will return in the Fall. |
| KALE | Good quality product harvesting in fair to good volume. |
| LEEKS | A fair to good volume of good quality product is available. |
| MINT | Harvesting a fair to good quantity of good quality product. |
| PARSLEY | Harvesting a fair quantity of good quality curly and plain. |
| PEACHES | Excellent quality early yellow cling peaches in light volume as we hit our annual supply gap between the cling and freestone varieties. The widely planted John Boy freestone varieties start next week with volume expected by mid week, through early September. White peaches starting next week with the White Lady variety, with volume by late week, through early September. |
| PEPPERS | Harvesting very good quality product in fair to increasing supply. |
| RADISHES | Harvesting a very light to decreasing volume of very good quality. Doesn't like the hot temperatures as volume fades 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 good volume. |
| TURNIPS | Harvest very good quality product in light quantity in this heat. |

FORECAST

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| NECTARINES | Excellent quality early nectarines starting with Easternglo in about 10 days. A good steady volume of the more widely planted Sunglo variety by the end of the month, with a steady supply through the early part of September. |
| WHITE POTATOES | Next week, growers will start harvesting mainly round white varieties, with some Yukon Gold, Redskin varieties, and a bit of Russets as well. Source your N.J. white potatoes in their distinctive "Jersey Fresh" bags. |