



**Agricultural Weather Advisory For New Jersey
And Southeastern Pennsylvania
Issued By Rutgers University
New Brunswick, NJ
8 am EDT Monday, July 26, 2010**

Rainfall amounts none through Tuesday. Winds for spraying northwest 5 to 10 mph today, north 5 mph tonight, northwest then southwest 5 to 10 mph Tuesday.

Relative humidity in percent 30 to 40 today, 90 to 100 tonight, 30 to 40 Tuesday. Dew points mostly in the low to mid 50s through Tuesday. Drying conditions excellent today, excellent Saturday. Moderate dew tonight and Tuesday night. Percent of possible sunshine 90 today, 90 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 appear favorable for cranberry scald today and again Tuesday.

Hay cutting will see excellent drying through Wednesday then with a slight chance of scattered showers Wednesday night and Thursday.

Soil moisture levels have improved significantly in some areas but many locations could use additional moisture.

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period August 2, 2010 to August 8, 2010 is calling for temperatures to average below normal and precipitation to average below normal.

Climate summary for the week ending 8am 7/26/10

Temperatures averaged much above normal, averaging 79 degrees north, 82 degrees central, and 83 degrees south. Extremes were 99 degrees at Hammonton and Pomona on July 25, 2010 and 59 degrees at several locations on July 26, 2010.

Weekly rainfall averaged 1.06 inches north, 0.79 inches central, and 0.90 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 1.30 inches at Seabrook on July 25, 2010 to July 26, 2010.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 76 percent north, 62 percent central, and 59 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 78 degrees north, 81 degrees central, and 81 degrees south.

Soybeans Blooming

Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday July 25, 2010, were 6.0. Topsoil moisture was rated as 35% short and 65% adequate. Subsoil moisture was rated as 30% short and 70% adequate. There were measurable amounts of rainfall during the week in all localities. Temperatures were above normal across the Garden State. Activities during the week included planting and harvesting vegetables, spraying pesticides, and irrigating. Field corn continued to tassel and soybeans were blooming. Alfalfa and other hay varieties were affected by lack of moisture. Farmers continued harvesting wheat and small grains in some northern areas. Crop conditions rated mostly good for cucumbers, peppers, tomatoes, squash, and sweet corn. Peach growers continued harvesting and packing fruit. Early apples were harvested in southern localities.

Weather Summary for the Week Ending Monday, July 26, 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	0.85	20.58	1.71	93	59	78	4	1833	399	70
Canoe Brook ³	0.67	23.77	3.81	97	59	81	6	2055	633	73
Charlotteburg	2.64	26.81	6.68	93	64	78	5	1866	691	00
Flemington	0.41	22.55	3.24	95	59	80	6	2051	579	71
Newton ³	0.74	23.19	4.77	91	64	77	4	1820	537	73
Central										
Freehold	0.39	21.84	3.10	97	60	81	6	2219	637	63
Long Branch	1.54	21.75	3.12	98	63	82	7	2059	554	88
New Brunswick	0.58	22.74	4.09	98	59	82	6	2181	512	71
Toms River	0.88	19.32	0.17	98	67	82	7	2110	598	70
Trenton	0.58	18.58	0.77	96	69	83	6	2329	594	53
South										
Cape May C.H.	0.64	17.57	1.02	97	63	81	5	1877	266	57
Downtown	1.00	18.26	0.85	97	68	82	5	2205	458	71
Glassboro	0.91	22.95	4.53	96	65	80	4	2300	577	67
Hammonton	0.25	17.74	-0.67	99	70	84	7	2354	633	38
Pomona	0.71	17.76	1.18	99	68	85	9	2266	664	59
Seabrook ³	1.91	21.05	4.21	97	67	84	7	2465	711	99
South Harrison ³	1.36	20.11	1.25	97	70	82	N/A	2359	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

I'm fairly certain that July will extend our four month run of record warmth into a fifth month. This warmth caused us to have a historically early start to our summer season produce and crops are still at least a week to ten days earlier than normal. Today's high 80's will rise into the low 90's by Wednesday, and fall back to about 90 for Thursday with it a 40% chance of rain. On Friday, temperatures will only get into the mid-80's, where they will stay for this weekend. These readings are much more normal than the temperatures that we've been receiving. There will be a little relief during the overnight hours as temperatures will fluctuate between the mid-60's tonight into the low 70's on Wednesday night and then into the mid 60's for the rest of the week.

Recent rainfall has provided some relief to our crops which have been under heat stress conditions. Heat stress has been causing some decreased production levels (especially green and leafy items) and smaller sizes and this is a concern, though our farmers continue to irrigate as needed to mitigate these affects. Our expected cooler nights will help with these effects as well. Fruit flavors, in particular, are more concentrated and flavorful. Peaches are already registering "sweet" brix levels, which they don't normally have this early in the season.

There have been reports of a type of downy mildew that is particular to basil and this is causing concern amongst those growers. It is thought to have been caused by infected seeds, but this is still being investigated. We are also coming off of several years in a row of wet seasons in which fungal diseases were a problem. This could have allowed some disease to over-winter though our winter was thought to have been cold enough to have killed off this disease. This downy mildew is different though from other types of downy mildew and is specific to basil. Our hot and dry conditions don't normally allow for fungal problems to get started so this problem bears watching.

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 26, 2010

ARUGULA	Harvesting a light quantity of good quality product due to this heat.
BABY SPINACH & ARUGULA	Harvesting good quality product in fair quantity. Not as affected by the heat.
BASIL	Likes warm weather but harvesting a light volume of good quality due to the heat. There have also been two instances of downy mildew in disparate parts of the state. Growers are trying to contain the problem with fungicides.
BEETS	Harvesting good quality product in fair volume.
CABBAGE	Harvesting good quality product in fair volume.
CANTALOUPE & MELONS	Harvesting good quality in good quantities.
CILANTRO	A very light volume of good quality product in this heat.
COLLARDS	Harvesting good quality in light to fair volume due to this heat.
CUCUMBERS	Harvesting good quantities of good quality product.
DANDELIONS	A good volume of good quality Spring planted product.
DILL	Harvesting good quality in very light quantity due to this heat.
EGGPLANT	Harvesting very good quality product in good supply.
KALE	Good quality product harvesting in fair volume.
LEEKES	A fair to good volume of good quality product is available.
MINT	Harvesting a fair quantity of good quality product in this heat.
NECTARINES	Harvesting a good supply of excellent quality Eastern glo, the first high quality early yellow. Summer Beaut and Flavortop varieties are also now harvesting. A good steady volume of the more widely planted Sunglo variety starting, with a steady supply through the early part of Sept.
PARSLEY	Harvesting a light quantity of fair to good quality product due to this heat.
PEACHES	Harvesting a good supply of excellent quality and widely planted Red Haven & John Boy yellow freestone varieties, through early September. White Lady variety white peaches starting, with volume by late week, through early September. There might still be some doughnut/flat peaches available as there is a strong demand for a limited supply of these short season peaches. Brix levels are already high due to our early hot and dry weather, so sweetness is ensured. Sizing is good.
PEPPERS	Harvesting very good quality product in good supply.
SPINACH	A very light volume of good quality product is available due to 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 light quantity of good quality product due to this heat.
TOMATOES	Harvesting very good quality product in good volume.
WHITE POTATOES	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.