



Agricultural Weather Advisory For New Jersey
And Southeastern Pennsylvania
Issued By Rutgers University
New Brunswick, NJ
8 am EDT Tuesday September 7, 2010

Rainfall amounts none through tonight, less than a tenth of an inch Wednesday. Winds for spraying southwest 10 to 15 mph today and tonight, west 10 to 20 mph with higher gusts Wednesday.

Relative humidity in percent 35 to 45 today, 90 to 100 tonight, 40 to 50 Wednesday. Dew points upper 50s to low 60s through Wednesday. Drying conditions excellent today, fair to good with some localized poor areas possible Wednesday. Moderate dew tonight and Wednesday night. Percent of possible sunshine 90 today, 40 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 will likely be unfavorable for cranberry scald today and Wednesday.

Hay cutting runs the slight threat of showers Wednesday but otherwise good drying conditions for the next several days.

Soil moisture levels remain very low and therefore the need for irrigation remains high. Little relief is expected at least for the next several days.

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period September 14, 2010 to September 20, 2010 is calling for temperatures to average below normal and precipitation to average near normal.

Climate summary for the week ending 8am 9/6/10

Temperatures averaged much above normal, averaging 74 degrees north, 77 degrees central, and 76 degrees south. Extremes were 99 degrees at Pomona and New Brunswick on September 1, 2010 and 45 degrees at Belvidere and Flemington on September 6, 2010.

Weekly rainfall averaged 0.01 inches north, 0.04 inches central, and 0.01 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 0.15 inches at Toms River on September 3, 2010 to September 4, 2010.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 73 percent north, 63 percent central, and 51 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 72 degrees north, 75 degrees central, and 71 degrees south.

Soybeans Dropping Leaves

Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday, September 5, 2010, were 7.0. Topsoil moisture was rated as 10% very short, 40% 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. Hot, dry weather accelerated field-corn maturation. Farmers continued chopping silage. Soybean plants were dropping leaves. Crop conditions rated poor to fair for corn and soybeans. Mowing and baling of hay continued. Harvest of cantaloupes, cucumbers, sweet corn, and fresh-market tomatoes were winding down. Peach harvest continued for later varieties. Grape and apple conditions were mostly good to excellent. Other activities included irrigating, spraying fungicides, and maintaining orchards.

Weather Summary for the Week Ending Monday, September 7, 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
North	<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>
Belvidere Bridge	0.00	23.11	-2.10	95	45	72	6	2,758	470	59
Canoe Brook ³	0.00	27.64	1.21	97	48	76	9	2,965	656	69
Charlotteburg	0.06	35.14	8.44	94	50	73	10	2,787	952	66
Flemington	0.00	24.53	-0.87	98	45	75	8	3,073	704	71
Newton ³	0.00	26.10	1.45	91	48	72	8	2,724	639	68
Central										
Freehold	0.00	24.08	-0.67	98	47	76	8	3,286	783	63
Long Branch ³	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
New Brunswick	0.00	24.25	-0.80	99	47	77	7	3,268	629	72
Toms River	0.15	20.21	-5.43	97	50	75	5	3,149	713	46
Trenton	0.00	19.43	-4.31	98	54	79	10	3,475	740	38
South										
Cape May C.H.	0.00	20.68	-1.50	93	51	74	3	2,861	428	42
Downstown	0.00	20.01	-3.40	96	49	75	5	3,290	548	40
Glassboro	0.00	25.22	0.77	96	54	76	6	3,415	695	39
Hammonton	0.03	19.90	-4.54	98	52	76	6	3,488	765	35
Pomona	0.04	19.28	-3.19	99	49	77	9	3,391	852	35
Seabrook ³	0.00	23.85	1.44	97	55	77	7	3,568	811	58
South Harrison ³	0.00	21.86	-2.20	96	56	78	N/A	3,496	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

We had the third wettest winter ever. Then we had the warmest spring & summer on record. These two weather patterns caused us to have a historically early start to our summer produce season. We've had below average wetness for the last five months though we've had plenty of water to irrigate. This week, we'll have hot temperatures early which will yield on Wednesday night to a cold Canadian front, cooler weather, and mid 70's that will rise into the upper 70's for this weekend. Although there's been little rainfall lately, cooler weekend weather and continued irrigation has provided some relief to our heat stressed crops. Heat stress has caused decreased production levels and smaller sizes for most produce items. There's still a shortage of some crops, especially tomatoes, due to a number of reasons. Hot and stressful July growing conditions caused pollination issues, blossom burn off, and problems with fruit growth. Hard rains several weeks ago also caused ripe fruit to take on too much water and resulted in quality issues. Sequential plantings of produce items have also all ripened at the same time too due to the constant hot weather, leaving us with some supply gaps.

Please continue to source and promote late season peaches! Between what we still have to harvest and what's "in the cooler", there's probably still 20% of our peaches available. This is the "shoulder" time of the season when our farmers start to profit (or not) from their crops, so please stick with our farmers and their peaches for another couple of weeks. There are two weeks of volume for yellow peaches and another week for white peach volume. I know that retailers are tempted to start promoting early eastern apples and late west coast fruit, but let's not let these crops push out the end of a beautiful Jersey Fresh peach season. Some late plantings of peppers, squash, and cucumbers are now being harvested and have restored some "summer" items to near normal late season supply levels though tomatoes will not again be available this year in greater than light supply. Our Fall greens and lettuces are starting to become available in increasing quantities over the next couple of weeks.

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 SEPTEMBER 6, 2010

ARUGULA & CILANTRO	Harvesting a fair to good quantity of good quality product as supply has started to ramp up as it will continue to do over the next several weeks.
BABY SPINACH & ARUGULA	Harvesting good quality product in fair to good quantity. Wasn't as affected by the heat.
BASIL	Harvesting a fair to good volume of good quality.
BEETS	Harvesting good quality product in fair to good volume.
CABBAGE	Harvesting good quality product in fair to good volume.
CANTALOUPE & MELONS	Harvesting good quality in fair to decreasing quantity as a bit of volume for the Fall marketplace will finish up over the next couple of weeks.
COLLARDS	Harvesting good quality in fair volume.
CUCUMBERS	Harvesting fair to good quantities of good quality product as new fields have arrived. Excessive Summer heat caused fruit set and & growth issues.
DANDELIONS	A good volume of good quality Spring planted product.
DILL & KALE	Harvesting good quality in fair quantity.
EGGPLANT	Harvesting good quality product in fair supply.
ESCAROLE/ENDIVE	Harvesting good quality in fair to good volume.
LEEKS	A fair volume of good quality product is available.
LETTUCES	Boston & Romaine harvesting in light to increasing quantities. Red & Green Leaf starting next week.
MINT	Harvesting a fair quantity of good quality product.
NECTARINES	Finishing up. A limited volume still available in NW NJ area.
PARSLEY	Harvesting a fair to increasing quantity of good quality product.
PEACHES	Harvesting a good to decreasing supply of excellent quality yellow Encore & Lauro w/ volume this week and next. Snow Giant white peaches in fair to decreasing volume this week. Last week w/ white volume. Size and quality good. About 1/5 of our crop (the profit) is still harvesting or in the cooler. Let's source and promote the eating of NJ peaches please!
PEPPERS	Harvesting fair to good quality product in fair supply. Hot and stressful Summer growing conditions caused fruit set and growth problems.
RADISHES & TURNIPS	Temperature sensitive, a light to increasing quantity of good quality is available. Volume should increase with the cooler growing weather.
SPINACH	Harvesting good quality in light to increasing quantity.
SQUASH	Harvesting fair to good quantities of good quality yellow, zucchini, acorn, and butternut as some new fields have arrived.
SWEET CORN	Harvesting good quality corn in fair to decreasing volume as sequential plantings have ripened together. Expect increased quality variation due to the annual cycle of insect pressures in the Fall.
SWISS CHARD	Harvesting a fair to increasing quantity of good quality.
TOMATOES	Harvesting fair to good quality product in light volume and supply will only increase slightly over the next couple of weeks. Hot and stressful Summer growing conditions caused pollination issues and problems w/ fruit growth.
WH. CRANBERRIES	Available. Red harvest in October will be off a bit due to hot growing conditions. We need some cool overnight temps. to help with color.
WHITE POTATOES	Harvesting mainly round white varieties, with some Yukon Gold, Redskin varieties, and a bit of Russets as well.

FORECAST

SWEET POTATOES	Should begin harvesting next week, but with curing, volume won't be available for several weeks.
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