



**Agricultural Weather Advisory For New Jersey**  
**And Southeastern Pennsylvania**  
**Issued By Rutgers University**  
**New Brunswick, NJ**  
**8 am EDT Monday, September 20, 2010**

Rainfall amounts none through Tuesday. Winds for spraying north 10 to 15 mph today, north 5 mph tonight, south 5 to 10 mph Tuesday.

Relative humidity in percent 30 to 40 today, 90 to 100 tonight, 30 to 40 Tuesday. Dew points dropping from near 50 this morning to the upper 30s tonight and upper 30s to low 40s Tuesday. Drying conditions very good today and Tuesday. Frost freeze or heavy dew tonight and Tuesday night. Percent of possible sunshine 70 today, 80 Saturday.

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 should be unfavorable for cranberry scald today and Tuesday. Temperatures in the bogs could fall to 27 to 31 tonight and again Tuesday night.

Hay cutting will see good drying for the next several days.

Soil moisture saw some improvement this past week but additional moisture is still needed in most locations.

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period September 27, 2010 to October 3, 2010 is calling for temperatures to average below normal and precipitation to average near normal.

**Climate summary for the week ending 8am 9/20/10**

Temperatures averaged slightly above normal, averaging 62 degrees north, 66 degrees central, and 68 degrees south. Extremes were 87 degrees at Seabrook on September 17, 2010 and 43 degrees at Charlotteburg on September 17, 2010.

Weekly rainfall averaged 0.68 inches north, 1.31 inches central, and 0.75 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 1.92 inches at Long Branch on September 16, 2010 to September 17, 2010.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 91 percent north, 85 percent central, and 76 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 62 degrees north, 66 degrees central, and 67 degrees south.

**Corn and Soybean Harvest Underway**

Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday, September 19, 2010, were 6.5. Topsoil moisture was rated as 5% very short, 45% short, and 50% adequate. Subsoil moisture was rated as 45% short and 55% adequate. There were measurable amounts of rainfall during the week in most localities. Temperatures were above normal across the Garden State. Early corn and soybean harvesting was underway. Farmers continued planting fall cover crops in some northern fields. Harvest of cantaloupes, peppers, sweet corn, and fresh-market tomatoes were winding down. Apples and grapes approached mid-harvest with conditions rated mostly good. Peach harvest was winding down. Other activities included harvesting corn silage, cutting hay, and spraying pesticides.

**Weather Summary for the Week Ending Monday, September 20, 2010**

Weather Stations	Rainfall			Temperatures Last Week				Growing Degree Days <sup>1</sup>		Soil Moisture <sup>2</sup>
	Last Week	Since March 1		Max.	Min.	Avg.	Dept.*	Total	Dept.*	
		Total	Dept.*							Base 50° F
<b>North</b>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Degrees</i>			<i>Percent</i>
Belvidere Bridge	0.38	23.87	-3.24	83	45	61	-1	2950	445	81
Canoe Brook <sup>3</sup>	1.27	29.22	0.75	85	47	64	1	3188	672	94
Charlotteburg	1.00	36.34	7.59	82	43	61	1	2966	969	93
Flemington	0.56	25.55	-1.68	84	46	64	1	3289	710	89
Newton <sup>3</sup>	0.19	26.60	0.12	81	45	61	1	2905	653	80
<b>Central</b>										
Freehold	0.97	25.46	-1.01	81	49	66	2	3525	789	93
Long Branch	2.43	26.81	0.01	80	53	66	1	3367	687	89
New Brunswick	1.10	25.69	-1.19	85	48	66	2	3516	645	94
Toms River	1.38	21.59	-5.81	82	49	65	3	3384	699	86
Trenton	0.65	20.32	-5.13	84	53	67	1	3735	753	73
<b>South</b>										
Cape May C.H.	0.05	21.13	-2.62	80	50	65	-3	3099	391	58
Downstown <sup>3</sup>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Glassboro	0.49	25.97	-0.23	82	55	69	3	3691	728	67
Hammonton	1.12	21.22	-4.95	86	51	68	2	3744	773	86
Pomona	1.00	20.56	-3.26	86	53	68	4	3653	882	84
Seabrook <sup>3</sup>	1.08	25.16	1.16	87	53	69	3	3852	839	85
South Harrison <sup>3</sup>	0.01	21.87	-3.82	85	52	69	N/A	3768	N/A	N/A

\* 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 & FORECAST REPORT**

We had the third wettest winter and wettest March ever. Since then, “New Jersey has been encased in one of the more persistent episodes of above-average temperatures and below-average precipitation on record”. We are in the midst of the worst early fall drought in several decades. In central and coastal NJ, we’ve only received 20-30% of normal precipitation over the last month. We’ve also been experiencing very little tropical storm season rain as well this year. This week, there is also only a slight chance (30%) for rainfall on Wednesday and Saturday evenings. Due to our generous winter and March precipitation though, water supply conditions are okay, and our growers continue to irrigate produce which have been growing under heat stress for months. Decreased production levels and smaller sizes for most produce items have resulted though our Mediterranean growing climate has been great for most fruit, pumpkins, potatoes, and hard squashes. Growers haven’t had to worry about bacterial or fungal problems for these fall crops at all and exceptional quality products are becoming available.

There’s still a shortage of some crops, especially late season tomatoes and peppers. 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, hard squashes, pumpkins, and sweet potatoes are becoming available in increasing quantities over the next couple of weeks. I’ve been asking all of you to continue to source and promote late season peaches and we’re pretty much finished up with commercial volume now. Thank you. I have been remiss though in asking you to begin sourcing NJ apples for your fall fruit promotions. As most of our other crops, most apple varieties are available at least a week earlier than normal.

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 SEPTEMBER 20, 2010**

<b>APPLES</b>	Fresh apples available thru Dec. Picking Jonathan, Gala, Honey crisp, & Courtland. Red Delicious, Empire, Jon gold, and McCain starting. Golden Delicious, Rome, next week. Stay man/Wine sap in ten days to two weeks. Brae burn, Fuji, and Granny Smith will start in two to three weeks.
<b>ARUGULA &amp; CILANTRO</b>	Harvesting a fair to good quantity of good quality product.
<b>BABY SPINACH &amp; ARUGULA</b>	Harvesting good quality product in fair to good quantity. Wasn’t as affected by the heat.
<b>BASIL &amp; MINT</b>	Like warmer weather so harvesting good quality product in fair to decreasing volume.
<b>BEETS</b>	Harvesting good quality product in fair to good volume.
<b>CABBAGE</b>	Harvesting good quality product in fair to good volume.
<b>CANTALOUPE &amp; MELONS</b>	Harvesting good quality in very light to finishing quantities as a bit of Fall marketplace volume is finishing up.
<b>COLLARDS</b>	Harvesting good quality in fair volume.
<b>CRANBERRIES</b>	Red harvest starting in a few weeks but volume will be off a bit due to hot growing conditions. We need some more cool overnight temps. to help with color. White berries are available now.
<b>CUCUMBERS</b>	Harvesting a fair to decreasing quantity of good quality product.
<b>DANDELIONS</b>	A good volume of good quality Spring planted product.
<b>DILL &amp; KALE</b>	Harvesting good quality in fair quantity.
<b>EGGPLANT</b>	Harvesting good quality product in fair to decreasing supply.
<b>ESCAROLE/ENDIVE</b>	Harvesting good quality in fair to good volume.
<b>LEEKS</b>	A fair volume of good quality product is available.
<b>LETTUCES</b>	Boston & Romaine harvesting in fair to good quantities. Red & Green Leaf harvesting in light to fair quantities.
<b>PARSLEY</b>	Harvesting a fair to good quantity of good quality product.
<b>PEACHES</b>	Harvesting a light to finishing supply of excellent quality peaches. Size and quality good. It’s been a wonderful season!
<b>PEPPERS</b>	Harvesting fair to good quality product in fair supply. Hot and stressful Summer growing conditions caused fruit set and growth problems.
<b>RADISHES &amp; TURNIPS</b>	Temperature sensitive, a light to fair quantity of good quality is available. Volume increasing with the cooler growing weather.
<b>SPINACH</b>	Harvesting good quality in fair quantity.
<b>SQUASH</b>	Harvesting fair to good quantities of good quality yellow, zucchini, acorn, and butternut.
<b>SWEET CORN</b>	Harvesting good quality corn in light to decreasing volume. Expect quality variation now due to the annual cycle of insect pressures in the Fall.
<b>SWEET POTATOES</b>	Now harvesting & curing very good quality potatoes.
<b>SWISS CHARD</b>	Harvesting a fair to increasing quantity of good quality.
<b>TOMATOES</b>	Harvesting fair to good quality product in light volume. Hot and stressful growing conditions caused pollination issues and problems w/ fruit growth.
<b>WHITE POTATOES</b>	We mainly harvest round white varieties, with some Yukon Gold, Redskin varieties, and a bit of Russets as well.