



**Agricultural Weather Advisory For New Jersey**  
**And Southeastern Pennsylvania**  
**Issued By Rutgers University**  
**New Brunswick, NJ**  
**8 am EDT Monday, September 27, 2010**

Rainfall totals of one to two inches are likely over the next 36 hours. Winds for spraying east 5 to 10 mph today, south 5 to 10 mph tonight, southwest 10 to 15 mph Tuesday.

Relative humidity in percent 70 to 80 today, near 100 tonight, 70 to 80 Tuesday. Dew points 65 to 70 through Tuesday then dropping Tuesday night. Drying conditions generally poor today and Tuesday. Little dew is expected but wetting in showers is likely tonight and again Tuesday night. Percent of possible sunshine less than 10 today, 20 Tuesday.

There is an 80 percent probability of precipitation during the 12 hour period beginning at 8 am and ending at 8 pm that 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 will remain above freezing tonight and Tuesday night.

Hay cutting will see generally poor conditions for the next few days.

Soil moisture continues short but should see significant improvement over the next couple of days.

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period October 4, 2010 to October 10, 2010 is calling for temperatures to average near normal and precipitation to average below normal.

**Climate summary for the week ending 8am 9/27/10**

Temperatures averaged much above normal, averaging 67 degrees north, 70 degrees central, and 72 degrees south. Extremes were 94 degrees at Seabrook and Downton on September 25, 2010 and 39 degrees at Newton on September 22, 2010.

Weekly rainfall averaged 0.31 inches north, 0.30 inches central, and 0.58 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 0.83 inches at Hammonton on September 22, 2010 to September 23, 2010.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 88 percent north, 81 percent central, and 75 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 65 degrees north, 68 degrees central, and 66 degrees south.

**Corn and Soybean Harvest Progresses**

Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday, September 26, 2010, were 6.5. Topsoil moisture was rated as 50% short and 50% adequate. Subsoil moisture was rated as 45% short and 55% adequate. There were measurable amounts of rainfall during the week in all localities. Temperatures were above normal across the Garden State. Harvest of corn and early soybeans continued. Farmers planted fall cover-crops where field conditions permitted. Fall vegetable harvest included cabbage, lettuce, squash, and sweet potatoes. Crop conditions rated mostly good to excellent for apples. Growers continued harvesting and processing grapes for wine. Other activities included irrigating, re-seeding pastures, and spraying pesticides.

**Weather Summary for the Week Ending Monday, September 27, 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>Base 50° F</i>	<i>Base 50° F</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Belvidere Bridge	0.56	24.43	-3.62	86	41	66	6	3065	486	85
Canoe Brook <sup>3</sup>	0.17	29.39	-0.09	89	44	69	9	3322	729	80
Charlotteburg	0.13	36.47	6.70	87	41	67	10	3083	1029	78
Flemington	0.53	26.08	-2.07	91	42	68	8	3419	761	89
Newton <sup>3</sup>	0.16	26.76	-0.64	84	39	66	9	3016	706	76
<b>Central</b>										
Freehold	0.29	25.75	-1.57	89	44	69	7	3660	831	79
Long Branch	0.18	26.99	-0.66	89	50	70	8	3508	735	62
New Brunswick	0.05	25.74	-2.06	91	44	70	8	3657	698	79
Toms River	0.49	22.08	-6.20	89	45	69	7	3522	744	68
Trenton	0.49	20.81	-5.49	90	48	72	9	3889	809	71
<b>South</b>										
Cape May C.H.	0.71	21.84	-2.70	88	48	69	4	3232	410	76
Downton <sup>3</sup>	0.58	20.59	-5.13	94	53	73	9	3452	354	80
Glassboro	0.33	26.30	-0.77	89	52	71	8	3838	776	65
Hammonton	0.98	22.20	-4.84	93	48	72	9	3897	828	78
Pomona	0.30	20.86	-3.54	93	48	72	10	3808	958	63
Seabrook <sup>3</sup>	0.57	25.73	0.93	94	49	73	9	4018	900	73
South Harrison <sup>3</sup>	0.41	22.28	-4.22	92	50	73	N/A	3928	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**

Over the last six months, “New Jersey has been encased in one of the more persistent episodes of above-average temperatures and below-average precipitation on record”. We were in the midst of the worst early Fall drought in several decades. In central and coastal NJ, we had only received 20-30% of normal precipitation over the last month. We had also been experiencing very little tropical storm season rain as well this year. Thankfully, the rain which started yesterday should continue through Tuesday night. There is also a 40% chance of rain on Thursday night. Although mid-70’s temperatures will dominate the week, a cooling down on Thursday night will bring increasingly cooler daytime and night time temperatures for the weekend.

Due to our generous Winter and March precipitation though, our growers were able to irrigate produce which grew under heat stress for months. Decreased production levels and smaller sizes for most produce items resulted though this Mediterranean growing climate has been great for most fruit, pumpkins, potatoes, and hard squashes. Those same tough growing conditions are also producing Fall crops with beautiful color and hardness (shelf life) results. Growers haven’t had to worry about bacterial or fungal problems for these Fall crops at all and exceptional quality products are becoming available.

Compared to normal, there’s a late season shortage of some “summer” crops, especially tomatoes, peppers, green & yellow squash, and cucumbers. Our Fall greens and lettuces, hard squashes, pumpkins, and sweet potatoes are becoming available in increasing quantities over the next couple of weeks. Please consider 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 27, 2010**

<b>APPLES</b>	Fresh apples available thru Dec. Picking Jonathan, Gala, Honeycrisp, & Courtland in good supply. Red Delicious, Empire, Jonagold, & McCoun increasing. Golden Delicious & Rome starting, w/ Stayman/Winesap by the end of the week. Braeburn, Fuji, & Granny Smith will start in week or two.
<b>ARUGULA &amp; CILANTRO</b>	Harvesting a 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. Cooler nights below 50 will slow down harvest.
<b>BEETS</b>	Harvesting good quality product in good volume.
<b>CABBAGE</b>	Harvesting good quality product in fair to good volume.
<b>COLLARDS</b>	Harvesting good quality in good volume.
<b>CRANBERRIES</b>	Red harvesting started last week and will continue through next week but volume will be off a little due to hot & stressful growing conditions and a lack of rainfall. The lack of cool overnight temps. has also hurt berry color development.
<b>CUCUMBERS</b>	Harvesting a light 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 to good quantity.
<b>EGGPLANT</b>	Harvesting good quality product in light to decreasing supply.
<b>ESCAROLE/ENDIVE</b>	Harvesting good quality in fair to increasing volume.
<b>LEEKS</b>	A fair to good volume of good quality product is available.
<b>LETTUCES</b>	Boston & Romaine harvesting in good quantities. Red & Green Leaf harvesting in fair to good quantities. All in good quality.
<b>PARSLEY</b>	Harvesting a fair to good quantity of good quality product.
<b>PEACHES</b>	Finishing up.
<b>PEPPERS</b>	Harvesting fair to good quality product in light to decreasing supply. Hot and stressful late growing conditions caused fruit set and growth problems.
<b>PUMPKINS</b>	Harvesting good quality and quantity. Long term heat and lack of rain created tough growing conditions that produced slightly less quantity and size than last year though w/ good color and hardness (shelf life) results. Quality should be excellent though as there has been a lack of disease pressure. Excellent stem quality from irrigated fields. Know your grower.
<b>RADISHES &amp; TURNIPS</b>	Temperature sensitive, a fair to increasing quantity of good quality is available. Volume increasing with the cooler growing weather.
<b>SPINACH</b>	Harvesting very good quality in fair to increasing quantity.
<b>SQUASH</b>	Harvesting fair to decreasing quantities of good quality yellow & zucchini. Good quantities of acorn and butternut have been harvested and are curing.
<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>	Harvesting & curing very good quality potatoes.
<b>SWISS CHARD</b>	Harvesting a good quantity of good quality.
<b>TOMATOES</b>	Harvesting fair to good quality product in v. light volume. Hot & 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.