



**Agricultural Weather Advisory For New Jersey
And Southeastern Pennsylvania
Issued By Rutgers University
New Brunswick, NJ
8 am EDT Monday, October 4, 2010**

Rainfall amounts quarter of an inch today, tenth of an inch tonight, tenth of an inch Tuesday. Winds for spraying northeast 15 to 20 mph today, northeast 10 to 15 mph tonight, northeast 10 mph Tuesday.

Relative humidity in percent near 100 through tonight, 80 to 90 Tuesday. Dew points 50 to 55 through Tuesday. Drying conditions poor today and Tuesday. Little dew but wetting in precipitation is likely tonight and Tuesday night. Percent of possible sunshine near zero today and Tuesday.

There is a near 100 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.

Temperatures in the bogs will remain above freezing tonight and Tuesday night due to clouds.

Hay cutting will be poor through Tuesday.

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period October 11, 2010 to October 17, 2010 is calling for temperatures to average above normal and precipitation to average above normal.

Climate summary for the week ending 8am 10/4/10

Temperatures averaged much above normal, averaging 62 degrees north, 65 degrees central, and 66 degrees south. Extremes were 85 degrees at Hammonton on October 1, 2010 and 41 degrees at Canoe Brook on October 2, 2010.

Weekly rainfall averaged 6.96 inches north, 3.98 inches central, and 4.17 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 6.72 inches at Belvidere on September 30, 2010 to October 1, 2010.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 98 percent north, 97 percent central and 97 percent south. Four inch soil temperatures averaged 67 degrees north, 70 degrees central and 70 degrees south.

Rainfall Improves Soil Moisture, Slows Harvest

Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday, October 3, 2010, were 4.0. Topsoil moisture was rated as 5% short, 65% adequate, and 30% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated as 10% short, 80% adequate, and 10% surplus. There were measurable amounts of rainfall during the week in all localities. Temperatures were above normal across the Garden State. Soil conditions improved for planting fall-cover crops. Corn and soybean harvesting continued. Farmers finished third-cuttings of alfalfa hay and continued cutting other hay varieties. Rainfall aided pasture re-growth. Fall-vegetables nearly all harvested included eggplant, cucumbers, peppers, and tomatoes. Pumpkin and sweet potato harvest progressed. Apple growers continued picking fruit, spraying pesticides, and maintaining orchards.

Weather Summary for the Week Ending Monday, October 4, 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.*	
	Inches	Total	Dept.*							Inches
North										
Belvidere Bridge	7.91	32.34	3.44	77	42	61	4	3,141	505	100
Canoe Brook ³	5.92	35.31	4.91	79	41	62	5	3,408	756	97
Charlotteburg	8.63	45.10	14.35	74	43	62	7	3,168	1,074	97
Flemington	5.91	31.99	3.00	77	43	62	4	3,504	785	99
Newton ³	6.42	33.18	4.95	75	45	62	7	3,100	750	98
Central										
Freehold ³	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	NA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Long Branch ³	3.31	30.30	1.82	77	49	65	5	3,617	767	100
New Brunswick	4.92	30.66	2.04	79	46	64	4	3,756	720	98
Toms River	3.28	25.36	-3.80	78	47	66	7	3,636	788	100
Trenton	4.41	25.22	-1.83	79	48	66	6	4,005	844	95
South										
Cape May C.H. ³	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Downstown	3.52	24.11	-2.34	79	45	66	5	3,563	379	100
Glassboro	6.02	32.32	4.43	78	49	64	4	3,938	795	100
Hammonton	3.44	25.64	-2.19	85	47	69	9	4,029	880	99
Pomona	3.29	24.15	-0.92	78	47	66	6	3,919	994	100
Seabrook ³	4.59	30.32	4.76	79	50	65	4	4,126	921	100
South Harrison ³	6.35	28.63	1.35	79	49	67	N/A	4,056	N/A	N/A

*Departure from normal.

¹Growing degree days since March 1, 2010, total and departure from normal or long term average.

²Estimated soil moisture as % of field capacity based on climate data.

³Data not available for all historic comparisons.

JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY & FORECAST REPORT

From April through September, New Jersey was 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 we got early last week, and on Thursday, was very helpful. In fact, flood warnings were issued in many western areas of the state. If we hadn't been so dry for the last six months, these rains would have caused serious flooding in these areas. The rain that we started getting yesterday will continue into tomorrow. Low-60's temperatures will dominate the early week, with temperatures warming up a few degrees on Thursday, and again on Friday. The cooler night time temperatures, in the upper 40's, will adversely affect the remaining "summer" crops, but provide great growing conditions for our "fall" crops. In addition, apples and cranberries need cooler temperatures to increase their red color.

Our tough late summer growing conditions caused heat stress, decreased production levels, and smaller sizes for most produce items. Compared to normal, there's a late season shortage of "summer" crops, especially tomatoes, peppers, green & yellow squash, and cucumbers. This same Mediterranean growing climate has been great though for pumpkins, potatoes, and hard squashes. Beautiful color and hardness (shelf life) have resulted. Growers haven't had to worry about bacterial or fungal problems for these fall crops at all and exceptional quality products are becoming available. 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 at any time if you have questions or need more information about Jersey Fresh availability.

Bill Walker – NJ Dept. of Agriculture

AVAILABILITY FOR OCTOBER 4, 2010

APPLES	Fresh apples available thru Dec. Picking Red & Golden Delicious, Empire, Jonagold, Rome & McCoun. Finishing Jonathan, Gala, Honeycrisp, & Courtland. Stayman/Winesap just started harvesting. Braeburn, Fuji, & Granny Smith starting.
ARUGULA & CILANTRO	Harvesting a good quantity of good quality product.
BABY SPINACH & ARUGULA	Harvesting good quality product in fair to good quantity.
BASIL & MINT	Like warmer weather so harvesting good quality product in fair to decreasing volume. Cooler nights, below 50, now slowing down harvest.
BEETS	Harvesting good quality product in good volume.
CABBAGE	Harvesting good quality product in fair to good volume.
COLLARDS	Harvesting good quality in good volume.
CRANBERRIES	Red harvesting continuing this 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.
CUCUMBERS	Harvesting a very light to decreasing quantity of good quality product.
DANDELIONS	A good volume of good quality Spring planted product.
DILL & KALE	Harvesting good quality in fair to good quantity.
EGGPLANT	Harvesting good quality product in light to decreasing supply.
ESCAROLE/ENDIVE	Harvesting good quality in fair to good volume.
LEEKs	A fair to good volume of good quality product is available.
LETTUCES	Boston, Romaine, Red & Green Leaf all harvesting in good quantity & quality.
PARSLEY	Harvesting a fair to good quantity of good quality product.
PEPPERS	Harvesting fair to good quality product in very light to decreasing supply. Hot and stressful late growing conditions caused growth problems.
PUMPKINS	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.
RADISHES & TURNIPS	Temperature sensitive, a fair to increasing quantity of good quality is available. Volume increasing with the cooler growing weather.
SPINACH	Harvesting very good quality in fair to increasing quantity.
SQUASH	Harvesting light to decreasing quantities of good quality yellow & zucchini. Good quantities of acorn and butternut have been harvested and are curing.
SWEET CORN	Harvesting good quality corn in light to decreasing volume. Expect quality variation now due to the annual cycle of insect pressures in the Fall.
SWEET POTATOES	Harvesting & curing very good quality potatoes.
SWISS CHARD	Harvesting a good quantity of good quality.
TOMATOES	Harvesting fair to good quality product in v. light volume. Hot & stressful growing conditions caused pollination issues and problems w/ fruit growth.
WHITE POTATOES	We mainly harvest round white varieties, with some Yukon Gold, Redskin varieties, and a bit of Russets as well.

USDA, NASS
 New Jersey Field Office
 Rm 205 Health and Ag Bldg
 P.O. Box 330
 Trenton, NJ 08625