



Agricultural Weather Advisory For New Jersey
And Southeastern Pennsylvania
Issued By Rutgers University
New Brunswick, NJ
8 am EDT Tuesday, October 12, 2010

Rainfall amounts tenth of an inch today, none tonight and Wednesday. Winds for spraying northwest 10 to 15 mph today, northwest around 10 mph tonight, north 5 to 10 Wednesday.

Relative humidity in percent 80 to 90 today but dropping late in the day, 90 to 100 tonight, 30 to 40 Wednesday. Dew points low 50s this morning then dropping to the upper 30s by Wednesday morning. Drying conditions generally poor today but improving late in the day, good Wednesday. Moderate dew tonight, heavy dew Wednesday night. Percent of possible sunshine 20 today, 80 Wednesday.

There is a 40 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 representative cranberry bogs could drop to 29 to 33 tonight and 25 to 29 if skies remain clear Wednesday night.

Late season hay cutting continues to run the risk of wetting in showers this morning but drier weather will return on Wednesday but then with another risk of showers on Thursday.

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period October 19, 2010 to October 25, 2010 is calling for temperatures to average below normal and precipitation to average above normal.

Climate summary for the week ending 8am 10/12/10

Temperatures averaged near normal, averaging 55 degrees north, 58 degrees central, and 58 degrees south. Extremes were 78 degrees at Hammonton, New Brunswick, Cape May Courthouse and Pomona on October 10, 2010 and 34 degrees at Charlotteburg, Belvidere, and Newton on October 10, 2010.

Weekly rainfall averaged 0.82 inches north, 0.78 inches central, and 0.67 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 1.58 inches at Long Branch on October 4, 2010 to October 5, 2010.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 98 percent north, 94 percent central, and 93 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 58 degrees north, 56 degrees central, and 56 degrees south.

Cranberry Harvest Progresses

Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday, October 10, 2010, were 5.0. Topsoil moisture was rated as 10% short, 80% adequate, and 10% 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 variable across the Garden State. Corn and soybean harvesting continued when weather permitted. Third-cuttings of grass hay started in some northern localities. Producers continued planting wheat and barley. Fall varieties of cabbage, lettuce, spinach, and squash harvesting progressed. Crop conditions rated mostly good as cranberries approached mid-harvest. Apple and grape growers continued picking fruit. Other activities included field maintenance, spraying pesticides, and marketing fruit.

Weather Summary for the Week Ending Monday, October 12, 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.*							Base 50° F
North	<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	1.05	33.39	3.71	75	34	54	-1	3172	496	93
Canoe Brook ³	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Charlotteburg	0.54	45.64	13.96	72	34	55	3	3202	1085	94
Flemington	0.77	32.76	3.00	74	35	55	0	3540	779	95
Newton ³	0.90	34.08	5.09	73	34	54	2	3132	761	95
Central										
Freehold ³	0.21	25.96	-2.97	75	36	56	-1	3705	742	91
Long Branch ³	1.65	31.95	2.66	76	40	58	1	3678	769	83
New Brunswick	0.24	30.90	1.53	78	46	59	2	3819	725	93
Toms River	1.33	26.69	-3.36	76	37	58	1	3690	788	82
Trenton	0.49	25.71	-2.01	76	41	58	0	4064	840	82
South										
Cape May C.H. ³	0.51	22.35	-3.64	78	41	59	-2	3294	292	81
Downstown	0.64	24.75	-2.42	76	39	56	-3	3610	357	85
Glassboro	0.68	33.00	4.34	76	46	57	-1	3991	785	84
Hammonton	0.78	26.42	-2.16	78	41	59	1	4092	882	83
Pomona	0.74	24.89	-0.87	78	41	59	2	3981	999	81
Seabrook ³	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
South Harrison ³	0.81	29.44	1.42	77	44	58	N/A	4116	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

April through September were the warmest seven months in recorded history. At the same time, New Jersey was “encased in one of the more persistent episodes of below-average precipitation on record”. We have also been experiencing very little tropical storm season rain as well this year. Thankfully, many western parts of the state have received some rain the last two weeks though much of our volume production areas in the southern part of the state have not received very much rain at all the last two weeks, including last night, and are irrigating today. There’s a 40% chance of rain today, and we’re 70-80% probable for late week rain as well. Today’s low 70’s will fall a few degrees each day through Friday when upper 50’s will be the high. We’ll see low to mid 60’s for the weekend. Shorter days, and cooler night time temperatures below 50, will adversely affect the remaining “summer” crops, but provide great growing conditions for our “fall” crops such as greens, lettuces, white and sweet potatoes, hard squashes. These crops are growing well but need some rain to mitigate the amount of irrigation going on to produce them properly. 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 been late season shortages of “summer” crops, especially tomatoes, peppers, green & yellow squash, and cucumbers. Tomatoes and cucumbers are about finished, while peppers, eggplants, sweet corn, and summer squashes aren’t far behind. The same Mediterranean growing climate though has been great 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

JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR OCTOBER 12, 2010

APPLES	Fresh apples available thru Dec. Picking Stayman/Winesap, Braeburn, Fuji, & Granny Smith. Finishing Red & Golden Delicious, Empire, Jonagold, Rome & McCoun. Jonathan, Gala, Honeycrisp, & Courtland in storage.
ARUGULA & CILANTRO	Harvesting a good quantity of good quality product.
BABY SPINACH & ARUGULA	Harvesting a good quantity of good quality product.
BASIL & MINT	Harvesting good quality product in light to decreasing volume. Likes warmer weather so cooler nights, below 50, are slowing down harvest.
BEETS	Harvesting good quality product in good volume.
CABBAGE	Harvesting good quality product in good volume.
COLLARDS/KALE	Harvesting good quality in good volume.
CRANBERRIES	Finishing the harvest of continuing but volume is off a little due to hot & stressful growing conditions and a lack of rainfall. The lack of cool overnight temps. has hurt berry color development.
CUCUMBERS	Harvesting a very light to finishing quantity of good quality product.
DANDELIONS	A good volume of good quality Spring planted product.
DILL	Harvesting good quality and fair to decreasing quantity.
EGGPLANT	Harvesting good quality product in light to decreasing supply.
ESCAROLE/ENDIVE	Harvesting good quality in good volume.
LEEKS	A good volume of good quality product is available.
LETTUCES	Boston, Romaine, Red & Green Leaf all harvesting in good quality and fair to good quantity.
PARSLEY	Harvesting a 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 good quantity of good quality is available.
SPINACH	Harvesting very good quality in fair to good 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 very light to finishing 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 finishing volume. 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.