



**Agricultural Weather Advisory For New Jersey  
And Southeastern Pennsylvania  
Issued By Rutgers University  
New Brunswick, NJ  
8 am EDT Monday April 25, 2011**

Rainfall amounts one to two tenths of an inch with locally heavier amounts possible each period through Tuesday. Winds for spraying north 5 to 10 mph today, southeast 5 to 10 mph tonight, and southwest 10 to 15 mph Tuesday.

Relative humidity in percent 50 to 60 today, 90 to 100 tonight, and 50 to 60 Tuesday. Dew points 55 to 60 through Tuesday. Drying conditions fair at best today and Tuesday. Little dew expected but wetting in showers is possible tonight and again Tuesday night. Percent of possible sunshine 10 today, 10 Tuesday.

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 will remain above freezing due to clouds tonight and Tuesday night.

Early season hay cutting will not see good conditions for most of the week with slow drying and periodic showers.

No critical temperatures are expected in peaches for the next few days.

Field work will continue to be slow this week with soils that are near saturation in many locations and some additional showers throughout the week.

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period May 2, 2011 to May 8, 2011 is calling for temperatures to average below normal and precipitation to average above normal.

**Climate summary for the week ending 8am April 25, 2011**

Temperatures averaged above normal south and near normal central and north, averaging 52 degrees north, 55 degrees central, and 58 degrees south. Extremes were 87 degrees at Toms River on April 25, 2011 and 30 degrees at numerous locations on April 22, 2011.

Weekly rainfall averaged 1.27 inches north, 1.07 inches central, and 0.45 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 1.19 inches at Charlotteburg on April 23, 2011 to April 24, 2011.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 99 percent north, 94 percent central, and 89 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 52 degrees north, 54 degrees central, and 57 degrees south.

**Peach Trees in Bloom**

Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday, April 24, 2011, were 4.5. Topsoil moisture was rated as 50% adequate and 50% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated as 60% adequate and 40% surplus. There were measurable amounts of rainfall during the week in all localities. Temperatures were mostly at or above normal for the week across the Garden State.

Farmers continued preparations for spring plantings. Activities included tilling fields, spreading fertilizer, and spraying herbicides. Less supplemental feeding was necessary as pastures continued growing. Producers continued transplanting vegetables and harvesting overwintered crops. Tomato, snap bean, summer-squash, and sweet corn plantings are well underway. Peach trees were blooming in northern localities.

**Weather Summary for the Week Ending Monday, April 25, 2011**

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	0.72	10.53	3.40	75	30	50	-3	61	46	98
Canoe Brook <sup>3</sup>	1.33	13.84	5.95	86	30	56	4	122	113	100
Charlotteburg	1.54	20.11	12.39	76	30	51	1	66	66	100
Flemington	2.02	14.80	7.25	80	31	54	1	95	83	100
Newton	0.74	12.03	5.18	73	30	49	-2	63	61	100
<b>Central</b>										
Freehold	1.02	9.90	2.38	82	35	55	1	115	89	100
Long Branch	1.05	10.50	2.72	78	41	53	0	79	61	100
New Brunswick	1.69	12.12	4.94	83	36	55	0	115	76	100
Toms River	0.37	9.25	1.68	87	36	55	1	119	99	93
Trenton	1.24	10.60	3.78	82	38	56	0	149	98	100
<b>South</b>										
Cape May C.H.	0.23	7.48	0.86	77	37	56	1	91	50	84
Downstown	0.60	9.71	2.89	84	33	58	2	153	98	97
Hammonton	0.55	9.48	2.51	85	33	59	4	163	116	95
Pomona	0.70	8.33	1.63	85	34	58	4	163	133	99
Seabrook	0.19	8.96	2.90	84	39	59	3	174	117	80
South Harrison <sup>3</sup>	0.57	8.88	2.15	83	39	58	N/A	149	N/A	N/A

\* Departure from normal.

<sup>1</sup> Growing degree days since March 1, 2011, 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 historic comparisons.

## Jersey Fresh Availability & Forecast Report

So far, this Spring has been slightly wetter and cooler than usual though recent weather has been a bit drier and warmer. Early Spring wet weather procrastinated some growers' desires/abilities to get seed or transplant into the soil since some ground has been too wet to work with heavy farm equipment. Continuing warmer temperatures and sunshine would help to dry out our fields and encourage more plowing and planting. The cool overnight temperatures that we continue to get should create quality lettuces and greens but they also cause soil temperatures to stay cool. This has caused our over-wintered crops to be slightly later than normal, especially in comparison to last year when record March and April warmth got everything off to a historically early start. The season is on a normal schedule at this point though. This week should see today's near 80 fall a couple of degrees each day through the end of the week with high 60's by Friday and for the weekend. We're looking at probable rain on Thursday.

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 APRIL 25, 2011

<b>ARUGULA</b>	Harvesting a very light quantity of very good quality product. Volume should pick up each week.
<b>ASPARAGUS</b>	Harvesting a light to fair quantity of good quality product. With the weather continuing to warm, and increasing soil temperatures, the harvest should ramp up quickly.
<b>CILANTRO</b>	A light to fair volume of very good quality over-wintered product is harvesting and available for at least several weeks. Spring planted should be available by mid-May.
<b>DANDELIONS</b>	Good quality over-wintered bunched Italian product is available for some time. Spring planted should be available by the third week of May. San Pasquale variety should be several weeks away.
<b>LEEKs</b>	A light volume of good quality over-wintered product harvesting and will be available until Spring planted arrives.
<b>PARSLEY</b>	Harvesting a light to increasing volume of good quality over-wintered curly and plain product.
<b>RADISHES</b>	Harvesting a light to increasing volume of good quality product.
<b>SPINACH</b>	A light to fair and increasing volume of good quality over-wintered product available until Spring planted arrives early next month.

### FORECAST

<b>BABY SPINACH &amp; ARUGULA</b>	Harvest should start in early May for spinach and mid-May for arugula, due to cool weather which prevented early planting.
<b>BEETS</b>	Harvest should begin in mid-May.
<b>CABBAGE</b>	Won't be ready until late May.
<b>COLLARDS</b>	Should begin harvesting in early May.
<b>DILL</b>	Harvest should start next week in very light quantity. Volume should pick up each week after that.
<b>ESCAROLE &amp; ENDIVE</b>	Should begin harvesting around the end of May.
<b>KALE</b>	Good quality over-wintered product should be starting in very light volume next week. Volume should pick up each week.
<b>LETTUCE</b>	Should begin harvesting some Boston by early May. Red & Green Leaf will follow in mid-May, followed by Romaine around the end of May.
<b>MINT</b>	Very good quality should start harvesting next week. Volume should increase each week thereafter.
<b>STRAWBERRIES</b>	Early harvests of Chandler variety berries are expected to begin in mid-May, while the bulk of the crop will be harvested towards the end of May, with lower volumes to continue through early June.
<b>SWISS CHARD</b>	Harvest of good quality product should start next week. Volume should pick up each week after that.
<b>TURNIPS</b>	Should begin harvesting around the end of May.