



**Agricultural Weather Advisory For New Jersey**  
**And Southeastern Pennsylvania**  
**Issued by Rutgers University**  
**New Brunswick, NJ**  
**8 am EDT Monday, May 23, 2011**

Rainfall amounts one to two tenths of an inch but with locally higher amounts possible today, tonight and Tuesday. Winds for spraying south 5 to 10 mph today and tonight, southwest 10 to 15 mph Tuesday.

Relative humidity in percent 75 to 85 today, near 100 tonight, 65 to 75 Tuesday. Dew points 55 to 60 through tonight, 60 to 65 Tuesday. Drying conditions poor today, fair at best with locally poor conditions Tuesday. Some dew as well as wetting in showers tonight and Tuesday night. Percent of possible sunshine 10 today, 30 Tuesday.

There is a 70 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 for the next several nights.

Hay cutting will see poor conditions for most of the week with high humidity levels and periodic showers but with warmer temperatures.

Soil moisture levels remain high and little improvement is expected for much of the week.

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period May 30, 2011 to June 5, 2011 is calling for temperatures to average above normal and precipitation to average near normal.

**Climate summary for the week ending 8am May 23, 2011**

Temperatures averaged near normal central and north and above normal south, averaging 60 degrees north, 62 degrees central, and 66 degrees south. Extremes were 85 degrees at Hammonton on May 22, 2011 and 46 degrees at Belvidere on May 19, 2011.

Weekly rainfall averaged 2.83 inches north, 1.76 inches central, and 1.00 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 2.44 inches at Charlotteburg on May 18, 2011 to May 19, 2011.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 99 percent north, 97 percent central, and 87 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 62 degrees north and central and 65 degrees south.

**Excessive Soil Moisture Slows Fieldwork**

Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday, May 22, 2011, were 2.5. Topsoil moisture was rated as 50% adequate and 50% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated as 65% adequate and 35% surplus. Pasture and range condition was rated as 15% fair, 50% good, and 35% excellent. There were measurable amounts of rainfall during the week in some localities. Temperatures were variable across the Garden State.

Rainy weather hindered farmers from planting crops, fertilizing, and cutting hay. Corn and soybean plantings slowly progressed. There was a report of powdery mildew presence in wheat fields as crop conditions rated fair. Summer vegetable plantings included cantaloupes, cucumbers, eggplant, peppers, and squash. Growers continued harvesting asparagus, lettuce, and spinach. Blueberry plants were setting fruit, while early-season strawberry picking continued in some central and southern localities.

**Weather Summary for the Week Ending Monday, May 23, 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.*							
	Inches	Inches	Inches	Degrees	Degrees	Degrees	Degrees			Percent
<b>North</b>										
Belvidere Bridge	2.09	16.06	5.60	77	46	60	-2	295	64	97
Canoe Brook <sup>3</sup>	2.86	18.20	6.65	80	53	61	0	484	278	93
Charlotteburg	4.96	26.93	15.56	77	50	59	0	330	199	95
Flemington	2.11	19.30	8.35	78	48	60	-2	387	167	100
Newton										
<b>Central</b>										
Freehold	2.14	16.50	6.38	73	48	60	0	337	173	96
Freehold	1.52	12.68	1.77	77	50	62	-1	422	149	98
Long Branch	2.03	14.30	3.03	71	54	60	-2	316	81	96
New Brunswick	1.91	15.73	5.03	79	51	61	-3	425	124	98
Toms River <sup>3</sup>	1.77	11.18	0.27	74	52	62	0	276	20	90
Trenton	1.55	13.94	4.06	79	51	63	-1	517	182	90
<b>South</b>										
Cape May C.H. <sup>3</sup>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Downstown	1.43	12.32	2.49	80	55	65	0	512	164	92
Hammonton	0.89	11.64	1.48	85	59	69	5	573	248	71
Pomona	1.05	11.38	1.87	77	54	64	1	505	231	82
Seabrook <sup>3</sup>	0.61	10.60	1.62	80	54	66	1	488	135	74
South Harrison <sup>3</sup>	1.05	11.53	1.86	80	55	64	N/A	525	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

According to Dr. David A. Robinson, the New Jersey State Climatologist, there has been a rather wide disparity in rain totals throughout the state this spring, with the north central region wettest and far south driest. While wet conditions over the course of the spring have slowed the progress of agricultural work, the news was good on the water resources front. River discharges are above average, and ground water levels are decent and reservoirs are full. Irrigation efforts by our NJ farmers should not be hampered this season by a lack of water. Perhaps our sense of a cool spring is due to this year being so much cooler than last season's record warmth. The cool overnight temperatures that we continue to get are creating excellent quality lettuces and greens because they allow soil temperatures to very gradually warm and allow for properly maturing produce which should have good shelf life.

This week, it will be warmer and wetter than last week. Let's hope that our ripening strawberries are treated gently. Significant rain hampers harvesting efforts for all of our crops, but can harm soft ripe fruit, especially if it is a hard rain or contributes to overly wet and disease causing field conditions. Knowing that your strawberry supplier, just like with pumpkins, sticks to a proper "spray schedule" and follows proper field cultural practices such as cleaning out bad or diseased fruit in the field is important. We should see today's mid-70's rise almost ten degrees tomorrow, and then hover in the low-80's for the rest of the week. Today's 70% chance of rain will decrease to 50% tomorrow, 40% Wednesday, and then remain at 30% for the rest of the week. The season is on a normal schedule at this point though.

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 MAY 23, 2011

<b>ARUGULA</b>	Harvesting a good quantity of very good quality product.
<b>ASPARAGUS</b>	Harvesting a good quantity of very good quality product. Slowly warming weather & soil temperatures have brought the harvest along gradually.
<b>BABY SPINACH &amp; ARUGULA</b>	Harvesting very good quality baby spinach in fair to increasing volume. Harvesting of baby arugula in light to increasing volume. Wet early Spring weather prevented early planting this year.
<b>BEETS</b>	Harvesting very good quality product in fair to good quantity.
<b>CILANTRO</b>	A good volume of very good quality over-wintered product is harvesting though Spring planted becoming available also.
<b>COLLARDS</b>	Harvesting very good quality product in good quantity.
<b>DANDELIONS</b>	Good quality over-wintered bunched Italian product is available with Spring planted now harvesting. San Pasquale variety harvesting in fair to increasing volume.
<b>DILL</b>	Harvesting very good quality in good quantity.
<b>ESCAROLE &amp; ENDIVE</b>	Harvesting of very good quality products in fair to increasing quantities.
<b>KALE</b>	Good quality over-wintered product harvesting in good volume.
<b>LEEKs</b>	A good volume and quality of over-wintered product harvesting and will be available until Spring planted arrives.
<b>LETTUCES</b>	Harvesting good quantity of excellent quality Boston, Red & Green Leaf, and Romaine. Great growing conditions have helped.
<b>MINT</b>	Very good quality harvesting in good volume.
<b>PARSLEY</b>	Harvesting a good volume of good quality over-wintered curly and plain product.
<b>RADISHES</b>	Harvesting a fair to good volume of good quality product.
<b>SPINACH</b>	A good volume of good quality product available with Spring planted now harvesting.
<b>SQUASH</b>	Tunnel started product has begun in light volume, followed by field grown product next week.
<b>STRAWBERRIES</b>	Harvesting a good quantity of variable quality Chandler variety berries. Significant and spotty rain in some areas has complicated harvesting efforts and given some shelf-life concerns. Like with pumpkins, know your growers cultural and spray practices to ensure fruit quality. The bulk of the crop will be harvested over the next two weeks, with decreasing volume to continue into June, depending on how warm temperatures rise.
<b>SWISS CHARD</b>	Harvesting very good quality product in good volume.

### FORECAST

<b>BLUEBERRIES</b>	Minor quantities of early varieties like Weymouth starting in mid-June. The much more widely planted Duke variety will start 3-4 days later, with volume available a week later.
<b>CABBAGE</b>	Should begin harvesting excellent quality next week.
<b>CUCUMBERS</b>	Pickles should begin next week, followed by cukes in two weeks.
<b>TURNIPS</b>	Should begin harvesting next week.