



**Agricultural Weather Advisory For New Jersey
And Southeastern Pennsylvania
Issued By Rutgers University
New Brunswick, NJ
8 am EDT Monday August 29, 2011**

Rainfall amounts to none through Tuesday. Winds for spraying light northwest winds around 5 mph through Tuesday. Relative humidity in percent 30 to 40 today, 90 to 100 tonight, 35 to 45 Tuesday. Dew points 50 to 55 through Tuesday.

Drying conditions good today and Tuesday. Heavy dew tonight and Tuesday night. Percent of possible sunshine 90 today, 90 Tuesday.

There is a near zero percent probability of precipitation during the 12 hour period beginning at 8 am and ending at 8 pm. Rainfall could adversely affect the performance of pesticides that require a rain-free period after application.

Hay cutting will see good drying for most of the week, however access to fields will be very limited in most locations.

Conditions seem unlikely for the occurrence of cranberry scald for today and Tuesday due to recent rains, however other criteria point to the possibility of scald.

Soil moisture is at 100 percent in all locations with standing water in some fields.

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period September 5, 2011 to September 11, 2011 is calling for temperatures to average near normal and precipitation to average above normal.

Climate summary for the week ending 8am August 29, 2011

Temperatures averaged above normal, averaging 68 degrees north, 72 degrees central, and 73 degrees south. Extremes were 87 degrees at New Brunswick on August 27, 2011 and 51 degrees at Belvidere on August 23, 2011.

Weekly rainfall averaged 7.60 inches north, 6.92 inches central, and 7.44 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 8.23 inches at Freehold on the August 27, 2011 to August 28, 2011.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 96 percent north, 93 percent central and 82 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 70 degrees north, 75 degrees central, and 75 degrees south.

Hurricane Rains and Wind Affect Field Crops

Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday, August 28, 2011 were 4.0. Topsoil moisture was rated as 30% adequate and 70% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated as 40% adequate and 60% surplus. Pasture and Range condition was rated at 10% poor, 30% fair, 50% good, and 10% surplus. There were measurable amounts of rainfall during the week in all localities. Temperatures were above normal across the Garden State.

Hurricane Irene arrived by week's end dropping at least 7 inches in some areas. Fields were flooded and crops sustained damages from hurricane winds. Activities throughout the week included cutting and baling hay, chopping corn for silage, harvesting late-summer vegetables, and spraying herbicides. Crop conditions for field-corn rated mostly fair to good. Soybean conditions were mostly good as adequate moisture enhanced pod-fill. Hay producers experienced sufficient regrowth for fourth-cuttings. Fall-vegetable plantings virtually finished included cabbage, lettuce, spinach, and snap beans. Late-season peach harvest continued, while early-season apple harvesting progressed.

Weather Summary for the Week Ending Monday, August 29, 2011

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	Inches	Inches							Degrees
North										
Belvidere Bridge ³	6.81	36.25	12.16	84	51	68	0	2,168	13	100
Canoe Brook ³	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Charlotteburg ³	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Flemington ³	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Newton	8.38	42.17	18.61	84	52	69	3	2,493	526	100
Central										
Freehold	8.63	41.46	17.74	86	54	72	2	2,881	512	99
Long Branch	6.50	43.33	19.29	84	57	71	1	2,673	381	98
New Brunswick	8.43	39.15	15.21	87	52	71	-1	2,885	416	99
Toms River ³	4.89	26.95	2.39	85	55	72	1	2,708	432	94
Trenton	6.16	35.25	12.52	86	58	73	2	3,161	588	100
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	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hammonton ³	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pomona	7.44	28.83	7.18	86	55	73	3	3,177	790	100
South Harrison ³	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

* Departure from normal.

¹ Growing degree days since March 1, 2011, 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

It could have been a lot worse! Hurricane Irene had a sporadic impact over the entire state. Talk to your farmer or distributor about their crops. These are times when business relationships mean the most. Rainfall amounts and wind speeds varied greatly around the state so the extent of damage from those forces is variable. Soils and topography also had an impact as well. Lighter soils drain better than heavier water logged soils and low lying areas tend to maintain excess water. Expect a few days of supply shortages as farmers can't get any heavy machinery into fields. It might also be better for things to dry out a bit before farmers get back out into their fields. Many farmers picked as much of their crops as they could before the hurricane. They will now hand pick as much of their crops as they can. For the most part, we are concerned about two things; field disease conditions and the wash out of young fall crops, particularly lettuces and greens. We will determine these things over the course of the next week.

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 AUGUST 29, 2011

ARUGULA	Harvesting a fair quantity of good quality product. Volume should return w/ the cooler weather in mid-September but we're still determining field damage.
BABY SPINACH & ARUGULA	A bit of a supply gap as recent rains, coupled with this weekend's weather, make it impossible to get harvesting machinery into water logged fields.
BASIL	Harvesting a good volume of fair to good quality product.
BEETS	Harvesting fair to good quality product in fair quantity.
CABBAGE	Harvesting good quality product in fair volume.
CANTALOUPE & MELONS	Harvesting fair to good quality in fair quantity right now as another bit of volume arrives for the Labor Day marketplace.
CILANTRO	A fair volume of good quality product is harvesting. Volume should return w/ the cooler weather in mid-September but we're still determining field damage.
COLLARDS	Harvesting good quality product in fair to good volume.
CUCUMBERS	Harvesting light quantities of fair to good product as we're between plantings right now. Wet field conditions are a disease concern as we wait to see how the Fall crop is affected. We're still determining field damage.
DANDELIONS	Good quality Italian & San Pasquale varieties harvesting in fair volume.
DILL	Harvesting good quality in light quantity.
EGGPLANT	Harvesting variable quality in fair supplies. Hot and stressful July growing conditions caused some pollination and growth problems. The wettest August ever, coupled with hurricane rains, have resulted in some quality issues. More supply would normally be expected in a week or so but wet field disease conditions could result which would negatively affect the rest of the season.
ESCAROLE & ENDIVE	Harvesting good quality products in light volume. Volume should return w/ the cooler weather in mid-September but we're still determining field damage.
KALE	Good quality product harvesting in fair volume.
LEEKs	A fair volume of good quality harvesting.
MINT	Very good quality harvesting in fair to good volume.
NECTARINES	Not very affected by the hurricane. Harvesting a light to finishing supply of Fantasia variety fruit which is known for its high color and excellent eating quality. The season should finish up over the next week. Good sizing.
PARSLEY	Harvesting a light to fair volume of good quality product.
PEACHES	Not very affected by the hurricane. Cresthaven finishing up while Jersey Queen, Encore, & Laurol yellow freestone varieties. Lady Nancy and Sugar Giant white peaches in good volume. Brix levels are high due to our early hot and dry weather, so sweetness is ensured. Sizing and quality are excellent. Should have good volume for two more weeks.
PEPPERS	Harvesting variable quality in fair supply. Hot and stressful July growing conditions caused some pollination and growth problems. The wettest August ever, coupled with hurricane rains, have resulted in some quality issues. More supply would normally be expected in a week or so but disease conditions could result which would negatively affect the rest of the season.
RADISHES	Doesn't like the hot temperatures and volume fades during the Summer heat. Will return with the cooler weather in mid-September.
SPINACH	A light volume of fair quality product. Volume decreased during our record hot July temperatures. How much of the Fall crop was washed out this weekend? We'll know by the end of the week.
SQUASH	Harvesting light to fair quantities of good quality yellow/zucchini as some are between plantings. Excessive July heat caused pollination & growth issues. The wettest August ever, coupled with hurricane rains, have resulted in some quality issues. More supply would normally be expected in a week or so but disease conditions could result which would negatively affect the rest of the season.
SWEET CORN	Harvesting fair to good quality in fair supply as much corn was "knocked down" by this weekend's weather. I'm afraid that some of it is not going to get up again. Expect supply shortages for the remainder of the season.
SWISS CHARD	Harvesting very good quality product in light to fair volume.
TOMATOES	Harvesting variable quality product in light to fair volume as there's a shortage now for several reasons. Hot and stressful July growing conditions caused pollination issues, blossom burn off, and problems w/ fruit growth. The wettest August ever, coupled with hurricane rains this weekend, have caused ripening fruit to take up too much water and resulted in some quality issues. More supply would normally be expected in a week or so but disease conditions could result which would negatively affect the rest of the season.
TURNIPS	Doesn't like the hot temperatures and volume fades during the Summer heat. Will return with the cooler weather in mid-September.
WHITE POTATOES	Most have been harvested already, mainly round white varieties, with some Yukon Gold, Redskin varieties, and a bit of Russets as well.

FORECAST

LETTUCES	Recent heavy rains, and weekend hurricane & rain, have caused some newer plantings to be washed out. Expect a shortage of product when it is time to harvest in mid-September.
SWEET POTATOES	Should begin harvesting in mid-September though we're worried about potatoes growing in water logged soils during the rainiest August ever.

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