



Agricultural Weather Advisory For New Jersey
And Southeastern Pennsylvania
Issued By Rutgers University
New Brunswick, NJ
8 am EDT Monday September 6, 2011

Rainfall amount totals of one to two inches are likely over the next 48 hours.

Winds for spraying northeast 10 to 15 mph today and tonight, southeast 10 to 15 mph Wednesday.

Relative humidity in percent 80 to 90 today, near 100 tonight, 80 to 90 Wednesday.

Dew points low 60s today, mid 60s tonight, near 70 Wednesday. Little dew but wetting in precipitation tonight and Wednesday night. Drying conditions generally poor through Wednesday. Percent of possible sunshine near zero today and Wednesday.

There is a 90 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.

Hay cutting is not recommended for the next several days with high humidity, limited sunshine, and periodic rainfall.

Conditions will be unfavorable for cranberry scald for today and Wednesday.

Soil moisture will once again increase over the next several days.

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period September 13, 2011 to September 19, 2011 is calling for temperatures to average near normal and precipitation to average above normal.

Climate summary for the week ending 8am September 5, 2011

Temperatures averaged above normal, averaging 70 degrees north, 71 degrees central, and 71 degrees south. Extremes were 88 degrees at Freehold on the August 27, 2011, and 51 degrees at Belvidere on August 31, 2011.

Weekly rainfall averaged 0.07 inches north, 0.00 inches central, and 0.00 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 0.28 inches at Belvidere on September 4, 2011, to September 5, 2011.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 89 percent north, 81 percent central, and 77 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 67 degrees north, 73 degrees central, and 74 degrees south.

Saturated Fields Limit Farming Activities

Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday, September 4, 2011 were 4.0. Topsoil moisture was rated as 30% adequate and 70% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated as 35% adequate and 65% surplus. Pasture and Range condition was rated at 5% very poor, 20% poor, 35% fair, 35% good, and 5% excellent. There were minimal amounts of rainfall during the week in a few localities. Temperatures were above normal across the Garden State.

Excessive soil moisture continued to hamper fieldwork. Standing water increased pest and disease pressures on field crops. Vegetable growers continued planting and harvesting crops where permissible. Corn and soybean crops reached full maturation in the northern district. Wine producers started picking early-season grapes. Other activities included cutting hay, spraying fungicides, and livestock care.

Weather Summary for the Week Ending Monday, September 5, 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.*	
		Total	Dept.*							Base 50° F
	Inches	Inches	Inches	Degrees	Degrees	Degrees	Degrees			Percent
North										
Belvidere Bridge ³	0.28	36.53	11.45	82	51	69	3	2,301	29	83
Canoe Brook ³	0.00	40.84	14.55	85	54	72	5	2,783	491	79
Charlotteburg ³	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Flemington ³	0.00	35.61	10.34	85	52	71	4	2,743	391	85
Newton	0.00	42.17	17.65	82	52	68	4	2,624	553	80
Central										
Freehold	0.00	41.46	16.83	88	55	71	3	3,030	545	76
Long Branch	0.00	43.33	18.35	84	51	69	0	2,806	379	63
New Brunswick	0.00	39.15	14.24	87	54	72	2	3,041	422	83
Toms River ³	0.00	26.95	1.44	85	55	71	1	2,856	440	55
Trenton	0.00	35.25	11.63	87	56	72	2	3,316	600	61
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	0.00	26.79	3.49	86	54	70	0	2,704	-18	66
Hammonton ³	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pomona	0.00	28.83	6.46	85	56	70	2	3,321	800	60
Seabrook ³	0.00	42.85	20.55	86	58	73	3	3,399	662	58

*Departure from normal.

¹Growing degree days since March 1, 2011, 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 comparison.

Jersey Fresh Availability & Forecast Report

Hurricane Irene had a sporadic impact over the entire state. Talk to your farmer or distributor about their crops. These are the times when business relationships and honest communication mean the most. Rainfall amounts and wind speeds varied greatly around the state so the extent of damage from those forces was 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 supply shortages for the rest of the season of “ground crops” that are prone to excessive water damage and field disease conditions such as tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, eggplants, and pumpkins. It seems that lettuces, and some greens, were also washed out last week after already enduring stressful growing conditions over the previous two months.

We need a few days of dryness and seasonal temperatures so that fields dry out without encouraging too many field problems that can occur with excessive wetness. Unfortunately, it’s likely that it will rain through Thursday, with a 30% chance of rain on Friday and Saturday too. This week’s temperatures should be slightly cooler than normal, in the high 70’s all week. Let’s hope against our forecast so that we can simply dry out and allow our farmers to get back out into their fields with their machinery.

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 SEPTEMBER 6, 2011

ARUGULA	Harvesting a fair quantity of good quality product. Volume should return w/ the cooler weather over the next several weeks.
BABY SPINACH & ARUGULA	A bit of a supply gap as recent rains, coupled with last weekend’s hurricane, have made it impossible to get harvesting machinery into water logged fields.
BASIL	Harvesting a fair 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	Finishing up.
CILANTRO	A fair volume of good quality product is harvesting. Volume should return w/ the cooler weather over the next several weeks.
COLLARDS	Harvesting good quality product in fair to good volume.
CUCUMBERS	Harvesting light quantities of variable quality product. There will be supply shortages as field disease conditions have resulted in some locations which are negatively affecting the rest of our Fall cucurbit season.
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 growth 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	Good quality harvesting in fair to good volume.
NECTARINES	Harvesting a finishing supply of Fantasia variety fruit which is known for its high color and excellent eating quality. Good sizing.
PARSLEY	Harvesting a light to fair volume of good quality product.
PEACHES	We may have lost 1/3 of our late crop to recent harsh weather; with severe winds causing most of the problem. Harvesting Encore and Laurel yellow varieties and Snow Giant white peaches. Brix levels are high due to our early hot and dry weather, so sweetness is ensured. Sizing and quality are excellent. Should have light to decreasing volume this week. Finishing next week.
PEPPERS	Harvesting variable quality in light supply. Hot and stressful July growing conditions caused some pollination and growth problems. The wettest August ever, coupled with hurricane wind and rains, has resulted in some quality issues. There will be supply shortages as field disease conditions in some locations have resulted that are negatively affecting the rest of our season.
RADISHES	Doesn’t like the hot temperatures and volume fades during the Summer heat. Will return with the cooler weather over the next several weeks.
SPINACH	A light volume of fair quality product. Hot and stressful July growing conditions caused growth problems. The wettest August ever, coupled with recent hurricane wind and rain, has also caused stressful growing conditions and washed out some plantings. Much more supply would normally be expected in a week or so with the cooler Fall harvest season arriving but adverse growing conditions these last two months will result in less quantity than usual.
SQUASH	Harvesting a light quantity of variable quality yellow/zucchini. Excessive July heat caused pollination & growth issues. The wettest August ever, coupled with hurricane rains and July’s heat stress, means that there will be less supply of squash than normal. Most farmers with Butternut & Acorn harvested them before the hurricane for storage and later sale.
SWEET CORN	Harvesting fair to good quality in light to fair supply as much corn was knocked down by the hurricane and some of it did not get up again. Expect supply shortages for the remainder of the season.
SWISS CHARD	Harvesting good quality product in light to fair volume.
TOMATOES	Harvesting variable quality product in very light volume. Hot and stressful July growing conditions caused pollination issues, blossom burn off, and problems w/ fruit growth. The wettest August ever, coupled with hurricane wind & rain, caused ripening fruit to take up too much water & resulted in some quality issues. There will be supply shortages as field disease conditions in some locations have resulted which are negatively affecting the rest of the season.
TURNIPS	Will start to return with the cooler weather over the next several weeks.
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	August’s record rains, along with last week’s hurricane wind and rain, have caused some newer plantings to be washed out. Expect a shortage of product when growers start harvesting their Fall crops over the next several weeks.
SWEET POTATOES	Should begin harvesting next week though we’re worried about potatoes growing in wet soils during the rainiest August ever. It’s been hard to determine how they’ll fare until we start to harvest them next week.