



**Agricultural Weather Advisory for New Jersey
And Southeastern Pennsylvania
Issued By Rutgers University
New Brunswick, NJ
8 am EDT Monday September 12, 2011**

Scattered rainfall amounts total a tenth of an inch with a few locally higher amounts possible today, none tonight and Tuesday.

Winds for spraying southwest 5 to 10 mph through Tuesday.

Relative humidity in percent 45 to 55 today, 90 to 100 tonight, 45 to 55 Tuesday.

Dew points 60 to 65 through Tuesday. Drying conditions fair today, fair Tuesday. Heavy dew tonight and Tuesday night. Percent of possible sunshine 50 today, 80 Tuesday.

There is a 20 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 will see slightly better conditions for the next couple of days with fair drying conditions.

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

Soil moisture remains high in many locations except the southeast. Soil moisture levels should drop over the next few days.

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period September 19, 2011 to September 25, 2011 is calling for temperatures to average near normal and precipitation to average above normal.

Climate summary for the week ending 8am September 12, 2011

Temperatures averaged above normal, averaging 68 degrees north, 71 degrees central, and 74 degrees south. Extremes were 87 degrees at Pomona on September 11, 2011 and 46 degrees at Belvidere on September 10, 2011.

Weekly rainfall averaged 6.91 inches north, 3.01 inches central, and 1.80 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 3.78 inches at Belvidere on September 5, 2011 to September 6, 2011.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 96 percent north, 88 percent central, and 75 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 73 degrees north, 72 degrees central, and 73 degrees south.

Excessive Soil Moisture Hinder Fall Plantings

Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday, September 11, 2011 were 3.0. Topsoil moisture was rated as 20% adequate and 80% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated as 25% adequate and 75% surplus. Pasture and Range condition was rated at 10% poor, 45% fair, 40% good, and 5% excellent. There were measurable amounts of rainfall during the week in all localities. Temperatures were above normal across the Garden State.

Activities continued to be delayed by wet conditions and excessive soil moisture included small-grain plantings, hay cutting, vegetable harvesting, and pesticide applications. Disease pressure was high for various vegetable crops due to wet weather conditions. Early soybeans began dropping leaves in the northern district. Pasture conditions rated mostly fair and regrowth was aided by adequate moisture. Wine producers continued harvesting early-season grapes. Crop conditions rated mostly fair to good for apples, while peach harvest neared completion in major growing areas.

Weather Summary for the Week Ending Monday, September 12, 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.*							
	Inches	Inches	Inches	Degrees	Degrees	Degrees	Degrees			Percent
North										
Belvidere Bridge ³	8.33	44.86	18.84	82	46	66	1	2,411	32	90
Canoe Brook ³	4.42	45.26	17.96	85	62	71	6	2,932	529	90
Charlotteburg ³	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Flemington ³	6.21	41.82	15.64	84	59	68	3	2,869	403	92
Newton	8.70	50.87	25.43	84	59	68	6	2,750	587	91
Central										
Freehold	2.14	43.60	18.11	86	59	70	3	3,172	563	88
Long Branch	2.63	45.96	20.13	84	57	70	3	2,946	395	84
New Brunswick	4.43	43.58	17.75	86	60	70	3	3,183	436	93
Toms River ³	1.10	28.05	1.66	86	62	73	4	3,014	461	70
Trenton	4.75	40.00	15.53	85	61	72	4	3,468	621	81
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	1.75	28.54	4.47	86	61	74	5	2,874	17	85
Hammonton ³	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pomona	0.52	29.35	6.30	87	64	75	8	3,496	851	53
Seabrook ³	4.41	47.26	24.17	85	62	74	5	3,566	694	90

*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 comparisons.

Jersey Fresh Availability & Forecast Report

Recent rains seemed to have had more of an impact than Hurricane Irene due to the fact that most received more rain recently than they got during the Hurricane. There are also cumulative effects happening. Some crops that had well survived July's record hot growing conditions and August's record rains have found that rains over the last two weeks have pushed them beyond their limits. The fact that farmers were not able to maintain regular cultural practices during the last 6 weeks due to excessive rains is the biggest problem for many crops. Farmers could not get heavy machinery into wet fields to work during this time.

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 some plantings of lettuces, and some greens, were also washed out over the last several weeks after already enduring stressful growing conditions over the previous two months.

We need a few days of dryness and seasonal temperatures so that fields continue to dry out. This would allow our farmers to get back out into their fields with their machinery while also discouraging field disease problems that can occur with excessive wetness. There's an even chance that it will rain on Thursday. This week's temperatures are starting to trend downwards, with Wednesday's mid-80's yielding to upper 60's by Friday and the weekend.

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 13, 2011

APPLES	Harvesting Gala, McIntosh, Courtland, Honeycrisp, Early Fuji, Ginger Gold, Red & Golden Delicious, Empire, Jonagold, and MacCoun starting next week. Fresh apples available thru Dec. It's been hard to follow proper cultural practices during the last six weeks due to excessively wet weather so expect some less than perfect apples this season. More cool nights would help in the development of color in many varieties.
ARUGULA	Harvesting a fair quantity of good quality product. Volume starting to 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 light volume of variable quality product as wet field conditions have caused some quality problems.
BEETS	Harvesting fair to good quality product in fair quantity.
CABBAGE	Harvesting good quality product in fair to good volume.
CILANTRO	A fair volume of good quality product is harvesting. Volume returning 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 light to fair supplies. Hot and stressful July growing conditions, coupled with the wettest August ever and recent rains, have resulted in some growth and quality issues. More late season supply would normally be expected, but wet field disease conditions have resulted in some locations which has negatively affected the rest of the season.
ESCAROLE & ENDIVE	Harvesting good quality products in light volume. Volume should return w/ the cooler weather but we're still determining field damage.
KALE	Good quality product harvesting in fair volume.
LEEKS	A fair volume of good quality harvesting.
LETTUCES	August's record rainfall, coupled with recent rains, has caused some plantings to be washed out. There's going to be a shortage of product as growers start harvesting their Fall crops over the next several weeks.
MINT	Good quality harvesting in fair to good volume.
NECTARINES	Finishing up.
PARSLEY	Harvesting a light to fair volume of good quality product.
PEACHES	Finishing up the harvest of Encore and Laurel yellow varieties and Snow Giant white peaches.
PEPPERS	Harvesting variable quality in light supply. There will be supply shortages as field disease conditions in some locations have resulted that are negatively affecting the rest of our season.
RADISHES	Returning with the cooler weather over the next several weeks.
SPINACH	A light volume of fair quality product. Much more supply would normally be expected 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, coupled with the wettest August ever and recent rains, 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 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. Also expect increased quality variations in the marketplace due to the annual cycle of insect pressures.
SWEET POTATOES	Beginning to harvest. They seem fine from the wet growing weather though a bit delicate upon being first dug. With curing, volume won't be available for at least another week.
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, coupled with the wettest August ever and recent rains, caused ripening fruit to take up too much water & resulted in some quality issues. There will be supply shortages as wet field disease conditions in some locations have resulted which are negatively affecting the rest of the season.
TURNIPS	Starting 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

CRANBERRIES	White berries are available. Red harvest in late month may be off very slightly due to extreme weather growing conditions. We need some cool overnight temperatures to help with color.
PUMPKINS	Expect little local product due to wet growing conditions and field disease conditions which have resulted in many areas.