



**Agricultural Weather Advisory For New Jersey  
And Southeastern Pennsylvania  
Issued By Rutgers University  
New Brunswick, NJ  
8 am EDT Monday September 26, 2011**

Rainfall amounts less than a tenth of an inch today and tonight, quarter of an inch Tuesday. Winds for spraying north then southeast 5 mph today, southeast 5 mph tonight, southeast 5 to 10 mph Tuesday.

Relative humidity in percent 60 to 70 today, near 100 tonight, 60 to 70 Tuesday. Dew points 65 to 70 through Tuesday. Drying conditions generally poor through Tuesday. Heavy dew tonight, some dew as well as wetting in showers Tuesday night. Percent of possible sunshine 20 today, less than 10 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 should not be considered through the next few days with high humidity levels, little sunshine and possible showers.

Conditions will be unfavorable for cranberry scald for today and Thursday. Temperatures in the representative cranberry bogs will remain above freezing tonight and Tuesday night.

Soil moisture levels will remain high for the next few days.

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period October 3, 2011 to October 9, 2011 is calling for temperatures to average above normal and precipitation to average above normal.

**Climate summary for the week ending 8am September 26, 2011**

Temperatures averaged much above normal, averaging 67 degrees north, 69 degrees central, and 69 degrees south. Extremes were 82 degrees at Freehold, New Brunswick and Trenton on September 23, 2011, and 45 degrees at Belvidere, Charlotteburg and Newton on September 20, 2011.

Weekly rainfall averaged 1.97 inches north, 1.45 inches central, and 0.98 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 2.89 inches at Flemington on September 23, 2011 to September 24, 2011.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 93 percent north, 82 percent central, and 78 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 60 degrees north, 66 degrees central, and 66 degrees south.

**Cranberry Harvest Begins**

Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday, September 25, 2011 were 5.0. Topsoil moisture was rated as 60% adequate and 40% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated as 60% adequate and 40% surplus. Pasture and Range condition was rated at 5% very poor, 10% poor, 40% fair, 40% good, and 5% excellent. There were measurable amounts of rainfall during the week in most localities. Temperatures were above normal across the Garden State.

Agricultural producers continued planting cover-crops, cutting and baling hay, and harvesting vegetables throughout the week where fields permitted. Excess moisture affecting vegetable crops included broccoli, cabbage, peppers, potatoes, pumpkins, and tomatoes. The harvest of field-corn for grain progressed statewide. Soybean plants continued dropping leaves and pods started drying. Growers continued picking apples and grapes, while cranberry harvesting began in central Jersey.

**Weather Summary for the Week Ending Monday, September 26, 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 <sup>3</sup>	1.40	46.54	18.62	78	45	66	6	2,594	25	93
Canoe Brook <sup>3</sup>	1.14	46.40	17.06	80	48	69	9	3,067	484	93
Charlotteburg <sup>3</sup>	2.48	45.26	15.64	79	45	66	9	2,399	352	95
Flemington <sup>3</sup>	3.15	45.06	17.04	79	47	68	7	3,083	435	96
Newton	1.70	53.54	26.27	79	45	67	9	2,954	651	94
<b>Central</b>										
Freehold	1.75	45.40	18.20	82	52	69	7	3,414	597	94
Long Branch	1.41	47.37	19.84	79	57	68	5	3,189	428	88
New Brunswick	1.20	44.86	17.19	82	55	69	7	3,428	481	93
Toms River <sup>3</sup>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Trenton	1.43	41.57	15.39	82	51	70	7	3,717	650	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 <sup>3</sup>	1.14	30.08	4.47	81	47	68	4	3,111	27	89
Hammonton <sup>3</sup>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pomona	0.92	30.50	6.20	81	49	69	6	3,748	910	82
Seabrook <sup>3</sup>	1.13	48.45	23.76	80	57	70	6	3,834	730	85
South Harrison <sup>3</sup>	1.76	N/A	N/A	81	51	69	N/A	N/A	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 all historic comparisons.

## Jersey Fresh Availability & Forecast Report

Excessive rains over the last 6-7 weeks seemed to have had a cumulative effect on our crops. The fact that farmers were not able to maintain regular cultural practices during the previous 6-7 weeks due to excessive wetness was the biggest problem for many crops. Farmers could not get heavy machinery into wet fields, or maintain other proper cultural practices, to work during this time. It seems that some plantings of lettuces, and greens, were also washed out after already enduring stressful growing conditions over the previous two months. Ground crops incurred some excessive water damage and wet field disease conditions that have caused growth and quality problems for tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, eggplants, and especially pumpkins effectively curtailing the seasons for all of these items.

We need some dry weather 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. Unfortunately, there's an even chance of rain occurring over the next four days. This week's temperatures are seasonal, although an overnight cooling trend towards the end of the week will bring overnight temperatures into the upper 40's by Saturday night.

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 SEPTEMBER 26, 2011

<b>APPLES</b>	Red & Golden Delicious, Empire, Jonagold, Rome, and MacCoun harvesting. Finishing up Gala, McIntosh, Courtland, Honeycrisp, Early Fuji, & Ginger Gold. Stayman/Winesap starting. Braeburn, Fuji, & Granny Smith will start in a week or so. 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.
<b>ARUGULA</b>	Harvesting a light quantity of good quality product. Volume returning a little bit with the cooler weather.
<b>BABY SPINACH &amp; ARUGULA</b>	Harvesting good quality product in fair quantity as growers have been able to get their harvesters back out into drying fields.
<b>BASIL</b>	Likes warmer weather. Harvesting a very light volume of variable quality product as wet field conditions have caused some quality problems. With nights getting cooler, this will slow down the harvest.
<b>BEETS</b>	Harvesting fair to good quality product in fair quantity.
<b>CABBAGE</b>	Harvesting good quality product in fair to good volume.
<b>CILANTRO</b>	A fair volume of good quality product is harvesting. Volume returning with the cooler weather.
<b>COLLARDS</b>	Harvesting good quality product in fair to good volume.
<b>CUCUMBERS</b>	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.
<b>DANDELIONS</b>	Good quality Italian & San Pasquale varieties harvesting in fair volume.
<b>DILL</b>	Harvesting good quality in very light quantity.
<b>EGGPLANT</b>	Harvesting variable quality in light supplies. Hot and stressful July growing conditions, coupled with the wettest 6-7 weeks ever, resulted in some growth and quality issues. Wet field disease conditions have resulted in some locations which has negatively affected the rest of the season.
<b>ESCAROLE &amp; ENDIVE</b>	Harvesting good quality products in light volume with the return of cooler weather.
<b>KALE</b>	Good quality product harvesting in fair volume.
<b>LEEKS</b>	A fair volume of good quality harvesting.
<b>LETTUCES</b>	Almost two months of excessive rain has caused some plantings to be washed out or delayed. Some late transplants will be ready next week though there's a big shortage of normally available product.
<b>MINT</b>	Likes warmer weather. Good quality harvesting in light to declining volume. With nights getting cooler, this will also slow down the harvest.
<b>PARSLEY</b>	Harvesting a light to fair volume of good quality product.
<b>PEPPERS</b>	Harvesting variable quality in light supply. Supply shortages due to wet field disease conditions that have negatively affected the rest of the season.
<b>PUMPKINS</b>	Expect little local product due to wet growing conditions and field disease conditions which have resulted in many areas.
<b>RADISHES</b>	Starting to return with the cooler weather over the next several weeks.
<b>SPINACH</b>	A very light volume of variable quality product. More supply would normally be expected with the cooler Fall harvest season but adverse growing conditions these last two months have resulted in less quantity than usual and later harvesting. There should be a small flush of late supply next week.
<b>SQUASH</b>	Harvesting a light quantity of variable quality yellow/zucchini. July's record hot growing conditions, coupled with record wet conditions for two months, means that there will be much less supply of squash than normal. Most farmers with Butternut & Acorn harvested them before the hurricane for curing, storage, and later sale.
<b>SWEET CORN</b>	Harvesting variable quality in light to decreasing supply as much corn was knocked down by the hurricane and follow-up rains the next week and some of it did not get up again. Supply shortage for the remainder of the season. Also expect increased quality variations in the marketplace due to the annual cycle of insect pressures.
<b>SWEET POTATOES</b>	Harvesting good quality in fair to increasing supply. They seem fine from the wet growing weather though a bit delicate upon being first dug. With curing, volume is now starting to become available.
<b>SWISS CHARD</b>	Harvesting good quality product in light to fair volume.
<b>TOMATOES</b>	Harvesting variable quality product in very light volume. Hot and stressful July growing conditions, coupled with the wettest two months ever, caused ripening fruit to take up too much water & resulted in some quality issues. There are supply shortages as wet field disease conditions in some locations have resulted which are negatively affecting the rest of the season.
<b>TURNIPS</b>	Starting to return with the cooler weather over the next several weeks.
<b>WHITE POTATOES</b>	We've harvested mainly round white varieties, with some Yukon Gold, Redskin varieties, and a bit of Russets as well.

### FORECAST

<b>CRANBERRIES</b>	White berries are available. Red harvest to begin soon and may be off very slightly due to extreme weather growing conditions. We need some cool overnight temperatures to help with color.
--------------------	---

USDA, NASS  
 New Jersey Field Office  
 Rm 205 Health and Ag Bldg  
 P.O. Box 330  
 Trenton, NJ 08625