



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service



New  
Jersey



# Crop Progress & Condition

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Week ending April 24, 2016

*Issued weekly on the internet, April - November  
by the Northeastern Regional Field Office of NASS*

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Released April 25, 2016

**Excellent Week for Field Work:** New Jersey had an average of 6.5 days suitable for field work. Temperatures were warmer this week, with daily temperatures in the low to mid- 80's and nightly temperatures hitting the low 30's across much of the state. Due to lack of rain there was no improvement in field conditions.

Producers are moving forward with planting and fieldwork. There was fruit bud damage from the freeze in Central NJ. Blueberry fields in Hammonton experienced temperatures as low as 17 degrees F in early April. At that time fruit and leaf buds were beginning to swell. Cuttings taken from numerous blueberry fields were collected and brought to the lab for forcing and evaluation. It appears that the cold incidents did result in some damage but it appears to be minimal. Blueberries are currently progressing to bloom with approximately 5-7% damage of the blueberry blooms. The following crops are being planted: beets, beans, cabbage, collards, cilantro, leeks, parsley squash, sweet corn, and Swiss chard. The following crops are being harvested: asparagus, cilantro, dandelion, dill, kale, leeks, parsley radishes and spinach.

## Soil Moisture for Week Ending April 24, 2016

(in percent)

| Item    | Very Short | Short | Adequate | Surplus |
|---------|------------|-------|----------|---------|
| TOPSOIL | 11         | 24    | 49       | 16      |
| SUBSOIL | 3          | 25    | 51       | 21      |

## Crop Conditions as of April 24, 2016

(in percent)

| Item            | Very Poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
|-----------------|-----------|------|------|------|-----------|
| HAY,<br>ALFALFA | 0         | 17   | 15   | 65   | 3         |
| HAY, OTHER      | 0         | 14   | 43   | 42   | 1         |
| WINTER<br>WHEAT | 0         | 0    | 19   | 76   | 5         |

For a complete nationwide weekly weather and crop bulletin, please visit [www.usda.gov/oc/weather](http://www.usda.gov/oc/weather) and click on "[Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin.](#)"

## April 24, 2016 New Jersey Weekly Weather Summary

| Station         | Last Week Weather Summary |    |     |     |               |      | Accumulation Since April 1, 2016 |       |      |              |     |          |
|-----------------|---------------------------|----|-----|-----|---------------|------|----------------------------------|-------|------|--------------|-----|----------|
|                 | Temperature               |    |     |     | Precipitation |      | Precipitation                    |       |      | GDD Base 50F |     | Base 40F |
|                 | Hi                        | Lo | Avg | DFN | Total         | Days | Total                            | DFN   | Days | Total        | DFN | Total    |
| Andover         | 81                        | 36 | 59  | +10 | 0.08          | 1    | 1.48                             | -1.74 | 10   | 93           | +76 | 247      |
| Belvidere_Bridg | 83                        | 35 | 57  | +7  | 0.00          | 0    | 1.20                             | -1.92 | 6    | 69           | +49 | 211      |
| Cape_May        | 79                        | 39 | 59  | +6  | 0.54          | 2    | 3.10                             | +0.46 | 9    | 89           | +31 | 265      |
| Estell_Manor    | 82                        | 33 | 59  | +8  | 0.17          | 2    | 3.02                             | +0.25 | 11   | 107          | +61 | 276      |
| Flemington      | 83                        | 35 | 59  | +8  | 0.05          | 1    | 1.72                             | -1.50 | 10   | 94           | +62 | 242      |
| Freehold_Marlbo | 81                        | 38 | 61  | +8  | 0.15          | 1    | 1.70                             | -1.35 | 8    | 111          | +62 | 277      |
| Hammonton       | 81                        | 35 | 60  | +6  | 0.28          | 2    | 2.42                             | -0.72 | 11   | 106          | +41 | 277      |
| Manasquan       | 76                        | 39 | 57  | +5  | 0.14          | 2    | 1.74                             | -1.31 | 10   | 80           | +31 | 222      |
| Marlton         | 81                        | 34 | 59  | +6  | 0.30          | 2    | 2.44                             | -0.62 | 9    | 111          | +38 | 277      |
| Millville       | 80                        | 34 | 59  | +6  | 0.27          | 2    | 2.66                             | -0.14 | 11   | 104          | +38 | 283      |
| Mt_Holly_NWS    | 79                        | 36 | 59  | +6  | 0.15          | 2    | 1.82                             | -1.02 | 10   | 103          | +42 | 262      |
| Newark          | 83                        | 44 | 64  | +10 | 0.04          | 1    | 0.99                             | -2.12 | 7    | 150          | +80 | 336      |
| New_Brunswick   | 82                        | 37 | 61  | +9  | 0.05          | 1    | 1.30                             | -1.94 | 9    | 118          | +74 | 288      |
| Pennsauken      | 81                        | 39 | 60  | +6  | 0.33          | 2    | 2.15                             | -0.97 | 10   | 113          | +25 | 283      |
| Seabrook_Farms  | 80                        | 36 | 60  | +6  | 0.20          | 2    | 2.90                             | +0.05 | 10   | 110          | +43 | 293      |
| Sussex_2NW      | 82                        | 34 | 57  | +8  | 0.00          | 0    | 1.36                             | -2.19 | 7    | 70           | +55 | 210      |
| Trenton         | 80                        | 41 | 61  | +9  | 0.05          | 1    | 0.94                             | -2.18 | 9    | 116          | +73 | 289      |

Summary based on NWS data. DFN = Departure From Normal.  
 Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.  
 Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.  
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## Reporters Comments, By County

*Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.*

### **Atlantic County, Gary C. Pavlis**

Blueberry fields in Hammonton experienced temperatures as low as 17 degrees F in early April. At that time fruit and leaf buds were beginning to swell. Cuttings taken from numerous blueberry fields were collected and brought to the lab for forcing and evaluation. It appears that the cold incidents did result in some damage but it appears to be minimal. Blueberries are currently progressing to bloom with approximately 5-7% damage of the blueberry blooms.

### **Burlington County, Raymond J. Samulis**

After visiting numerous orchards over the past 2 weeks it is apparent that significant damage has occurred to fruit crops including strawberries, peaches, and apples. In some situations, where spun woven row covers were used to protect the strawberry crop it actually contributed to the blossom kill because the crop was at a more advanced stage of growth making them more susceptible. Temperatures in some areas reached 20 and below. Some growers used low volume sprinklers in an attempt to protect crops by forming ice. This resulted in limb breakage in some situations. Growers still have hope when considering that tree fruits only need 15 % of bloom to survive in order to get a full crop. In some cases if the damage isn't too bad, the blossom kill could save the grower money from lower hand thinning costs. Soil conditions are currently extremely dry for this time of the year which may result in spotty emergence of grain and vegetables. The sentinel fields I observe are forming soil clods indicating their dryness. Normally these fields have free standing water in them at this time of the year. The cranberry crop so far should be alright since most growers have irrigation capabilities to form ice on crops and thus prevent damage. Cranberries do not bloom as early as many other fruit crops.

### **Burlington County, Nick Vorsa (Blueberry-Cranberry Research Center)**

We have been assessing damage to blueberries. Much of the cranberry was under water so I don't think there is an issue there. We at the center reached 19 F the morning of April 6. I heard some blueberry fields might have reached 16 F. I heard (rumor) of 10 F at one farm but can't substantiate that we have been having very cold mornings since the freeze the morning of April 6, so flower development has been slow. It appears that fields that only hit 19 F appear to be OK. Usually we see necrotic (brown/black) tissue in the flower buds if there is definite damage. I have seen very little if any of that type of symptom to date. There appears to be some flower corolla distortion but the corolla distortion should not affect fruit set.

### **Cumberland County, Dr. Wesley Kline**

Spring harvest is underway for several crops - asparagus, cilantro, dandelion, dill, kale, leeks, radishes, spinach and parsley. Planting continues for summer crops - cabbage, leeks, squash, sweet corn collards, parsley, cilantro, beets, beans and Swiss chard.

### **Monmouth County, Bill Sciarappa**

More erratic weather - 65-75 F with 20MPH winds drying soil moisture out. Fruit bud counts showing damage from freeze on all fruit in central NJ. Crop injury reports may be available next week. More freeze events possible this coming week.

### **Salem County, Jasen Berkowitz**

Field work/tillage being done, beginning to plant corn, livestock condition good with lambing/calving/kidding wrapping up, milk production average

### **Warren County, Debra Crisman**

Conditions have not improved much with the lack of rain. Fields continue to be prepped as producers move forward with planting, hoping for rain this week. Dairy farmers remain leery of milk prices.

## JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR APRIL 25, 2016

|                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>ASPARAGUS</b> | Harvesting a fair to good quantity of good quality product. What started as an early season was curtailed by several weeks of cool weather starting on the 5th. With the recent warm weather, and increasing soil temperatures, the harvest is ramping up quickly. |
| <b>CILANTRO</b>  | Harvesting a fair quantity of fair to good quality over-wintered product. Spring planted should be available by late week.                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>DILL</b>      | Harvesting a light to increasing volume of good quality product.                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>KALE</b>      | Fair to good quality over-wintered product starting in light to increasing volume.                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>LEEKS</b>     | A light volume of good quality over-wintered product is starting to become available. Greening up now.                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>RADISHES</b>  | Harvest of good quality product starting in light to increasing volume.                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>SPINACH</b>   | A fair volume of fair to good quality over-wintered product is available as a light to increasing volume of good quality Spring planted product is also available.                                                                                                 |

## JERSEY FRESH FORECAST

|                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>ARUGULA</b>                    | Over-wintered product had a rough season & a light & variable quality resulted. Harvest of Spring planted should start in 2 weeks in light to increasing volume with continued warming temperatures. |
| <b>BABY SPINACH &amp; ARUGULA</b> | Harvest should start mid-May due to erratic weather which prevented early planting.                                                                                                                  |
| <b>BEETS</b>                      | Harvest should begin in late May.                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>CABBAGE</b>                    | Won't be ready until late May or early June.                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>COLLARDS</b>                   | Should begin harvesting around the end of May.                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>DANDELIONS</b>                 | Spring planted should be available by the end of May.                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>ESCAROLE &amp; ENDIVE</b>      | Should begin harvesting around the end of May.                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>LETTUCE</b>                    | Should begin harvesting some Boston by mid-May. Red & Green Leaf will follow a week later, followed by Romaine around the end of May.                                                                |
| <b>MINT</b>                       | Very good quality starting in two weeks. Volume should increase each week after that.                                                                                                                |
| <b>PARSLEY</b>                    | Harvest of fair to good quality over-wintered product should begin next week.                                                                                                                        |
| <b>STRAWBERRIES</b>               | Early harvests of Chandler variety berries are expected to begin in late May, while the bulk of the crop will be harvested towards early June, with lower volumes to continue through mid-June.      |
| <b>SWISS CHARD</b>                | Harvest of good quality product should start in mid-May. Volume should pick up each week after that.                                                                                                 |
| <b>TURNIPS</b>                    | Should begin harvesting in early June.                                                                                                                                                               |