



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service



New  
Jersey



# Crop Progress & Condition

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[www.nass.usda.gov/nj](http://www.nass.usda.gov/nj)  
Week ending April 9, 2017

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

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**Fair Week for Field Work:** New Jersey had an average of 4 days suitable for field work. A very rainy period has made it too wet in most areas to access fields or pastures. Field prep continues, but the excessive rain mid-week slowed progress. Those fortunate to have well drained ground have taken advantage and started liming, fertilizing and beginning spring seeding. Temperatures were warmer than normal across New Jersey with temperatures ranging from high 60's to high 70's in many areas. Low temperatures were still mostly in the high 20's and 30's and these cool temperatures, combined with the rainy weather, have slowed planting in some areas.

The early warm spell did provide good conditions for spring fertilizer applications and soil preparations to which wheat and cover crops have responded well. Soil temperature tested on Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup> showed 48 to 50 degrees at 6" depths. Some farmers are applying soil amendments and plowing.

Cool season crops are germinating in the field. Lettuce, leeks and spinach continue to be planted and many early vegetables are still under row cover. There is also planting of flowers and transplants in greenhouses. Overwinter spinach and kale is being planted. Protected crops are being harvested including greens, lettuce, broccoli rabe, and spinach. Outside strawberries are in flower and high tunnel strawberries and greenhouse tomatoes are being harvested. Some peach thinning is underway. Most hay and alfalfa was reported to be in good condition, as was winter wheat.

## Soil Moisture for Week Ending April 9, 2017 (in percent)

Item	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
TOPSOIL	0	0	54	46
SUBSOIL	0	0	83	17

## Crop Conditions as of April 9, 2017 (in percent)

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
HAY, ALFALFA	0	4	14	82	0
HAY, OTHER	0	0	7	79	14
PASTURE AND RANGE	0	0	12	85	3
WINTER WHEAT	0	0	18	80	2

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

## April 9, 2017 New Jersey Weekly Weather Summary

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						Accumulation Since April 1, 2017					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Andover	67	29	47	+2	1.60	5	1.60	+0.56	5	9	+9	55
Belvidere_Bridg	66	27	47	+2	1.98	4	1.98	+0.94	4	8	+8	53
Cape_May	76	37	54	+5	0.71	4	0.71	-0.20	4	33	+22	109
Estell_Manor	78	29	52	+4	1.58	3	1.58	+0.62	3	30	+22	92
Flemington	70	29	48	+2	2.26	5	2.26	+1.22	5	8	+5	63
Freehold_Marlbo	69	31	50	+2	1.53	4	1.54	+0.50	5	15	+7	74
Hammonton	76	37	53	+4	1.09	4	1.09	+0.04	4	26	+14	95
Manasquan	63	35	49	+1	2.18	5	2.18	+1.14	5	7	-1	73
Marlton	77	30	52	+2	1.32	5	1.32	+0.27	5	26	+12	92
Millville	77	27	53	+4	0.96	2	0.96	-0.02	2	36	+23	97
Mt_Holly_NWS	74	30	51	+2	1.23	3	1.23	+0.27	3	21	+10	82
Newark	65	40	50	+1	2.02	4	2.02	+0.98	4	13	0	80
New_Brunswick	69	31	50	+3	1.97	4	1.97	+0.91	4	14	+7	75
Pennsauken	76	32	52	+1	1.62	4	1.62	+0.58	4	24	+5	86
Seabrook_Farms	77	37	54	+5	1.44	2	1.44	+0.46	2	38	+25	107
Sussex_2NW	68	27	46	+2	2.24	5	2.24	+1.08	5	4	+4	44
Trenton	67	34	51	+3	1.76	5	1.76	+0.72	5	18	+12	80

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.*

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

Field Activity is slower than normal despite early warmer weather. Blueberries and cranberries appear to be in good condition due to dormancy during the warm spell. Early warm spell did provide good conditions for spring fertilizer applications and soil preparations to which wheat and cover crops have responded well. Soil temperature tested on Sunday April 9<sup>th</sup> showed 48 -50 at 6" depths. Early greens being harvested include broccoli rabe.

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

Cool temperatures has slowed planting. Many early vegetables are under row cover. Some peach thinning is underway. Lettuce, leeks and spinach are being planted. Overwinter spinach and kale is being planted. Greenhouse tomatoes are being harvested. Outside strawberries are in flower and high tunnel strawberries are being harvest.

### **Mercer County, Meredith Melendez**

Cool season crops are germinating in the field. Protected crops are being harvested including greens, lettuce, and spinach. Field prep continues. Excessive rain mid-week slowed progress.

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

A very rainy period and cold conditions have slowed field work. Much pre-plant cultivation was achieved earlier in February which was warmer than March. With warming - sunny conditions expected next week and ground temps reaching 50 F, planting progress in central Jersey will begin in earnest.

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

Too wet in most areas to access fields or pastures. Those fortunate to have well drained ground have taken advantage and started liming, fertilizing and spring seedings.