



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



Crop Progress & Condition

New
Jersey



Bruce Eklund, State Statistician

P.O. Box 330, Trenton, NJ 08625

Phone: 503-308-0404

Fax: 609-633-9231

www.nass.usda.gov/nj

Week ending April 16, 2017

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

nassrfoner@nass.usda.gov

Released April 17, 2017

Excellent Week for Field Work: New Jersey had an average of 6.5 days suitable for field work. Recent abnormally warm weather, with temperatures hitting highs in the 80's across most of the state, have advanced soil temperatures to near the suggested 55 degree mark which supports many of the vegetable crops grown in the area. Lows are still mostly in the 30's, though some areas reached the low 40's.

Little precipitation this week led to drier field conditions. When combined with the warmer soil temperatures this provided a good start to spring planting, although wet spots remain from past week's rains. Crops are developing rapidly with the increased temperatures. Farmers continue to prepare fields, plowing and discing. The majority of hay, winter wheat, and pasture conditions are now good.

The following crops are being planted: beets, snap beans, cabbage collards, sweet corn, leeks, lettuce, parsley, cilantro, radishes, summer squash (under plastic) and Swiss chard. A variety of crops are being harvested, including broccoli rabe, asparagus, cilantro, dandelions, leeks and spinach. Crops that are being harvested in high tunnels include: strawberries, spinach and radishes. Outdoor strawberries are in full flower. Winter wheat is being top dressed.

Most of the peach and nectarine varieties crossed full bloom stage. Growers are expecting normal crop, except for very few sites where frost affected early blooming varieties. Fire blight cankers were active in some varieties this past week after the sudden jump in temperatures. Most wine grape varieties are in bud swell to wooly stage. The current warm spell will further push the buds to pink stage. No cold injury is expected due to the milder winter.

Soil Moisture for Week Ending April 16, 2017

(in percent)

Item	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
TOPSOIL	0	2	64	34
SUBSOIL	0	0	88	12

Crop Conditions as of April 16, 2017

(in percent)

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
HAY, ALFALFA	0	4	14	76	6
HAY, OTHER	0	0	8	76	16
PASTURE AND RANGE	0	0	12	80	8
WINTER WHEAT	0	0	17	78	5

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

April 16, 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	84	36	57	+10	0.05	1	1.65	-0.32	6	61	+57	176
Belvidere_Bridg	84	28	55	+8	0.00	0	1.98	+0.03	4	45	+40	157
Cape_May	87	41	60	+9	0.07	1	0.78	-0.90	5	104	+77	250
Estell_Manor	82	30	58	+8	0.00	0	1.58	-0.18	3	90	+70	222
Flemington	86	37	58	+9	0.00	0	2.26	+0.29	5	64	+52	189
Freehold_Marlbo	87	38	60	+10	0.00	0	1.54	-0.41	5	84	+63	213
Hammonton	82	32	58	+7	0.00	0	1.09	-0.87	4	82	+52	221
Manasquan	77	35	55	+5	0.00	0	2.18	+0.23	5	47	+26	181
Marlton	84	30	59	+7	0.00	0	1.32	-0.62	5	92	+57	228
Millville	80	37	59	+8	0.00	0	0.96	-0.82	2	101	+70	232
Mt_Holly_NWS	84	34	58	+7	0.00	0	1.23	-0.53	3	79	+51	210
Newark	84	44	62	+10	0.03	1	2.05	+0.11	5	100	+68	237
New_Brunswick	85	39	60	+10	0.00	0	1.97	-0.01	4	83	+64	214
Pennsauken	83	41	60	+7	0.00	0	1.62	-0.33	4	92	+48	224
Seabrook_Farms	81	37	58	+6	0.00	0	1.44	-0.35	2	93	+61	232
Sussex_2NW	88	33	55	+8	0.05	1	2.29	+0.08	6	44	+41	151
Trenton	82	41	60	+10	0.00	0	1.76	-0.19	5	90	+72	222

Summary based on NWS data. DFN = Departure From Normal.
 Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.
 Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.
 Copyright 2017: Agricultural Weather Information Service, Inc. All rights reserved.

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

Vegetables being harvested include Broccoli Rabe, Leeks, and Spinach. Recent abnormally warm weather have advanced soil temperatures to near the suggested 55 degree mark which supports many of the vegetable crops grown in the area.

Cape May County, Jenny Carleo, AG Agent

Farmers here are prepping fields (applying soil amendments and plowing/discing; and planting flowers and transplants in the greenhouses.

Cumberland County, Dr. Wesley L. Kline

Temperatures were above normal for the week. Crops are developing rapidly with the increased temperatures. The following crops are being harvested: asparagus, cilantro, dandelion, leeks and spinach. The following is being planted: beets, snap beans, cabbage collards, sweet corn, leeks, lettuce, parsley, cilantro, radishes, summer squash (under plastic) and Swiss chard. The following crops are being harvested in high tunnels: strawberries, spinach and radishes. Outdoor strawberries are in full flower. Winter wheat is being top dressed.

Gloucester County, Dr. Hemant Gohil

Most of the peach and nectarine varieties crossed full bloom stage. Growers expecting normal crop, except for very few sites with loss due to frost, in early blooming varieties. Fire blight cancers were active in some varieties, past week after sudden jump in temperature. Most wine grape varieties in bud swell to wooly stage and current warm spell will further push the buds to pink stage. No cold injury expected due to milder winter.

Monmouth County, Bill Sciarappa

Spring has sprung - 70-80 F day/40-45 night

Warren County, Debra Crisman

Field conditions and favorable soil temperatures have allowed for a good start to spring planting. Although wet spots remain from the much needed rain, the outlook is very good.

JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR APRIL 17, 2017

ASPARAGUS	Harvest starting w/ a very light quantity of good quality product. With continued warm weather, and increasing soil temperatures, the harvest will ramp up quickly.
CILANTRO	Harvest starting w/ a very light quantity of good quality over-wintered product. Spring planted should be available by the end of the month or early May.
DANDELIONS	Good quality over-wintered bunched product is available now and for some time. Spring planted should be available by mid-May.
KALE	Good quality over-wintered product just starting in very light volume. Volume should pick up each week.
LEEKS	A very small volume of good quality over-wintered product is starting to become available. Greening up now.
MINT	Very good quality starting this weekend. Volume should increase each week.
PARSLEY	Harvest of good quality over-wintered curly and plain product starting in very light volume. Spring planted should be available by the end of the month or early May.
RADISHES	Harvest of good quality product starting in very light volume. Volume should pick up each week after that.
SPINACH	A very light volume of good quality over-wintered product is starting to become available. Spring planted should be available by the end of the month or early May.

JERSEY FRESH FORECAST

ARUGULA	Harvest should start in a week to ten days in light quantity. Volume should pick up each week after that.
BABY SPINACH & ARUGULA	Harvest should start in a few weeks.
BEETS	Transplanting now. Harvest should begin in mid-May.
CABBAGE	Transplanting now. Won't be ready until late May.
COLLARDS	Should begin harvesting around the third week of May.
DILL	Harvest should start in two weeks in very light quantity. Volume should pick up each week after that.
ESCAROLE & ENDIVE	Should begin harvesting around the third week of May.
LETTUCE	Should begin harvesting some Boston by early May. Red & Green Leaf will follow in mid-May, followed by Romaine around the third week of May.
STRAWBERRIES	Early harvests of Chandler variety berries are expected to begin in mid-May, while the bulk of the crop will be harvested towards the end of May, with lower volumes to continue through early June.
SWISS CHARD	Harvest of good quality product should start in about two weeks. Volume should pick up each week after that.
TURNIPS	Should begin harvesting around the end of May.