



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service



New  
Jersey



# Crop Progress & Condition

Bruce Eklund, State Statistician

P.O. Box 330, Trenton, NJ 08625

Phone: 503-308-0404

Fax: 609-633-9231

[www.nass.usda.gov/nj](http://www.nass.usda.gov/nj)

Week ending October 1, 2017

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

[nassrfoner@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nassrfoner@nass.usda.gov)

Released October 2, 2017

**Excellent Week for Field Work:** New Jersey had an average of 7 days suitable for field work. New Jersey again experienced significantly warmer than normal temperatures. Temperatures transitioned from the warm and wet weather of the summer season to cooler and drier more fall-like weather at the end of the week. This week, only trace amounts of rain were reported across the state with some areas reporting no precipitation at all.

This dry weather period that has set in to the area has been good for drying corn and soybeans, and vegetable growers reportedly would rather have this dry weather in the fall and irrigate, if needed, rather than deal with more rainfall. Produce is reported to be of high quality. Apple harvest is entering full swing across the state. Soybean leaves are starting to turn yellow, a stage the growers are watching closely as they wait for harvest time. As Bee keepers bring their hives home some are noticing that some bees are light (hungry) so bee keepers are feeding them. Because of the past rains, there is not as much golden rod pollen in the honey except in North Jersey.

The following crops are also being harvested: Asian and other pears, field corn, broccoli, arugula, snap beans, beets, basil, cilantro, cabbage, carrots, cucumbers, collards, sweet corn, summer dandelion, dill, eggplant, escarole, endive, garlic, ginger, table grapes, ground cherries, hay, kale, leeks, pumpkins, head and leaf lettuce, melons, oats, onions, parsley, hot and sweet peppers, potatoes, radishes, summer and winter squash, including spaghetti squash, sweet potatoes, Swiss chard, scallions, spinach, turnips, tomatoes and zucchini. A few crops are still being planted, including leeks, spinach, winter wheat, and cover crops.

There is some concern about loss of work force impacting harvest, vegetable processing, and nurseries in New Jersey as workers leave to help with the tragic and destructive aftermath of Hurricane Maria.

Early in the season rain on weekends slowed retail sales, but now agri-tourism is benefitting from the drier weather and is busily preparing for Halloween with sales now including pumpkins and other crops to be used for decorative purposes.

## Soil Moisture for Week Ending October 1, 2017

(in percent)

Item	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
TOPSOIL	29	35	36	0
SUBSOIL	26	33	41	0

## Crop Conditions as of October 1, 2017

(in percent)

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
APPLES	0	0	29	50	21
CORN	0	2	9	43	46
HAY, ALFALFA	0	2	15	81	2
HAY, OTHER	0	1	28	70	1
PASTURE AND RANGE	0	16	30	52	2
SOYBEANS	0	3	15	70	12

## Crop Progress as of October 1, 2017

(in percent)

Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
CORN: MATURE	79	59	72	N/A
CORN: HARVESTED FOR GRAIN	10	N/A	N/A	N/A
HAY, ALFALFA: THIRD CUTTING	76	71	89	N/A
HAY, OTHER: THIRD CUTTING	76	74	71	52
SOYBEANS: FULLY PODDED	97	93	N/A	N/A
SOYBEANS: COLORING	68	45	77	N/A
SOYBEANS: DROPPING LEAVES	29	N/A	N/A	N/A
WINTER WHEAT: PLANTED	24	21	N/A	N/A
BELL PEPPERS: HARVESTED	96	92	N/A	N/A

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."

## October 1, 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	90	39	67	+11	0.04	2	24.46	-1.93	76	2751	+354	4526
Belvidere_Bridg	92	39	67	+9	0.00	0	25.91	+1.07	68	2732	+169	4503
Cape_May	89	48	69	+5	0.00	0	28.53	+8.10	67	3581	+434	5415
Estell_Manor	89	46	68	+6	0.02	2	32.83	+12.10	62	3419	+414	5229
Flemington	92	41	68	+9	0.01	1	26.35	-0.02	70	3014	+298	4807
Freehold_Marlbo	90	42	69	+8	0.01	1	24.51	+0.57	73	3244	+299	5052
Hammonton	89	48	68	+7	0.00	0	29.89	+6.17	63	3399	+257	5216
Manasquan	91	51	72	+11	0.01	1	24.18	+0.24	72	3119	+174	4931
Marlton	89	47	69	+7	0.00	0	24.95	+0.18	67	3298	+140	5111
Millville	91	48	71	+8	0.00	0	32.27	+10.18	53	3526	+305	5333
Mt_Holly_NWS	88	46	68	+6	0.00	0	21.58	-3.69	64	3188	+102	4992
Newark	91	48	72	+9	0.00	0	27.58	+3.13	68	3501	+160	5312
New_Brunswick	91	46	70	+9	0.00	0	28.36	+2.07	67	3295	+335	5103
Pennsauken	90	48	70	+7	0.04	1	25.52	+0.41	63	3351	-12	5159
Upper_Deerfield	90	48	69	+6	0.00	0	28.71	+5.40	60	3470	+223	5284
Sussex_2NW	91	37	66	+10	0.16	2	25.23	-1.12	72	2597	+229	4354
Trenton - Merce	91	46	70	+10	0.00	0	23.56	-2.82	65	3350	+481	5158

Summary based on NWS preliminary data. DFN = Departure From Normal.  
 Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.  
 Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

## 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, Richard Bill Sciarappa**

Wet to dry and cool to warm weather.

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

A dry weather period has set in to the area. This is good for drying corn and soybeans. Vegetable growers would rather have the dry weather and irrigate than have to deal with rain especially in the fall. The following crops are being harvested: Field corn, hay, apples, arugula, snap beans, beets, basil, cilantro, cabbage, collards, sweet corn, summer dandelion, dill, eggplant, escarole, endive kale, leeks, pumpkins, lettuce, parsley, peppers, radishes, summer squash, winter squash, Swiss chard, scallions, spinach and tomatoes. The following is being planted: Leeks, spinach and cover crops.

### **Monmouth County, Richard Vanvranken**

Produce is of high quality this fall. Mercer County farms now harvesting: apples, Asian pears, beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cucumbers, eggplant, flat beans, green beans, garlic, ginger, table grapes, ground cherries, herbs, kale, lettuce (head, leaf), melons, oats, onions, pears, peppers (hot, sweet), potatoes, pumpkins, radish, spinach, spaghetti squash, summer squash, sweet corn, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, turnips, watermelon, winter squash, zucchini.

**2017 | CENSUS OF  
AGRICULTURE**  
**YOUR VOICE. YOUR FUTURE. YOUR OPPORTUNITY.**