



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

Week ending April 22, 2018

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

nassrfoner@nass.usda.gov

Released April 23, 2018

Good Week for Field Work: New Jersey had an average of 5.5 days suitable for field work. Though low temperatures were still mostly below freezing, New Jersey is starting to see more typical spring weather as weather conditions begin to improve. High temperatures were mainly in the low to mid-60s. All stations reported rain, ranging from less than half an inch to over three and a half inches. This rain, combined with wind in parts of New Jersey are causing some flooding and tree damage, and continue to keep topsoil and subsoil moisture at adequate and surplus levels across the state.

Soil is still cold and wet, and growers are approximately two weeks behind in planting crops, but with the improving weather they will catch up. Farmers are still delaying the majority of field corn planting, except some early sweet corn and cold resistant field corn seed on high drier ground. The following crops are also being planted and transplanted: spinach, radishes, leeks, arugula, asparagus, beets, cilantro, cabbage, collards, sweet corn, summer dandelion, kohlrabi, kale, parsley, peas, and scallions.

High tunnel production is well under way with the following crops being harvested: lettuce, mustard greens, kale, scallions, radishes, Swiss chard and spinach, Chinese cabbage and oriental greens. Greenhouse tomatoes are being harvested. Asparagus, spinach, kale and leeks are being harvested outside.

There may be very slight bud damage in some vineyards in a very few cold-tender varieties like Syrah. There were frequent rains in the last few weeks, but growers are ready with spray programs.

Until the end of the third week of the April the state suffered under back-and-forth winter/spring weather, which caused a delayed start for tree fruits. Peaches are blooming, but were delayed 2 to 3 weeks compared to previous years. However, peach and nectarine growers appear to be optimistic. Per the New Jersey Farm Bureau Newsletter, the NJ Peach Promotion Council includes optimistic statements about the upcoming 2018 crop. "Peach flower bloom for most orchards will be as late as April 20. That, plus an abundance of peach flowers per tree bodes well for a full crop later this year."

Soil Moisture for Week Ending April 22, 2018

(in percent)

Item	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
TOPSOIL	0	1	70	29
SUBSOIL	0	0	67	33

Crop Conditions as of April 22, 2018

(in percent)

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
HAY, ALFALFA	0	3	33	61	3
HAY, OTHER	0	2	17	66	15
PASTURE AND RANGE	0	2	35	56	7
WINTER WHEAT	0	3	19	72	6

Crop Progress as of April 22, 2018

(in percent)

Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
APPLES: GREEN TIP	55	45	76	N/A
PEACHES: GREEN TIP	42	22	91	N/A
WINTER WHEAT: BREAKING DORMANCY	70	N/A	N/A	N/A
BLUEBERRIES, TAME: GREEN TIP	5	<5	N/A	N/A

April 22, 2018 New Jersey Weekly Weather Summary

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						Accumulation Since April 1, 2018					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
ANDOVER AEROFLE	62	28	41	-10	1.69	3	2.74	-0.90	9	30	-30	110
BELVIDERE BRIDG	62	27	41	-9	2.22	4	3.69	+0.83	10	26	-22	84
CAPE MAY 2 NW	61	34	48	-5	1.08	2	2.06	-0.64	7	42	-28	186
ESTELL MANOR	64	29	47	-6	1.61	3	2.37	-0.71	8	52	-34	175
FLEMINGTON 5 NN	63	30	43	-8	2.66	4	3.61	+0.39	9	36	-23	112
FREEHOLD-MARLBO	66	26	44	-10	3.18	3	3.87	+0.65	8	46	-34	150
HAMMONTON 1 NE	64	31	47	-7	1.96	3	2.26	-0.97	8	48	-32	174
MANASQUAN	59	36	46	-5	2.13	3	2.74	-0.35	11	28	-32	138
MILLVILLE MUNIC	63	27	47	-6	0.41	2	1.67	-1.20	7	72	-4	200
MT HOLLY WFO	65	30	46	-9	2.00	2	3.00	-0.65	8	44	-50	154
NEW BRUNSWICK 3	67	33	45	-7	3.31	4	3.96	+0.81	11	44	-22	142
NEWARK LIBERTY	64	37	47	-7	3.55	3	4.91	+1.77	9	51	-35	192
PENNSAUKEN 1N	66	31	45	-9	2.57	3	3.00	+0.00	8	44	-58	152
SEABROOK FARMS	64	32	46	-8	2.86	3	3.04	+0.05	6	46	-48	169
SUSSEX 3 WNW	60	27	40	-9	1.84	4	3.03	-0.30	10	18	-22	64
TRENTON MERCER	64	35	45	-7	2.39	3	3.25	+0.48	11	52	-18	171

Summary based on NOAA Regional Climate Centers (RCCs) data. DFN = departure from normal.

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches. Air temperature in degrees Fahrenheit. Climate normals used are for the 1981-2010 period.

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.

Cumberland County, Dr. Wesley L. Kline - Weather conditions has started to improve. Growers are approximately two weeks behind in planting, but with the improving weather they will catch up. Greenhouse tomatoes are being harvested. High tunnel production is well under way with the following crops being harvested: lettuce, mustard greens, kale, scallions, radishes, Swiss chard and spinach, Chinese cabbage and oriental greens. Asparagus, spinach, kale and leeks are being harvested outside. Also, the following crops are being planted and transplanted: spinach, radishes, leeks, arugula, asparagus, beets, cilantro, cabbage, collards, sweet corn, summer dandelion, kohlrabi, kale, parsley, peas, and scallions.

Gloucester County, Dr. Hemant Gohil - Finally spring has arrived! Till end of the third week of the April we were still back-and-forth winter/spring, causing delayed start for tree fruits, wine grape and nursery crops. Peaches are blooming, delayed 2 to 3 weeks compared to previous years. There may be very slight bud damage in some Vineyards that also in very few cold tender varieties like Syrah! Frequent rains last few weeks, however growers are ready with the spray programs. Nursery orders are seeing delayed shipping. Overall we are beginning 2018 on a good note, so far!

Monmouth County, Bill Sciarappa - More rain and wind - some flooding/tree damage. Cold soils/wet. Farmers still delaying majority of field corn planting except some early sweet corn and cold resistant field corn seed on high drier ground.



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

USDA NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service






There's Still Time to Be Counted.
Respond Today!

Respond Online. www.agcounts.usda.gov
For assistance completing the census,
call toll-free (888) 424-7828.
www.agcensus.usda.gov

The advertisement features a central illustration of a farm scene with a red barn, a white fence, and a person working in a field. The background is a mix of orange and brown tones.

April 23, 2018

CURRENTLY AVAILABLE

	ASPARAGUS	Starting to harvest a very light to increasing quantity of good quality product. Volume will increase with continued warming weather and increasing soil temperatures.
	CILANTRO	Harvesting a light volume of good quality over-wintered product. Spring planted should become available by mid-May.
	DANDELIONS	Good quality over-wintered bunched product is starting to become available. Spring planted should be available by late May.
	LEEKS	A light volume of good quality over-wintered product is available. Greening up now.
	SPINACH	Harvesting a very light to increasing volume of good quality over-wintered product. Spring planted should become available by mid-May.

FORECAST

	ARUGULA	Harvest should start next week. Volume should pick up each week.
	BABY SPINACH & ARUGULA	Harvest should start in 2-3 weeks.
	BEETS	Transplanting now. Harvest should begin in mid to late May.
	CABBAGE	Transplanting now. Harvest should begin late May.
	COLLARDS	Should begin harvesting in late May.
	DILL	Harvest should start in several weeks in light quantity. Volume should pick up each week after that.
	ESCAROLE & ENDIVE	Should begin harvesting in mid to late May.
	KALE	Good quality over-wintered product should become available next week. Volume will pick up each week.
	LETTUCE	Harvest of Boston should begin next week. Red & Green Leaf will follow in mid-May, with Romaine a week later.
	MINT	Harvest should start in a week to ten days. Volume should pick up each week after that.
	PARSLEY	Good quality over-wintered curly and plain product should become available next week. Spring planted should be available by mid-May.
	RADISHES	Harvest will start in a week to ten days. Volume will pick up each week.



STRAWBERRIES

Early harvests of Chandler variety berries are expected to begin in mid to late May, while the bulk of the crop will be harvested in late May or early June, with lower volumes to continue for a week or two depending on the warmth of temperatures.



SWISS CHARD

Harvest of good quality product should start in a couple of weeks. Volume should pick up each week after that.



TURNIPS

Should begin harvesting around the end of May or early June.