



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 21, 2019

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

nassrfoner@nass.usda.gov

Released April 22, 2019

Good Week for Field Work: New Jersey had an average of 5.5 days suitable for field work last week. Topsoil and Subsoil Moisture levels remained at adequate to surplus levels.

Weather conditions have been good for field work in most parts of New Jersey, with wet and cool conditions finally warming, though some were looking for clearer weather to move forward with planting. Lime and fertilizer has been spread, ground was tilled, and was ready for seed.

Grass was greening, flowers were in bloom, and farmers were dealing with annual weeds. The following crops were being harvested: Asparagus, cilantro, arugula, dandelion, kale, leeks and spinach. The following crops were being planted: Radishes, beets, cilantro, cabbage, sweet corn, collards, kale, dill, tomatoes, eggplant, peppers, leeks, lettuces, parsley, peas, summer squash, Swiss chard, scallions, summer dandelion and white potatoes.

Peaches, pears, and apricots have mostly reached full bloom and many apples were only days away from full bloom. Fruit growers were happy to escape frost during this critical period. Wine grapes suffered little from winter injuries, as well. Due to slightly more than normal rainfall in some regions of New Jersey, growers were preparing their spray programs. Fruit growers were excited for the 2019 season.

Crop Conditions as of April 21, 2019

(in percent)

| Item | Very Poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
|-------------------|-----------|------|------|------|-----------|
| PASTURE AND RANGE | 0 | 3 | 46 | 39 | 12 |
| WINTER WHEAT | 1 | 7 | 35 | 50 | 7 |

Crop Progress as of April 21, 2019

(in percent)

| Item | This Week | Last Week | Last Year | 5 Year Avg. |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| APPLES: GREEN TIP | 63 | 56 | 54 | N/A |
| PEACHES: GREEN TIP | 68 | 39 | 39 | N/A |
| BLUEBERRIES, TAME: GREEN TIP | 8 | 5 | 5 | N/A |
| WINTER WHEAT: BREAKING DORMANCY | 56 | 45 | N/A | N/A |

Soil Moisture for Week Ending April 21, 2019

(in percent)

| Item | Very Short | Short | Adequate | Surplus |
|---------|------------|-------|----------|---------|
| TOPSOIL | 0 | 0 | 70 | 30 |
| SUBSOIL | 0 | 0 | 73 | 27 |

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

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 have been good for field work. The following crops are being harvested: Asparagus, cilantro, arugula, dandelion, kale, leeks and spinach. The following crops are being planted: Radishes, beets, cilantro, cabbage, sweet corn, collards, kale, dill, tomatoes, eggplant, peppers, leeks, lettuces, parsley, peas, summer squash, Swiss chard, scallions, summer dandelion and white potatoes.

Gloucester County, Dr. Hemant Gohil - Peach and apricot has a normal and full bloom and fruit growers are excited to escape frost during that critical period. Wine grape is headed to winter-injury less season. Little bit more than normal rain; growers are ready with the spray program. All excited for the year 2019.

Hunterdon and Warren Counties, Dr. Megan Muehlbauer - Peaches and pears are in full bloom and apples are approximately 2 days from full bloom.

Monmouth County, Bill Sciarappa - Wet and cool and finally warming. Grass is greening, flowers in bloom, winter annual weeds.

Warren County, Debra Crisman - Looking for clear weather, producers are ready to move forward. Lime and fertilizer has been spread, ground tilled, ready for seed. Dairy producers have mentioned milk prices inching up, watching patiently for the roll out of the new "Dairy Margin Coverage" Program.

JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR APRIL 22, 2019

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| ARUGULA | Harvesting a light volume of good quality over-wintered product which should pick up each week. |
| ASPARAGUS | Harvesting a light to increasing quantity of good quality over-wintered product. Still only cutting every other day. Volume will increase with continued warming weather and increasing soil temperatures. This week's warm overnights will help. |
| BABY SPINACH & ARUGULA | Harvest of good quality products starting. |
| CILANTRO | Harvesting a fair to good volume of good quality over-wintered product. Spring planted should become available by early May. |
| DANDELIONS | Harvesting a good quantity of good quality over-wintered bunched product. Spring planted should be available by early May. |
| KALE | Good quality over-wintered product becoming available w/ volume picking up each week. Spring planted should be available by mid-May. |
| LEEKs | Greening up. A light volume of good quality over-wintered product becoming available. |
| PARSLEY | Good quality over-wintered curly and plain product becoming available. Spring planted should be available by mid-May. |
| RADISHES | Harvest of good quality starting. Volume will pick up each week. |
| SPINACH | Harvesting a fair to good volume of good quality over-wintered product. Spring planted should become available by early May. |
| SWISS CHARD | Harvest of good quality product starting. Volume should pick up each week. |

JERSEY FRESH FORECAST

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| BEETS | Harvest should begin in mid-May. |
| CABBAGE | Harvest should begin mid-May. |
| COLLARDS | Harvest should begin in mid-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-May. Warm weather will hasten. |
| LETTUCE | Harvest of Boston should begin in two weeks, depending on the weather. Red & Green Leaf will follow in mid-May, with Romaine a week later. |
| MINT | Harvest should start next week, w/ volume picking up each week. |
| STRAWBERRIES | Early harvests of Chandler variety berries are expected to begin in mid-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. |
| TURNIPS | Should begin harvesting around the end of May. |