

NEW JERSEY WEEKLY CROP WEATHER

Volume 65 No. 29

Date: October 20, 2003

New Jersey Agricultural Statistics Service

In Cooperation With:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
Agricultural Marketing Service
U.S. Department of Commerce/N.O.A.A.
Rutgers University

NOAA WEATHER RADIO STATIONS

Allentown
WXL-39 on the VHF-FM
frequency of 162.40 Megahertz.
Atlantic City
KHB-38 on the VHF-FM
frequency of 162.40 Megahertz.
New York City
KWO-35 on the VHF-FM
frequency of 160.55 Megahertz.
Philadelphia
KIH-28 on the VHF-FM
frequency of 162.475 Megahertz.

NEW JERSEY AUCTIONS

Vineland
Phone: (856)691-0721
Sales 10:00AM Daily except Sunday.
Landisville
Phone: (856)697-2273
Direct Sales Daily
Swedesboro
Phone: (856)476-0313
Hightstown
Phone: (609)448-0193
Auction Sales Mon-Wed-Fri-7pm

Harvest Activities Continue

Days suitable for field work were 6.0. Temperatures were below normal part of the week in most localities. There were measurable amounts of rainfall across most of the state, with over an inch of rain in some areas on October 14, 2003. Top soil moisture was rated 20% short, 60% adequate, and 20% surplus. Activities during the week were harvesting vegetables, irrigating fall vegetables, removing plastic mulch, planting cover crops, harvesting corn for grain and silage, harvesting soybeans, and baling hay. Corn silage harvest was nearly complete in some areas. Sweet potato harvest activities were winding down and near completion. Cabbage fields required spraying due to pest infestation. Lettuce plants, in southern localities, suffered wind damage. Apple harvest continued in most localities. Pumpkin quality varied due to wet weather conditions during the growing season. Some areas have received three light frosts so far, but pasture forage supplies remain plentiful. Continued frosts and shorter days will reduce pasture supplies.

Climate summary for the week ending 8am 10/20/03

Temperatures averaged near normal. Extremes were 79 degrees at Belvidere on October 14, 2003, and 28 degrees at Charlotteburg on October 20, 2003.

Weekly rainfall averaged 1.60 inches north, 1.22 inches central, and 1.08 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 1.74 inches at Charlotteburg on October 14, 2003 through October 15, 2003.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 96 percent north, 94 percent central, and 84 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 52 degrees north, 57 degrees central, and 59 degrees south.

WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING 8 AM MONDAY 10/20/03

Weather Stations	Rainfall			Temperatures				Growing Degree Days 1/		Soil Moisture 2/
	Last Week	Since March 1		Last Week				Total	Dept.*	
		Total	Dept.*	Max.	Min.	Avg.	Dept.*			
- Inches -			- Degrees -				- Base 50°F -			
NORTH										
Belvidere Bridge	1.74	44.24	13.56	79	32	53	2	2955	255	100
Canoe Brook	1.49	42.26	9.96	74	32	53	1	3076	356	98
Charlotteburg	1.90	45.38	12.49	72	28	48	-1	2349	225	99
Flemington	1.73	40.68	9.91	71	32	52	0	2892	103	98
Long Valley	1.65	41.88	8.49	66	40	50	0	2297	-59	99
Newton	1.11	41.04	11.06	70	32	50	1	2604	228	99
CENTRAL										
Freehold	.94	31.80	1.85	72	33	54	0	3153	142	90
Long Branch	.96	35.22	4.88	73	37	55	1	2981	24	96
New Brunswick	1.18	37.36	7.02	74	34	53	-1	3104	-41	97
Pemberton	DATA NOT AVAILABLE									
Toms River	1.24	37.36	6.18	74	40	55	0	3173	220	94
Trenton	1.78	32.20	3.63	71	39	54	-1	3080	-201	97
SOUTH										
A.C. Marina	DATA NOT AVAILABLE									
Cape May C.H.	.98	28.61	1.70	72	38	55	-3	3104	21	70
Downstown	.86	32.78	4.70	70	38	54	-1	3221	-94	88
Glassboro	1.25	34.02	4.36	71	40	57	2	3451	191	91
Hammonton	.85	28.48	-1.05	72	39	55	0	3381	118	86
Pomona	1.43	27.50	.85	72	40	55	1	3216	186	90
Seabrook	1.14	34.12	6.86	72	39	56	0	3517	179	83
South Harrison	1.09	31.11	2.13	72	43	56	NA	3403	NA	NA

*Departure from normal.

1/ Growing degree days since March 1, total and departure from normal or long term average.

2/ Estimated soil moisture as % of field capacity based on climate data.

SOIL MOISTURE TABLE

	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	PREVIOUS YEAR
VERY SHORT	0%	0%	0%
SHORT	20%	10%	6%
ADEQUATE	60%	90%	88%
SURPLUS	20%	0%	6%

RANGE AND PASTURE

	CURRENT	PREVIOUS WEEK	PREVIOUS YEAR
VERY POOR	0%	0%	0%
POOR	0%	0%	0%
FAIR	55%	45%	61%
GOOD	45%	55%	39%
EXCELLENT	0%	0%	0%

JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR OCTOBER 20, 2003

Acorn & Butternut Squash - Fair to good quantity of good quality product. We'll have them available until around Thanksgiving.

Beets - Good quantity and fair to good quality available.

Broccoli - Being harvested this week in good volume.

Brussels Sprouts - Being harvested this week in good volume.

Cauliflower - Being harvested this week in good volume.

Cabbage - Savoy, Green, and Red varieties being seen in good quantity and quality. We'll have them into November until a hard freeze.

Cranberries - Harvesting a good volume of excellent quality berries this week with slightly higher prices (+ 15%) paid to farmers this year. We do have increased amounts of high quality dry harvested red and white berries available this year. They're also available in a myriad of product packaging options.

Escarole & Endive - Good quality product is now being harvested in good volume.

Greens - Very good quality and good quantity of Collards, Kholrabi, Kale, Broccoli Raab, and Swiss Chard. We should have these greens into November until a hard freeze.

Green Onions - Good quantity and quality should be available into November.

Herbs - Good to excellent quality and good quantity for Cilantro, Dill, Parsley, and Arugula. Baby Arugula is in excellent quality and good quantity. These herbs do well in the cool weather. Basil doesn't like the cooler weather very much and is in poor to fair quality and fair quantity. Mustard and Mint also prefer warmer weather and are now found in fair to good quality and quantity. We should have the hardier herbs until the end of the month or into early November.

Leeks - Good quantity and quality available.

Lettuces - Even though there are good quantities of good quality Red, Green, Romaine, and Iceberg lettuces around, low prices are causing many growers not to bother harvesting them.

Pumpkins - We have 30-40% less supply this year. With all of this summer's wetness, only growers who stuck to their spray schedules seem to have excellent quality this year. Our commercial harvest is over now.

Spinach - Good quantity and excellent quality of product available. The quality is at it's best at this time of year and seems to get better by the day. Can handle some frost.

Sweet Potatoes - Very good quality and good quantity are available. Due to good growing conditions, there are even more #1's this year than in past memory.

Turnips - Good quantity and quality available.

White Potatoes - Good quantity and quality available for another week or two. Prices have been so low though that a lot of potatoes are not being harvested.