



NEW JERSEY WEEKLY CROP WEATHER

*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

Climate summary for the week ending 8 am 04/26/04

Temperatures averaged much above normal, averaging 58 degrees north, 59 degrees central, and 61 degrees south. Extremes were 91 degrees at Toms River on April 20, 2004, and 37 degrees at Pomona on April 26, 2004.

Weekly rainfall averaged 0.87 inches north, 0.94 inches central, and 0.33 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 0.95 inches at Freehold on April 25, 2004 to April 26, 2004.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 89 percent north, 85 percent central, and 76 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 58 degrees north, 59 degrees central, and 60 degrees south.

WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING 8 AM MONDAY 04/26/04

Weather Stations	Rainfall			Temperatures				Growing Degree Days		Soil Moisture
	Last Week	Since March 1		Last Week				1/		
		Total	Dept.*	Max.	Min.	Avg.	Dept.*	Total	Dept.*	
- Inches -			- Degrees -				- Base 50°F -			
NORTH										
Belvidere Bridge	.95	6.48	-.79	86	44	59	6	106	88	99
Canoe Brook	.76	7.95	-.08	88	42	59	6	121	109	96
Charlotteburg	1.06	7.23	-.63	84	41	57	7	98	98	100
Flemington	.74	8.50	.82	88	42	58	5	108	93	97
Long Valley	.76	6.55	-1.63	86	41	57	6	91	87	95
Newton	.92	6.38	-.61	84	40	56	5	91	88	100
CENTRAL										
Freehold	1.44	9.10	1.46	90	42	60	6	145	115	100
Long Branch	1.34	9.54	1.63	88	44	56	2	85	63	100
New Brunswick	.86	7.42	.11	86	42	59	4	119	75	98
Toms River	.44	9.57	1.87	91	43	59	5	140	116	78
Trenton	.60	7.72	.79	86	43	59	3	139	82	85
SOUTH										
Cape May C.H.	.29	7.97	1.24	78	40	59	4	124	78	77
Downstown	.13	7.69	.76	85	40	61	5	170	109	70
Glassboro	.87	10.00	2.70	85	48	62	6	188	131	94
Hammonton	.18	8.43	1.35	87	39	60	4	174	121	68
Pomona	.27	6.91	.10	83	37	59	5	143	109	74
Seabrook	.24	8.28	2.11	83	45	64	8	205	142	70
South Harrison	Data Not Available									

*Departure from normal.

1/ Growing degree days since March 1, 2004, total and departure from normal or long term average.

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

Vegetable Transplanting Activities Continue

Days suitable for field work were 6.0. There were measurable amounts of rainfall during the week across most of the state. Temperatures were above normal in most areas of the state for much of the week. Soil moisture was rated 98% adequate and 2% surplus. Irrigation water supplies were rated 60% adequate and 40% surplus. Farmers were busy fertilizing, spraying herbicides, plowing, and planting where field conditions allowed. Small grain crops were rated in fair to good condition. Alfalfa hay fields continued to green up, but some fields showed damage from last winter's weather. Some early sweet corn fields, planted under plastic cover, were seeded. Greenhouse grown lettuce was transplanted in some southern localities. Eggplant and peppers remained in greenhouses awaiting warmer weather before transplanting. Cabbage and escarole transplanting continued. Tomato and cantaloupe transplanting began in southern areas. Asparagus and spinach harvest was active across the state. Leeks, onions, kale, radishes, arugula, cilantro, and parsley were harvested in southern areas of the state. Some spinach acreage was plowed under due to pale appearing color. Planting of peas continued in the north. Early planted peas emerged and were five to six inches tall in some southern locations. Peaches and apples were rated in mostly good condition. Peaches started to bloom in the north. Pre-bloom spraying of blueberries occurred in some areas. Strawberry plants in the south were in flower with some plants displaying fruit. Standing water was reported in some strawberry fields. Some cranberry bogs started to drain water. Pastures were green and lush, but too short to support livestock grazing at this time.

JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR APRIL 26, 2004

Arugula & Kale – Being harvested in light volume. Volume will continue to pick up next week. Baby Arugula available in minimal volume.

Asparagus – With the generally warming temperatures, it's now being harvested in good volume. Too bad the season only lasts 6-8 weeks.

Cilantro & Parsley – A little bit of over-wintered product is still available but finishing up. Spring planted is available in light quantities.

Dandelions - Over-wintered product is finishing up. Spring planted available by mid-May.

Green Onions & Leeks – A small volume of over-wintered product is available for a few weeks.

Lettuces – Should begin harvesting some Boston and Red and Green Leaf lettuces later this week with volume increasing over the next several weeks.

Radishes – Are being harvested at peak volume now and for the next several weeks.

Spinach – A small volume of good quality over-wintered product is still available but finishing up. Spring planted should be available by mid-May. Baby Spinach available in a week or so.

JERSEY FRESH FORECAST

Beets – Harvest should begin around the third week of May.

Cabbage – Won't be ready until late May or early June.

Collards – Harvest should begin around the third week of May.

Dill - Should be available by the third week of May.

Escarole/Endive – Should begin harvesting around the end of May.

Romaine Lettuce – Should be available about the second or third week of May.

Strawberries – Chandler variety berries are picked ripe and arrive in our markets fresher than the competition. Our berries have more red interior color and a larger berry size since they're physically more mature and ripe. They're a better quality and better tasting product than other berries. One chain was selling them at twice the price of other berries last year and could not keep them in stock.

Unfortunately, winter was very hard on the plugs that were planted last summer. It seems that we have lost a significant amount of our expected '04 production. Early harvests 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 the first week of June.

Turnips – Should begin harvesting around the third week of May.