



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 8am 10/28/02

Temperatures averaged below normal. Extremes were 68 degrees at Atlantic City Marina on October 27, 2002 and 23 degrees at Charlotteburg on October 24, 2002.

Weekly rainfall averaged 1.04 inches north, 1.48 inches central, and 1.81 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 2.78 inches at Atlantic City Marina on October 25, 2002 to October 26, 2002.

Estimated soil moisture this past week, in percent of field capacity, averaged 97 percent north, 94 percent central, and 87 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 44 degrees north, 49 degrees central, and 52 degrees south.

WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING 8 AM MONDAY 10/28/02

Weather Stations	Rainfall			Temperatures				Growing Degree Days 1/		Soil Moisture2/
	Last Week	Since March 1		Last Week				Total	Dept.*	
		Total	Dept.*	Max.	Min.	Avg.	Dept.*			
- Inches -			- Degrees -				- Base 50°F -			
NORTH										
Belvidere Bridge	.98	33.21	1.64	64	29	45	-3	3336	634	99
Canoe Brook	DATA NOT AVAILABLE									
Charlotteburg	1.01	35.00	1.04	60	23	43	-4	2820	696	98
Flemington	1.14	36.07	4.41	60	28	44	-5	3334	542	99
Long Valley	.95	27.03	-7.37	56	26	42	-5	2548	192	99
Newton	1.14	32.87	2.02	62	28	44	-2	3063	687	99
CENTRAL										
Freehold	1.35	33.69	2.84	60	33	48	-3	3693	660	99
Long Branch	1.10	35.74	4.48	64	35	49	-3	3448	468	97
New Brunswick	2.06	36.42	5.22	62	31	47	-5	3525	356	99
Pemberton	DATA NOT AVAILABLE									
Toms River	1.63	35.73	3.54	64	37	50	-2	3610	634	98
Trenton	1.28	30.47	1.13	60	35	48	-4	3625	316	98
SOUTH										
A.C. Marina	2.98	25.91	-.36	68	44	54	0	3934	824	97
Cape May C.H.	2.55	28.89	1.17	66	39	53	-2	3950	818	98
Downstown	1.23	28.99	.09	65	34	49	-4	3707	359	98
Glassboro	1.15	27.19	-3.35	64	41	50	-2	4046	759	96
Hammonton	1.36	29.09	-1.29	65	35	50	-2	3702	414	98
Pomona	2.04	29.12	1.68	66	36	50	-1	3693	643	98
Seabrook	1.37	31.22	3.12	65	41	51	-2	4136	765	96
South Harrison	.88	28.45	-1.38	65	39	51	N/A	3951	N/A	N/A

*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.

(Long Valley's averages and totals are off because of 2 weeks of missing data)

AGRICULTURE

Temperatures averaged below normal for the week. Showers were reported across the region on Friday, with some areas receiving an inch of rain overnight. Although several weeks of significant rainfall have helped replenish top soil moisture levels and surface water supplies, the state remains under a drought emergency. Activities included equipment repair, planting small grains, and harvesting soybeans, field corn, and vegetables. Days suitable for field work averaged 5.2. Top soil moisture was rated 98% adequate and 2% surplus. Recent rains have slowed planting of small grains in some areas. Corn and soybean harvest continued, with many producers reporting low yields and test weights. Corn silage harvest was nearing completion in most areas. Hay producers were finishing up their final cutting for the year. Vegetable producers pulled plastic mulch and continued fall clean up of greenhouses and fields. Broccoli, cauliflower, lettuce, and kale harvest continued on schedule. Pumpkin and sweet potato harvest were winding down in some localities. Apple harvest continued, with crop condition rated mostly fair to good. Cranberry harvest should be completed over the next few weeks. Crop condition was rated mostly good by producers.

SOIL MOISTURE TABLE

	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	PREVIOUS YEAR
VERY SHORT	0%	0%	7%
SHORT	0%	6%	52%
ADEQUATE	98%	88%	41%
SURPLUS	2%	6%	0%

RANGE AND PASTURE

	CURRENT	PREVIOUS WEEK	PREVIOUS YEAR
VERY POOR	0%	0%	12%
POOR	0%	0%	1%
FAIR	46%	61%	49%
GOOD	54%	39%	38%
EXCELLENT	0%	0%	0%

JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR OCTOBER 28, 2002

Acorn Squash – Smaller sizes being seen due to the early growing season dry heat. Less quantity this year as growers scaled back their fall plantings. Low prices are causing some product to remain in the field.

Butternut Squash – Smaller sizes being seen due to the early growing season dry heat. Less quantity this year as growers scaled back their fall plantings. Low prices are causing some product to remain in the field.

Cabbage – Green, Red, and Savoy available in increasing quantities. The cooler fall temperatures are great for quality. All varieties available in good supply but low prices are causing some product to remain in the field. Should be available until the middle of next month.

Cauliflower – Good quality and decreasing quantity available for the next few weeks.

Collards & Escarole/Endive – Increasing quantities available each week. The cooler fall temperatures are great for quality. All varieties peaking but low prices are causing some product to remain in the field. Should be available until the middle of next month.

Cranberries – Harvest in full swing now. Quantity available now and building over the next few weeks and peaking during November. Available through Christmas. Dry harvested berries have been in increasing demand each year and we have an increasing quantity of quality product available. Clam shell packaging in 1 lb. and quart containers and 8 lb. boxes is typical. Polybag packaging is also available.

Greens – The prolonged drought and high heat has caused some growers to scale back on their fall planting plans. Expect a decreased quantity overall of fall greens. Spinach, Boston, and Romaine lettuce are being harvested in quantity now. Fall greens will be harvested until frost.

Green Onions – Good quality and quantity available.

Herbs – All varieties peaking. Quantities available now for Basil, Mint, Mustard, Cilantro, Dill, Parsley, Arugula, and Baby Arugula as the cooler fall temperatures will increase quality. Less fall quantities of herbs than last year as growers have scaled back on their planting plans. Will have availability until frost.

Leeks - Good quality and quantity available.

Napa Cabbage – Though quantity and size had been less with the hot and dry summer weather, this trend is now reversing as the cooler fall temperatures are increasing quality and quantity. Should be available until mid-November.

Pumpkins – Peak of the season now. Long term heat and lack of rain created tough growing conditions that mean less quantity and size than last year. Quality should be excellent though as there has been a lack of disease pressure.

Shanghai Bok Choi – Though quantity and size had been less with the hot and dry summer weather, this trend is now reversing as the cooler fall temperatures are increasing quality and quantity. Should be available for at least a few more weeks.

Sweet Potatoes – Good quality and quantity available. Growers are now finishing up their digging and putting them into storage while they await good market conditions.

White Potatoes – Good quantity and quality.

**PROVIDED BY THE NEW JERSEY STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.*