

# Weather 2003 continued

Charlotteburg on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Precipitation totals were above normal, ranging from 2.53 inches at Atlantic City to 11.56 inches at Glassboro. The greatest 24-hour total was 3.76 inches at Indian Mills on the 4<sup>th</sup>.

**October** - Temperatures averaged below normal. Extremes ranged from 90 degrees F at Wanaque dam on the 10<sup>th</sup> to 24 degrees F at several locations on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Precipitation totals were above normal, ranging from 3.72 inches at Newark to 8.16 inches at Ringwood. The greatest 24-hour total was 2.35 inches at Sussex on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

**November** - Temperatures averaged much above normal with extremes of 84 degrees F at Essex Fells on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 15 degrees F at Estell Manor on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Precipitation totals were a little above average at most locations, ranging from 2.51 inches at Canoe Brook to 5.98 inches at New Brunswick. The greatest 24-hour rainfall was 2.63 inches on the 20<sup>th</sup> at Greenwood Lake.

**December** - Temperatures averaged above normal with extremes ranging from 65 degrees F at Essex Fells on the 29<sup>th</sup> to 9 degrees F at High Point on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Precipitation totals were above normal ranging from 4.73 inches at Atlantic City marina to 8.20 inches at Lambertville. The greatest monthly snowfall was 23.5 inches at Cranford.

**2003 Growing Season** - Overall the weather during the 2003 growing season was not very good. The season had a fairly good start with a lack of any late widespread freezing temperatures or frost. The biggest negative was the amount of clouds and rain and therefore a lack of sun. June was an especially wet month with nearly twice normal precipitation. This resulted in a

significant rot problem as well as conditions that were favorable for the spread of many diseases and also retarded the rate of maturation of many crops.

**Keith Arnesen**  
**Extension Staff Meteorologist**  
**Department of Environmental Science**  
**Cook College, Rutgers University**