

Weather 2004 continued

September - Temperatures averaged above normal with extremes from 90 degrees F at Belvidere Bridge on the 15th to 40 degrees F at Charlotteburg and Sussex on the 20th and the 21st. Precipitation totals were well above normal, in the north to slightly above normal, but with some locations below normal in the south. Totals ranged from 1.28 inches at Cape May to 14.31 inches at Belvidere Bridge. The greatest 24-hour total was 6.32 inches at Belvidere Bridge on the 18th.

October - Temperatures averaged near normal. Extremes ranged from 81 degrees F at Harrison on the 9th to 28 degrees F at Estell Manor on the 18th. Precipitation totals were below normal, ranging from 0.73 inches at Harrison to 3.92 inches at Mays Landing. The greatest 24-hour total was 1.89 inches at Seabrook and Hammonton on the 19th.

November - Temperatures averaged above normal with extremes of 78 degrees F at Estell Manor on the 1st and 18 degrees F at Charlotteburg on the 10th. Precipitation totals were above average at most locations, ranging from 3.50 inches at Brant Beach to 6.21 inches at Lambertville. The greatest 24-hour rainfall was 2.32 inches on the 13th at Estell Manor.

December - Temperatures averaged slightly above normal with extremes ranging from 64 degrees F at Estell Manor on the 9th to 3 degrees F at Sussex on the 29th. Precipitation totals were below normal south and near normal north, ranging from 1.96 inches at Millville to 4.53 inches at Greenwood Lake. The greatest monthly snowfall was 3.4 inches at Sussex.

2004 Growing Season - Overall the weather during the 2004 growing season was probably the best in several years. The season had a fairly good start with a lack of any late widespread freezing temperatures or frost. Rainfall was fairly evenly distributed throughout the season with July having the greatest totals. Rainfall was excessive in few locations and caused some localized damage on some crops in July. The percentage of sunshine was greater than the 2003 season and therefore the overall conditions were much better than 2003.

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