



NJ-CW1412

## New Jersey Weather and Crop Bulletin

April 9, 2012

### Some Early Corn Planted

*Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday, April 8, 2012 were 6.5. Topsoil moisture was rated as 5% very short, 40% short, and 55% adequate. Subsoil moisture was rated as 5% very short, 35% short, and 60% adequate. Pasture and Range condition was rated at 5% poor, 30% fair, and 65% good. Rainfall amounts were below normal for all locations. Temperatures reached highs in the mid 60s to mid 70s and lows in the upper 20s to upper 30s across the Garden State.*

*Winter wheat is 100% emerged in the state, and the condition is 10% fair and 90% good. Most planting is on hold despite warm temperatures for fear of frost injury. So far frost has spared fruit producers from significant damage; however the season remains 3-4 weeks in advance with flowers in bloom with a threat of freeze for a month yet. Windy conditions have limited spraying opportunities. Dry conditions are noticeable but not critical due to the early date. Most winter grain crops look good. Producers are picking asparagus, and preparing fields for spring plantings. Other farming activities during the week are; tillage work, fertilization, irrigation of spinach and sod, establishing hay (spring planted) and spreading lime and fertilizer. Some early corn is planted. Insects are early as well. Livestock conditions are good. Conditions are favorable for calving and lambing. Dairy condition and milk production is average.*

### Climate summary for the week ending 8am April 9, 2012

Temperatures averaged above normal, averaging 48 degrees north, 52 degrees central, and 51 degrees south. Extremes were 75 degrees at Pomona on April 5, 2012 and 28 degrees at Newton on April 4, 2012.

Weekly rainfall averaged 0.01 inches north, 0.00 inches central, and 0.06 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 0.15 inches at Downtown on April 2, 2012 to April 3, 2012.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 96 percent north, 92 percent central, and 91 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 47 degrees north, 50 degrees central, and 50 degrees south.

### Agricultural Weather Advisory for New Jersey and Southeastern Pennsylvania Issued By Rutgers University- New Brunswick, NJ 8 am EDT Monday April 9, 2012

Rainfall amounts none through tonight, less than a tenth of an inch Tuesday. Winds for spraying northwest 15 to 25 mph and gusty today and Tuesday, northwest 5 to 10 mph tonight.

Relative humidity in percent 20 to 30 today, 70 to 80 tonight, 25 to 35 Tuesday. Dew points mid to upper 20s through Tuesday.

Drying conditions very good today, very good Tuesday. Frost freeze or dew some freezing temperatures possible tonight if winds subside, none expected Tuesday night with clouds. Percent of possible sunshine 90 today, 50 Tuesday.

There is a near zero percent probability of precipitation during the 12 hour period beginning at 8 am and ending at 8 pm that could adversely affect the performance of pesticides that require a rain-free period after application.

Temperatures in the representative cranberry bogs could drop to 20 to 24 if winds subside tonight, but will probably remain above freezing due to clouds Tuesday night.

Early season hay cutting will continue to see very good conditions through much of the week, but there is a slight chance of showers on Tuesday and Wednesday.

After a very wet 2011, soils have dried out significantly due to limited rain and snow and above normal temperatures so far this year and therefore plowing and planting continues to move ahead quickly.

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period April 16, 2012 to April 22, 2012 is calling for temperatures to average above normal and precipitation to average near normal.

### Weather Summary for the Week Ending Monday, April 9, 2012

Weather Stations	Rainfall			Temperatures Last Week				Growing Degree Days <sup>1</sup>		Soil Moisture <sup>2</sup>
	Last Week	Since March 1		Max.	Min.	Avg.	Dept.*	Total	Dept.*	
		Total	Dept.*							
	Inches	Inches	Inches	Degrees	Degrees	Degrees	Degrees	Base 50°F	Base 50°F	Percent
<b>North</b>										
Belvidere Bridge .....	0.00	1.53	-3.48	68	29	47	0	94	94	92
Canoe Brook .....	0.01	1.97	-3.75	69	32	50	3	141	141	93
Charlotteburg.....	0.02	1.83	-3.57	65	32	48	3	107	107	93
Flemington.....	0.00	2.07	-3.32	69	31	49	2	111	111	94
Newton.....	0.04	1.62	-3.09	66	28	46	0	112	112	95
<b>Central</b>										
Freehold.....	0.00	1.98	-3.57	72	33	51	2	136	136	91
Long Branch.....	0.00	2.84	-2.92	72	37	51	3	86	86	83
New Brunswick.....	0.00	2.37	-2.80	71	32	51	2	134	134	93
Toms River.....	0.01	2.20	-3.27	72	31	50	2	117	117	83
Trenton.....	0.00	2.04	-2.99	73	36	53	3	195	195	82
<b>South</b>										
Cape May C.H.....	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Downtown.....	0.15	1.78	-3.24	72	30	50	0	144	144	87
Glassboro.....	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hammonton.....	0.00	2.45	-2.61	72	33	50	0	142	142	84
Pomona.....	0.08	3.06	-1.94	75	33	52	3	156	156	83
Seabrook.....	0.00	2.35	-2.05	74	36	52	1	177	176	83
South Harrison.....	0.11	2.70	-2.03	72	37	53	N/A	179	N/A	N/A

\* Departure from normal.

<sup>1</sup> Growing degree days since March 1, 2012, total and departure from normal or long term average.

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

<sup>3</sup> Data not available.

**JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR APRIL 9, 2012**

<b>ARUGULA</b>	Harvest starting in very light quantity. Volume should pick up each week.
<b>ASPARAGUS</b>	Earliest harvest in many years started last week with a very light harvest and very slowly increasing quantity of good quality product. With the continued warm weather that we're expecting this week, and increasing soil temperatures, harvest volume should ramp up a bit.
<b>CILANTRO</b>	A light volume of very good quality over-wintered product is harvesting and will be available for at least several weeks. Spring planted should be available within several weeks already.
<b>COLLARDS</b>	A very light quantity of good quality product has over-wintered and is available for a few weeks until Spring transplanted products are ready to harvest late month.
<b>DANDELIONS</b>	Good quality over-wintered bunched Italian product is available now and for some time. Spring planted should be available in another week. San Pasquale variety should be several weeks away.
<b>KALE</b>	Good quality over-wintered product harvesting in very light volume. Volume should pick up each week.
<b>LEEKs</b>	A very light volume of good quality over-wintered product available as it has "greened up" very quickly and will be available until Spring planted arrives in a few weeks.
<b>PARSLEY</b>	Harvesting a light volume of good quality over-wintered curly and plain product.
<b>RADISHES</b>	Harvest of good quality product just starting in very light quantity. Volume should pick up each week.
<b>SPINACH</b>	A light volume of very good quality over-wintered product is available now and until Spring planted arrives in a week or two.
<b>SWISS CHARD</b>	Harvest of good quality product starting. Volume will pick up each week.

**JERSEY FRESH FORECAST**

<b>BABY SPINACH &amp; ARUGULA</b>	Harvest should start in two weeks.
<b>BEETS</b>	Transplanted earlier than normal. Harvesting in two weeks.
<b>CABBAGE</b>	Transplanted earlier than normal. May be harvesting late month.
<b>DILL</b>	Harvest should start next week in very light quantity. Volume should pick up each week after that.
<b>ESCAROLE &amp; ENDIVE</b>	Should begin harvesting in early May.
<b>LETTUCE</b>	Should begin harvesting Boston by the end of the month. Red & Green Leaf follow in early May, followed by Romaine in mid-May.
<b>MINT</b>	Very good quality should start harvesting late next week. Volume should increase each week thereafter.
<b>STRAWBERRIES</b>	Early harvests of Chandler variety berries should begin in early to mid-May. The bulk of the crop will be harvested about the third week, with lower volumes to continue through the end of May.
<b>TURNIPS</b>	Should begin harvesting around mid-May.