



NJ-CW1812

New Jersey Weather and Crop Bulletin

May 7, 2012

Asparagus and Strawberry Harvests Continue

For the week ending Sunday, May 6, 2012 there were 5 days suitable for field work. Topsoil moisture was rated as 25% short, 70% adequate, and 5% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated as 25% short, 70% adequate, and 5% surplus. Pasture and Range condition was rated at 20% fair, 75% good, and 5% excellent.

Temperatures reached highs in the mid 70s to mid 80s and lows in the low 30s to upper 40s across the Garden State. Winter wheat condition was 15% fair and 85% good. Field corn planted was at 90% with 50% emerged. Substantial rains are relieving the imminent threat of drought stress. There have been some first cuttings made on hay. Last week's cold weather caused damage to some early crops, particularly blueberries in low lying areas. Asparagus and strawberry harvests continue. The strawberry crop is heavy on fruit. Greens were also being harvested. Sweet corn has been planted and is up, but did suffer from frost last week. Fields are still being prepared for planting. Sawflies, gnats, cabbage worms have increased.

Climate summary for the week ending 8am May 7, 2012

Temperatures averaged above normal north and near normal central and south, averaging 58 degrees north, 58 degrees central, and 59 degrees south. Extremes were 84 degrees at Trenton on May 5, 2012 and 30 degrees at Newton on May 1, 2012.

Weekly rainfall averaged 1.07 inches north, 1.34 inches central, and 0.35 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 0.84 inches at Freehold on May 2, 2012 to May 3, 2012.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 98 percent north, 95 percent central, and 89 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 50 degrees north, 55 degrees central, and 55 degrees south.

Agricultural Weather Advisory for New Jersey and Southeastern Pennsylvania Issued By Rutgers University- New Brunswick, NJ 8 am EDT Monday May 7, 2012

Rainfall amounts none expected today, tenth of an inch tonight, one to two tenths of an inch with some locally heavy amounts possible Tuesday. Winds for spraying south 5 to 10 mph today, south 10 to 15 mph tonight and Tuesday.

Relative humidity in percent 45 to 55 today, 90 to 100 tonight, 50 to 60 Tuesday. Dew points 45 to 50 today and tonight, low 50s Tuesday.

Drying conditions fair today, fair at best Tuesday. Frost freeze or dew none expected tonight and Tuesday night but wetting in showers is possible both nights. Percent of possible sunshine 20 today, less than 10 Tuesday.

There is a 40 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 will remain above freezing tonight and Tuesday night. Hay cutting is not recommended for the next few days with slow drying conditions and periodic showers possible.

Soil moisture levels are generally favorable but may become excessive in some locations over the next 48 hours. Four inch soil temperatures are in the low 60s and should remain somewhat steady over the next few days. Growing degree day totals base 50 are running well ahead of normal.

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period May 14, 2012 to May 20, 2012 is calling for temperatures to average above normal and precipitation to average above normal.

Weather Summary for the Week Ending Monday, May 7, 2012

Weather Stations	Rainfall			Temperatures Last Week				Growing Degree Days ¹		Soil Moisture ²
	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
North										
Belvidere Bridge.....	0.86	4.98	-3.63	81	31	58	1	231	154	93
Canoe Brook.....	N/ A	N/ A	N/ A	N/ A	N/ A	N/ A	N/ A	N/ A	N/ A	N/ A
Charlotteburg.....	1.14	5.34	-3.99	80	32	57	3	249	223	96
Flemington.....	1.02	6.12	2.93	81	35	58	1	271	201	93
Newton.....	1.26	5.39	-2.92	79	30	58	3	263	223	95
Central										
Freehold.....	1.38	5.90	-3.08	77	46	57	-1	309	208	92
Long Branch.....	1.98	8.31	-0.97	74	36	54	-3	211	130	95
New Brunswick.....	1.26	6.42	-2.27	79	46	59	0	317	196	94
Toms River.....	0.66	5.58	-3.47	82	32	57	-1	290	203	89
Trenton.....	1.40	5.75	-2.39	84	36	61	2	429	287	85
South										
Cape May C.H.....	0.08	5.57	-2.32	79	38	56	-2	227	105	80
Downstown.....	0.31	4.34	-3.79	80	32	59	-1	332	181	81
Hammonton.....	0.62	5.66	-2.69	81	34	60	1	345	208	81
Pomona.....	0.34	5.45	-2.48	82	36	58	0	341	237	76
Seabrook.....	0.38	5.45	-1.86	81	47	61	1	409	255	83
South Harrison.....	0.50	5.26	-2.59	79	38	60	N/ A	387	N/ A	N/ A

* Departure from normal.

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

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

³ Data not available.