



**High Temperatures and Dry Conditions
Persist for New Jersey Farmers**

For the week ending Sunday, July 15, 2012, there were 7 days suitable for field work. Topsoil moisture was rated at 25% very short, 50% short, and 25% adequate. Subsoil moisture was rated at 10% very short, 55% short, and 35% adequate. Pasture and range condition was rated at 5% poor, 30% fair, 50% good, and 15% excellent.

Excessive heat and minimal rainfall throughout the week continued to diminish soil moisture. Irrigation was necessary for field crops. Crop conditions for corn and soybeans rated poor to fair. Livestock condition remained average. Milk production was slightly below average due to the heat and humidity. Supplemental feeding was necessary as pasture re-growth was inadequate. Vegetable growers began preparing grounds for fall-plantings. Summer-vegetable harvest progressed for cucumbers, squash, sweet corn, and tomatoes. Other farming activities included harvesting wheat, cutting and baling hay, spraying pesticides, and picking fruit.

Climate summary for the week ending 8am 7/16/12

Temperatures averaged above normal, averaging 75 degrees north, 77 degrees central, and 77 degrees south. Extremes were 93 degrees at Hammonton on July 16, 2012 and 56 degrees at Charlotteburg on July 11, 2012.

Weekly rainfall averaged 1.10 inches north, 0.46 inches central, and 0.16 inches south. the heaviest 24 hour total reported was 1.07 inches at Newton on July 15, 2012 and July 16, 2012.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 76 percent north, 54 percent central, and 42 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 76 degrees north, 77 degrees central, and 76 degrees south.

**Agricultural Weather Advisory for New Jersey and Southeastern Pennsylvania
Issued By Rutgers University- New Brunswick, NJ
8 am EDT Monday July 16, 2012**

Rainfall amounts none through Saturday, a tenth of an inch with locally heavier amounts Saturday night. Winds for spraying northeast then southeast 5 to 10 mph today, southwest 5 mph tonight, southwest 5 to 10 mph Saturday.

Relative humidity in percent 30 to 40 today, 90 to 100 tonight, 40 to 50 Saturday. Dew points near 60 today, mid 60s tonight, then rising to near 70 by later Saturday.

Drying conditions excellent today and very good Saturday. Light dew tonight, some dew as well as possible wetting in showers Saturday night. Percent of possible sunshine 90 today, 80 Saturday.

There is less than a 10 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.

Hay cutting will see very good drying through Saturday with a chance of scattered showers and thundershowers Saturday night.

Soil moisture will continue to decrease over the next several days and the need for irrigation will remain high.

Four inch soil temperatures are now in the low to mid 80s and will remain steady over the next few days.

Growing degree day totals base 50 continue to run well ahead of normal.

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period July 13, 2012 to July 19, 2012 is calling for temperatures to average above normal and precipitation to average near normal.

Weather Summary for the Week Ending Monday, July 16, 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	0.41	17.09	-0.39	89	59	74	2	1,546	355	74
Canoe Brook	0.39	11.14	-7.14	92	62	77	4	1,736	543	64
Charlotteburg.....	0.28	12.93	-5.83	90	56	74	4	1,528	567	59
Flemington.....	0.59	14.04	-3.86	91	60	77	3	1,710	478	74
Newton	3.85	14.52	-2.57	88	57	74	3	1,583	525	100
Central										
Freehold	0.79	14.62	-2.82	90	63	77	3	1,775	442	67
Long Branch	0.22	19.34	1.96	88	65	76	2	1,617	359	39
New Brunswick.....	0.42	15.37	-1.87	91	64	78	3	1,823	411	68
Toms River	0.35	14.81	-2.84	90	63	75	1	1,567	299	55
Trenton.....	0.53	12.90	-3.43	90	65	78	2	1,971	500	52
South										
Cape May C.H.	0.29	11.42	-3.98	90	60	75	0	1,475	123	40
Downstown.....	0.22	11.50	-4.52	92	62	77	1	1,839	335	38
Hammonton.....	0.13	12.74	-4.19	93	64	77	1	1,853	395	34
Pomona.....	0.05	14.97	-0.31	92	62	75	0	1,739	389	30
Seabrook.....	0.12	12.65	-2.82	92	66	78	2	1,687	194	32
South Harrison ³	0.00	10.57	-6.65	91	65	78	N/ A	1,934	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.

JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR JULY 16, 2012

ARRUGULA	Harvesting good quality in light to fair quantity in this heat.
BABY SPINACH & ARUGULA	Harvesting very good quality in fair quantity.
BASIL	Likes warm weather. Harvesting good quality in good volume.
BEETS	Harvesting good quality product in good volume.
BLUEBERRIES	The commercial harvest is done due to the record early harvest date when harvesting started. A very light volume of late season varieties like Elliot are in excellent quality.
CABBAGE	Harvesting excellent quality product in fair to good volume.
CILANTRO	A fair volume of good quality product harvesting.
COLLARDS/KALE	A fair to good volume of good quality products harvesting.
CUCUMBERS	Good quality Pickles & Cukes harvesting in good volume.
DANDELIONS	Good quality bunched Spring planted Italian and San Pasquale varieties both harvesting in good quantity.
DILL	Harvesting very good quality in light volume most of the Summer although extreme warmth will curtail availability.
EGGPLANT	An early harvest of very good quality product in fair to good supply by the end of the week.
LEEKS	A good volume of good quality Spring planted harvesting.
MINT	Harvesting a good volume of very good quality product.
NECTARINES	Harvesting a light to fair and increasing supply of excellent quality Eastern glo, the first high quality early yellow. Summer Beaut and Flavortop varieties are starting. A good steady volume of the more widely planted Sunglo variety by the end of the month, with a steady supply through the early part of Sept.
PARSLEY	Harvesting a good volume of very good quality curly and plain.
PEACHES	Harvesting a fair to good supply of excellent quality and widely planted Red Haven & John Boy freestone varieties, through early September. White Lady white peaches starting, with volume by late week. This is the week to get doughnut/flat peaches as there is a strong demand for a limited supply of these short season peaches. Brix levels are already high due to our early hot and dry weather, so sweetness is ensured. Sizing and color are good.
PEPPERS	Harvesting in light to fair & increasing supply with hot temperatures.
RADISHES	Will continue to harvest good quality product in light volume most of the Summer although extreme warmth will curtail availability.
SPINACH	A light volume of good quality product harvesting in this heat.
SQUASH	Very good quality green and yellow squash harvesting in good volume.
SWEET CORN	Good volume of very good quality corn. Peak of the season.
SWISS CHARD	Harvesting a fair volume of very good quality product.
TOMATOES	Harvesting excellent quality in fair to good volume by late week.
TURNIPS	Harvesting very good quality in light to decreasing quantity.