Vegetables Continue to Suffer from Disease and Suboptimal Weather

Statewide, six days were suitable for field work, up from five days in the previous week. Topsoil moisture was 4% short, 92% adequate, and 4% surplus. Subsoil moisture was 2% short, 92% adequate, and 6% surplus. Pasture and range condition was 2% poor, 8% fair, 63% good, and 27% excellent.

The state’s northern region received much more rain than the week before (1.10 inches versus 0.61 inches), while the central and southern regions received less rain than the week before (0.69 inches versus 0.91 inches in the central region and 0.53 inches versus 0.77 inches in the southern region). Average temperatures were a little higher than the previous week, with highs ranging from 83 degrees in Canoe Brook and Charlotteburg to 90 degrees in Pomona.

In Burlington County, some vegetable fields are being abandoned due to disease, some disease problems exist in cantaloupe, and some cracking is occurring in tomatoes, but corn and soybeans in the county reportedly look good and eggplant is doing well in the high temperatures. In Cumberland County, some disease exists in peppers and some phytophthora exists in cantaloupe. In Monmouth County, diseases are increasing, including peppery spot on kale and phytophthora on pumpkins, and vegetable crops have poor root development due to excessive rain.

Growers in Mercer County are applying fungicide to crops to ward off diseases and are spending much time on weed management on account of high rainfall. Warren County saw some early green chopping of corn. In Salem County, corn and soybean condition are reportedly very good and milk production is average to good.

Climate Summary for the Week Ending 8/12/13 at 8 AM (Issued by Rutgers University)

Temperatures averaged 70 degrees north, 74 degrees central, and 73 degrees south. Extremes were 90 degrees at Pomona on the 10th and 46 degrees at Belvidere on the 6th. Weekly rainfall averaged 1.10 inches north, 0.69 inches central, and 0.53 inches south. The heaviest 24-hour total reported was 1.31 inches at Toms River on the 8th to 9th.

Agricultural Weather Advisory for New Jersey and Southeastern Pennsylvania

Issued by Rutgers University - New Brunswick, NJ
8 AM EDT Monday, August 12, 2013

General: The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period August 19th to August 24th is calling for temperatures to average above normal and precipitation to average above normal.

Rainfall Amounts: Tenth of an inch with locally higher amounts possible each period today, tonight, and Tuesday. There is a 20 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.

Relative Humidity in Percent: 50 to 60 today, 90 to 100 tonight, 50 to 60 Tuesday.

Dew Points: 65 to 70 through Tuesday.

Frost Freeze or Dew: Some dew as well as possible wetting in showers tonight and Tuesday night.

Percent of Sunshine: 50 today, 20 Tuesday.

Drying Conditions: Fair both today and Tuesday with some local poor areas especially Tuesday.

Winds for Spraying: South 5 mph today and tonight, southwest 5 to 10 mph Tuesday.

Conditions for Cranberry Scald: Will be unfavorable today and Tuesday.

Hay Cutting: Should not be considered through Tuesday with slow drying and scattered showers possible. Fairly good drying conditions should move in Wednesday and continue through Friday.
JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR AUGUST 12, 2013

ARRUGULA  Harvesting a light volume of variable quality product.
BABY SPINACH & ARUGULA  Harvesting fair to good quality in fair volume.
BEETS  Harvesting variable quality product in fair volume.
CABBAGE  Harvesting variable quality product in fair volume.
CILANTRO  Harvesting a light volume of variable quality product.
COLLARDS  Harvesting variable quality and light volume.
CUCUMBERS  Variable quality Pickles and Cukes harvesting in very light volume.
DANDELIONS  Good quality San Pasqua variety available in fair volume.
DILL  Harvesting variable quality in very light volume.
EGGPLANT  Harvesting fair to good quality in fair to good volume.
ESCAROLE & ENDIVE  Harvesting variable quality products in very light volume.
KALE  Variable quality product harvesting in light volume.
LEeks  Harvesting a fair volume of good quality product.
MINT  Variable quality product harvesting in fair volume.
NECTARINES  Finishing up Easterngo in light volume. A little bit of a supply gap now as other varieties, such as the widely planted Sunglo variety, start to harvest. Good sizing of 2.5” primarily. There should start to be a good steady volume through early September.
PARSLEY  Harvesting a light volume of variable quality curly and plain product.
PEACHES  Excellent quality and widely planted Red Haven & John Boy yellow freestone peaches harvesting in good volume with Bounty & Flaming Fury varieties starting. White Lady variety white peaches in good volume, with Klondike variety starting. Sizing looks excellent. There should be a good steady volume expected through early September.
PEPPERS  Harvesting fair to good quality in fair volume.
RADISHES  Harvesting in very light volume and variable quality.
SQUASH  Harvesting in very light volume and variable quality.
SWEET CORN  Good volume of fair to good quality com.
SWISS CHARD  Harvesting in light volume and variable quality.
TOMATOES  Harvesting in light volume and variable quality.
TURNIPS  Harvesting in very light volume and variable quality.