

NEW JERSEY *N*EEKLY CROP WEATHER

New Jersey Field Office

In Cooperation With:

U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service Agricultural Marketing Service U.S. Department of Commerce/N.O.A.A. **Rutgers University**

NOAA WEATHER RADIO STATIONS

Allentown

WXL-39 on the VHF-FM frequency of 162.40 Megahertz.

Atlantic City

KHB-38 on the VHF-FM frequency of 162.40 Megahertz.

New York City KWO-35 on the VHF-FM

frequency of 160.55 Megahertz.

Philadelphia

KIH-28 on the VHF-FM frequency of 162.475 Megahertz.

NEW JERSEY AUCTIONS

Phone: (856)691-0721

Sales 10:00AM Daily except Sunday.

Landisville

Phone: (856)697-2273 Direct Sales Daily Swedesboro

Phone: (856)476-0313

Hightstown

Phone: (609)448-0193

Auction Sales Mon-Wed-Fri-7pm

Volume 68 No. 4

Agricultural Weather Advisory for New Jersey and Southeastern Pennsylvania Issued by Rutgers University New Brunswick NJ 8 am EDT Monday, May 1, 2006

Date: May 1, 2006

Rainfall amounts none through Tuesday.

Winds for spraying northeast 10 to 20 mph today, north around 10 mph tonight, north 10 to 15 mph Tuesday. Relative humidity in percent 30 to 40 today, near 100 tonight, 30 to 40 Tuesday.

Dew points low to mid 30s through Tuesday.

Drying conditions good today, good Tuesday.

Frost freeze or dew moderate dew tonight, moderate dew Tuesday night.

Percent of possible sunshine 90 today, 60 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 rainfree period after application.

Temperatures in the representative bogs could fall to 23 to 27 tonight and 25 to 29 Tuesday night.

Plowing and planting will continue to increase across the region with little chance of rainfall through Wednesday.

Hay cutting will continue to see good conditions for the next couple days with dry weather continuing.

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period May 8th, 2006 to May 14th, 2006 is calling for temperatures to average below normal and precipitation to total above normal.

Climate summary for the week ending 8 am May 1, 2006

Temperatures averaged much below normal, averaging 52 degrees north, 53 degrees central and 54 degrees south. Extremes were 75 degrees at Toms River on the April 26th, and 31 degrees at Flemington on the April 30th

Weekly rainfall averaged 0.06 inches north, 0.22 inches central, and 0.38 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 0.42 inches at Atlantic City on the April 24th to April 25th. Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 96 percent north, 94 percent central and 94 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 54 degrees north, 55 degrees central and 56 degrees south.

Weather Stations	Rainfall			Temperatures				Growing Degree Days		Soil	
	Last Week	Since March 1		Last Week] 1/		Moisture 2/	
		Total	Dept.*	Max.	Min.	Avg.	Dept.*	Total	Dept.*	<u>~</u> 1	
- Inches -			- Degrees -				- Base 50°F -				
				N	ORTH						
Belvidere Bridge				DATA NOT AVAILABLE							
Canoe Brook	.01	4.37	-4.33	73	33	53	-1	178	148	92	
Charlotteburg		DATA NOT AVAILABLE									
Flemington	.05	5.83	-2.51	74	31	53	-2	166	131	93	
Newton	.13	4.20	-3.43	70	33	52	-1	125	110	93	
				CE	NTRAL						
Freehold	.10	4.77	-3.48	73	33	52	-4	191	134	92	
Long Branch	.16	5.62	-2.91	71	38	52	-3	140	96	84	
New Brunswick	.13	4.36	-3.58	74	33	53	-4	205	130	93	
Toms River	.31	4.52	-3.83	75	34	52	-3	171	122	88	
Trenton	.39	5.02	-2.46	72	36	54	-3	208	117	83	
			•	S	OUTH						
Cape May C.H.	.32	3.08	-4.18	69	37	52	-5	192	116	87	
Downstown	.51	3.83	-3.66	72	33	53	-5	211	114	90	
Glassboro	.24	4.55	-3.35	73	39	55	-2	249	158	85	
Hammonton	.48	3.97	-3.70	73	34	54	-3	221	135	88	
Pomona	.49	3.82	-3.51	71	34	52	-4	190	129	88	
Seabrook	.27	4.53	-2.15	72	39	56	-2	294	194	85	
South Harrison	.53	4.27	-3.24	72	38	55	NA	270	NA	NA	

^{*}Departure from normal.

^{1/}Growing degree days since March 1, 2006, total and departure from normal or long term average. 2/Estimated soil moisture as % of field capacity based on climate data

Recent Rain Improves Crops Conditions

Days suitable for field work, the week ending Sunday, April 30, 2006, were 5.4. Topsoil moisture was rated 5% short and 95% adequate. Temperatures averaged below normal for the week across the state. There were measurable amounts of precipitation in most localities for the week. There was a report of localized frost two nights during the week in the northern district. Agricultural producers continued field preparation for spring crops as weather permitted. Other activities included planting, greenhouse work, transplanting vegetable crops, topdressing fertilizer, and spraying herbicide. Asparagus harvest began in the north, and continued in the south. Harvest of lettuce started in the south. Early tomatoes and sweet corn are under plastic. Arugula, green onion, leeks, and Swiss chard were harvested in the south. Winter wheat began to head. Condition of small grains and hay crops were fair to good.

JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR MAY 1, 2006

Arugula & Kale – Good quality products are being harvested in light volume. Volume should continue to pick up each week.

Asparagus – Very good quality product is available in fair to light normal quantity. With warm temperatures, the harvest should continue to increase over the next several weeks with normal quantity expected by next week.

Cilantro – A light quantity of over-wintered product is available now and for several more weeks. Spring planted should be available by about the third week of May.

Dandelions - Over-wintered product is available now and for some time. Spring planted should be available by mid-May.

Leeks – A light volume of over-wintered product is available now and for some time.

Radishes – Harvesting fair quantities of good quality product. Volume should continue to pick up over the next several weeks.

Spinach – A light volume of over-wintered product is available now and for several weeks. Spring planted should be available by mid-May.

Swiss Chard – A small volume of over-wintered product is available now and for several weeks. Spring planted should start to become available this week.

JERSEY FRESH FORECAST

Beets – A light volume of good quality product is now available. Volume should continue to pick up over the next several weeks.

Cabbage – Should start harvesting in late May or early June.

Collards – Should begin harvesting around the third week of May.

Dill – A light volume of good quality product is now available. Volume should continue to pick up over the next several weeks.

Escarole & Endive – Should begin harvesting around the end of May.

Lettuce – Starting to harvest fair quantities of good quality Boston. Just beginning to harvest light quantities of Red and Green Leaf. Volumes should continue to pick up over the next several weeks. Look for Romaine around the third week of May and Iceberg the beginning of June.

Parsley – Over-wintered product now becoming available in fair quantities.

Strawberries – Early harvests are expected to begin in several weeks, while the bulk of the crop will be harvested towards the end of the month, with lower volumes to continue through the first week of June.

Turnips – Should begin harvesting around the end of May.