

NEW JERSEY WEEKLY 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

Vineland 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. 6

Date: May 15, 2006

Agricultural Weather Advisory for New Jersey and Southeastern Pennsylvania Issued by Rutgers University New Brunswick NJ 8 am EDT Monday, May 15, 2006

Rainfall amounts quarter to half an inch over the next 48 hours with some locally heavier amounts.

Winds for spraying, southeast 10 to 15 mph today, east 5 to 10 mph tonight, west around 10 mph Tuesday.

Relative humidity in percent 60 to 70 today, near 100 tonight, 55 to 65 Tuesday.

Dew points low to mid 50s through Tuesday.

Drying conditions generally poor today, fair at best Tuesday.

Frost freeze or dew, little dew but wetting possible in showers both nights.

Percent of possible sunshine 10 today, 20 Tuesday.

There is a 50 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.

Plowing and planting will be limited for the next several days with intermittent showers and increasing soil moisture levels.

Hay cutting should not be considered for the next several days with slow drying and periodic precipitation.

Estimated soil moisture in percent of field capacity ranges from the 70s in the extreme south to mostly in the in 90s elsewhere.

Growing degree day totals base 50 since March 1, 2006, continue to average well ahead of the 30 year normal.

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period May 22, 2006 to May 28, 2006, is calling for temperatures to average below normal and precipitation to total below normal.

Climate summary for the week ending 8 am May 15, 2006

Temperatures averaged above normal north and below normal central and south, averaging 59 degrees north, 59 degrees central and 60 degrees south. Extremes were 79 degrees at Glassboro on the May 11, 2006 and 39 degrees at Freehold on the May 9, 2006.

Weekly rainfall averaged 1.69 inches north, 1.32 inches central, and 1.06 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 2.40 inches at Charlotteburg on the May 11, 2006, to May 12, 2006.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 91 percent north, 85 percent central and 76 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 60 degrees north, 59 degrees central and 60 degrees south.

Weather Summary for the Week Ending 8 am Monday. May 15, 2006

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.*	∠ /
- Inches -				- Degrees -			- Base 50°F -			
				Ν	ORTH					
Belvidere Bridge				DATA NOT AVAILABLE						
Canoe Brook	1.45	5.82	-4.69	72	49	60	1	323	198	94
Charlotteburg	2.40	7.14	-3.21	72	47	58	1	229	160	93
Flemington	1.21	7.04	-2.96	77	46	61	2	312	177	96
Newton					DATA NOT	AVAILABLE				
				CE	NTRAL					
Freehold	1.89	6.66	-3.28	74	39	57	-4	311	134	94
Long Branch	1.30	7.13	-3.14	69	50	58	-1	247	100	87
New Brunswick	1.50	5.86	-3.84	75	48	60	-1	352	150	100
Toms River	.99	5.51	-4.47	74	48	58	-3	294	132	92
Trenton	.91	5.93	-3.08	75	49	61	-1	364	135	83
				S	OUTH					
Cape May C.H.	.65	3.73	-5.00	75	46	58	-3	315	114	77
Downstown	.61	4.44	-4.54	78	43	60	-2	353	113	74
Glassboro	1.68	6.23	-3.29	79	50	62	0	427	198	100
Hammonton	.86	4.83	-4.43	76	45	60	-2	369	148	81
Pomona	1.52	5.34	-3.38	74	44	58	-3	318	138	92
Seabrook	1.06	5.59	-2.55	79	50	62	0	472	228	91
South Harrison	.50	4.77	-4.45	78	50	61	NA	435	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.

Vegetable Harvest and Field Crop Planting Continue

Days suitable for field work, the week ending Sunday, May 14, 2006, were 6.0. Topsoil moisture was rated 5% very short, 15% short and 80% adequate. Temperatures averaged above normal north, and below normal central and south for the week. There were measurable amounts of precipitation in most localities for the week, with 2.40 inches of rainfall reported at Charlotteburg on May 11, 2006 to May 12, 2006. Agricultural producers continued planting, greenhouse work, transplanting vegetable crops, topdressing fertilizer, spraying herbicides, and chemical thinning on fruit. Field corn continued to emerge across the state. Harvest of hay began across the state and rated poor to fair in the north, and fair to good in the central and southern districts. Asparagus harvest continued across the state. Harvest of lettuce continued in the north and south. Early peas were past full bloom in some southern localities. Arugula, beets, basil, broccoli rabe, collards, cilantro, dill, green onion, kale, kohlrabi, leeks, mint, parsley, radishes, and Swiss chard were harvested in the south. Condition of grain and soybean crops was rated fair to good in the central and southern districts. In some fields in the central district, alfalfa weevil problems and cereal rust mite in timothy hay were reported. In the north, producers began to thin peaches and apples. Blueberries were in bloom in the central district. Peaches, apples and blueberries continued to size in the south. Strawberry picking began in the north, and was peaking under plastic in the south. Pasture was rated in mostly fair condition.

JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR MAY 15, 2006

Arugula & Kale – Good quality products are being harvested in good volume.

Asparagus – Very good quality product is available in good quantity.

Beets – A good volume of good quality product is available.

Cilantro/Dill/ Parsley – Over-wintered product is still available though a fair to good volume of very good quality Spring planted is now harvesting.

Escarole & Endive – Harvesting a fair quantity of good quality product.

Leeks – A light volume of over-wintered product is available now and for some time. Transplanted product should be available by mid to third week of June. Spring planted due in July.

Lettuce – All very good quality. Harvesting good quantities of Boston, fair to good quantities of Red and Green Leaf and Romaine. Look for Iceberg at the end of the month or beginning of June.

Radishes – Harvesting good quantities of good quality product.

Spinach – Fair to good volume of great quality Spring planted is now being harvested.

Strawberries – Early harvests of great quality berries have begun, though 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. Our Chandler variety berries are picked when ripe and have more red interior color than white. They're grown in raised beds, under black plastic, with a large berry size and excellent taste. **Swiss Chard** – A light volume of great quality overwintered product is still available just as Spring planted product starts to become available in similar quantity.

JERSEY FRESH FORECAST

Basil – Should start harvesting at the end of the month or early June.

Blueberries – Minor quantities of early varieties like Weymouth starting around mid-June. Much more widely planted Duke variety starting 3-4 days later with volume available a week after that.

 $\label{eq:cabbage-should start harvesting near the end of the month.$

Collards – Harvesting fair quantities of very good quality product.

Cabbage – Should start harvesting near the end of the month.

Cucumbers – Harvesting tunnel grown by late May. Field grown will be available two weeks later.

Squash – Should begin harvesting minor quantities of Yellow and Zucchini grown in tunnels by the end of the month. Field grown by the second or third week of June.

Turnips – Should begin harvesting in a week or two.