



Climate summary for the week ending 8am July 24, 2011

Temperatures averaged much, much above normal, averaging 83 degrees north, 85 degrees central, and 86 degrees south. Extremes were 106 degrees at Trenton on July 23, 2011 and 66 degrees at Newton on July 19, 2011.

Weekly rainfall averaged 0.16 inches north, 0.01 inches central, and 0.15 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 0.55 inches at Canoe Brook on July 24, 2011 to July 25, 2011.

Estimated Soil Moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 62 percent north, 45 percent central, and 45 percent south.

Four inch soil moisture temperatures averaged 79 degrees north, 81 degrees central, and 75 degrees south.

Farmers Continue Normal Field Operations

Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday July 24, 2011 were 6.9. Topsoil moisture was rated as 10% very short, 34% short, and 56% adequate. Subsoil moisture was rated as 4% very short, 25% short, and 71% adequate. Pasture and Range condition was rated at 5% very poor, 10% poor, 59% fair, and 26% good. This week was especially dry with minimal precipitation. Temperatures were above normal across the Garden State.

The hot dry weather resulted in a significant decrease to soil moisture supplies. Farmers have noted that crops continue to look good, but require rainfall. In order to combat the dry weather, farmers are irrigating their fields. Farmers continue to maintain normal field operations, despite the excessive heat.

Weather Summary for the Week Ending Monday, July 24, 2011

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			Percent
North										
Belvidere Bridge	0.15	23.27	4.54	102	68	83	9	N/A	N/A	48
Canoe Brook	0.55	21.91	2.09	103	70	85	10	1767	360	65
Charlotteburg	0.03	35.07	15.08	98	65	81	9	1652	500	51
Flemington	0.00	25.15	5.98	103	67	85	11	1901	453	57
Newton	0.08	26.10	7.81	100	66	82	9	1714	454	55
Central										
Freehold	0.00	19.67	1.06	103	68	85	10	1992	435	47
Long Branch	0.00	22.17	3.66	101	70	83	8	1810	330	26
New Brunswick	0.01	20.87	2.36	105	69	85	9	1996	353	56
Toms River	0.01	15.54	-3.46	101	69	84	9	1822	335	22
Trenton	0.04	19.50	1.84	106	72	88	11	2208	500	23
South										
Cape May C.H.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Downstown	0.17	18.01	0.74	101	69	84	7	1994	224	35
Hammonton	0.06	13.52	-4.74	103	70	86	9	2281	587	23
Pomona	0.19	17.01	0.56	105	71	86	10	2214	638	28
Seabrook	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
South Harrison	0.00	11.54	-6.80	101	69	79	N/A	2204	N/A	N/A

* Departure from normal.

¹ Growing degree days since March 1, 2011, 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 and Forecast Report

Today's showers were much needed. Besides providing moisture, this afternoon is much cooler than the weather for the last week. Today's milder temperatures will increase to high 80's tomorrow and remain there for several days before rising to the low 90's on Thursday, and then the high 90's for Friday. Each weekend day will be a few degrees cooler than the previous day. We might see some rain on Friday (30% chance) but it is the only rain in the forecast all week. Our farmers will again spend much of this week dragging irrigation equipment around their farms trying to take the edge of this heat so that produce quality and shelf-life will not suffer due to stress. Fortunately, nobody irrigates better than NJ farmers.

Please let me know how I can make this report of more use to you. Feel free to respond to this William.walker@ag.state.nj.us at any time if you have questions or need more information about Jersey Fresh availability.

Bill Walker-NJ Dept. of Agriculture

Availability for July 24, 2011

ARUGULA	Harvesting a fair quantity of good quality product.
BABY SPINACH & ARUGULA	Harvesting very good quality in good volume.
BASIL	Likes warmer weather. Harvesting a good volume of excellent quality product.
BEETS	Harvesting very good quality product in fair quantity.
BLUEBERRIES	We're harvesting a very light to quickly decreasing volume of very good quality late season Elliott berries. The commercial season is finishing up.
CABBAGE	Harvesting good quality product in fair to good volume.
CANTALOUPE & MELONS	Harvesting good quality in good quantities.
CILANTRO	A light to fair volume of good quality product is harvesting in this heat.
COLLARDS	Harvesting very good quality product in fair to good volume.
CUCUMBERS	Good quality harvesting in light to decreasing volume with this heat.
DANDELIONS	Good quality Italian & San Pasquale varieties harvesting in fair volume.
DILL	Harvesting good quality in light quantity in this heat.
EGGPLANT & PEPPERS	Harvesting very good quality in good supplies with warming temperatures.
ESCAROLE & ENDIVE	Harvesting good quality products in very light volume. Doesn't like the increasing temperatures and volume decreases during the Summer heat. Volume will return w/ the cooler weather in mid-September.
KALE	Good quality product harvesting in fair volume.
LEEEKS	A fair volume of good quality available with Spring planted harvesting.
MINT	Very good quality harvesting in good volume.
NECTARINES	Excellent quality Easternglo, Summer Beaut and Flavortop varieties finishing with the widely planted Sunglo variety starting. Good sizing of 2 1/2" primarily. Expect a good steady supply from early Aug. thru early Sept.
PARSLEY	Harvesting a light volume of good quality product in this heat.
PEACHES	The widely planted John Boy and Redhaven "clingless" varieties now harvesting. Sizing looks excellent. High brix levels assure sweetness. Good volume expected through early Sept. White peaches harvesting w/ the White Lady variety, w/ volume by early August through mid-September.
RADISHES	Doesn't like the hot temperatures and volume fades during the Summer heat. Will return with the cooler weather in mid-September.
SPINACH	A light volume of good quality product. Doesn't like the increasing temperatures and volume decreases during the Summer heat.
SQUASH	Harvesting good quantities of excellent quality Yellow & Zucchini.
SWEET CORN	Harvesting great quality in good supply. Peak of season right now.
SWISS CHARD	Harvesting very good quality product in light to fair volume w/ this heat.
TOMATOES	Harvesting very good quality in good volume.
TURNIPS	Doesn't like the hot temperatures and volume fades during the Summer heat. Will return with the cooler weather in mid-September.
WHITE POTATOES	Growers starting to harvest mainly round white varieties, with some Yukon Gold, Redskin varieties, and a bit of Russets as well. Source your N.J. white potatoes in their distinctive "Jersey Fresh" bags.