



THE NEXT AGRICULTURAL FORECAST WILL BE AUGUST 8TH

Climate summary for the week ending 8am August 1, 2011

Temperatures averaged much above normal, averaging 76 degrees north, 79 degrees central, and 81 degrees south. Extremes were 97 degrees at Hammonton on July 26, 2011 and 60 degrees at Charlotteburg on August 1, 2011.

Weekly rainfall averaged 1.32 inches north, 1.26 inches central, and 0.33 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 1.62 inches at Toms River on July 29, 2011 to July 30, 2011.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 77 percent north, 62 percent central and 45 percent south. Four inch soil temperatures averaged 77 degrees north, 80 degrees central, and 82 degrees south.

Peach Harvest Progresses

Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday, July 31, 2011 were 6.5. Topsoil moisture was rated as 5% very short, 25% short, and 70% adequate. Subsoil moisture was rated as 25% short, and 75% adequate. Pasture and Range condition was rated at 5% poor, 70% fair, and 25% good. There were measurable amounts of rainfall during the week in most localities. Temperatures were above normal across the Garden State.

Crop conditions rated mostly fair for corn and soybeans as signs of heat-stress were apparent. Second and third hay-cuttings progressed, while wheat harvesting nearly finished. Producers continued harvesting summer vegetables and planting fall vegetables. Peaches approached mid-harvest with conditions rated mostly good. Minor quantities of apples were harvested in the southern district. Other activities throughout the week included spraying pesticides, spreading fertilizer, and irrigating.

Weather Summary for the Week Ending Monday, August 1, 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.*	
	Inches	Inches	Inches					Degrees	Degrees	Degrees
North										
Belvidere Bridge ³	1.48	24.75	5.02	89	60	75	1	1,575	-3	72
Canoe Brook ³	1.01	22.92	2.11	92	63	77	3	1,959	388	74
Charlotteburg	1.09	36.16	15.19	88	60	74	2	1,820	608	69
Flemington	1.96	27.11	6.95	91	62	77	3	2,092	475	83
Newton	1.08	27.18	7.94	88	61	75	2	1,890	464	70
Central										
Freehold	1.85	21.52	1.98	92	65	78	3	2,191	457	84
Long Branch	1.00	23.17	3.75	93	67	78	3	2,009	353	61
New Brunswick	0.87	21.74	2.22	93	64	78	3	2,194	372	70
Toms River ³	1.66	17.20	-2.86	94	65	79	4	2,025	363	82
Trenton	0.90	20.40	1.71	95	68	81	4	2,427	530	47
South										
Downstown	0.43	18.44	0.19	94	65	79	2	2,202	293	46
Hammonton	0.02	13.54	-5.76	97	66	81	5	2,499	617	22
Pomona	0.71	17.72	0.33	95	66	81	6	2,434	679	49
Seabrook ³	0.17	18.57	0.91	96	69	82	5	2,489	573	45
South Harrison ³	0.00	11.54	-7.65	96	69	81	NA	2,425	NA	NA

*Departure from normal.

¹Growing degree days since March 1, 2011, total and departure from normal or long term average.

²Estimated soil moisture as % of field capacity based on climate data.

³Data not available for all historic comparisons.

Jersey Fresh Availability & Forecast Report

Even though last summer was the hottest summer on record, July 2011 was the hottest month ever in New Jersey, with two more 90 degree days this month. This month tied the record of 21 days hitting 90 or higher. Tomorrow will be the fifth day in a row for 90 or higher. Weekend showers around much of the state were needed. There's an even chance of thunderstorms this afternoon through Wednesday night. This week's temperatures should be a bit cooler than the last couple of weeks but the high humidity we'll have should make the high 80's we're expecting from tomorrow on seem just as hot. 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 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 AUGUST 1, 2011

ARUGULA	Harvesting a light to 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	Finishing up.
CABBAGE	Harvesting good quality product in fair to good volume.
CANTALOUPE & MELONS	Harvesting good quality in light quantity right now. Expect another bit of volume in 2-3 weeks for the Labor Day marketplace.
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	Harvesting light quantities of very good product as we're between plantings right now. Supply should start to ramp up in a few weeks.
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.
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.
LEEKs	A fair volume of good quality available with Spring planted harvesting.
MINT	Very good quality harvesting in good volume.
NECTARINES	Excellent quality with the widely planted Sunglo variety in good supply, with volume through the early part of September. Good sizing of 2 1/2" primarily.
PARSLEY	Harvesting a light volume of good quality product in this heat.
PEACHES	Harvesting a good supply of excellent quality and widely planted Red Haven, John Boy, Bounty, and Flaming Fury yellow freestone varieties. White Lady variety white peaches in fair to increasing volume, with Klondike variety starting. Brix levels are high due to our early hot and dry weather, so sweetness is ensured. Sizing and quality are excellent.
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. Just past the peak of the season.
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	Now harvesting 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.

USDA, NASS
 New Jersey Field Office
 Rm 205 Health and Ag Bldg
 P.O. Box 330
 Trenton, NJ 08625