



NJ-CW1312

New Jersey Weather and Crop Bulletin

April 2, 2012

Farming Activities Ahead of Regular Schedule

Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday, April 1, 2012 were 6.5. Topsoil moisture was rated as 5% very short, 45% short, and 50% adequate. Subsoil moisture was rated as 5% very short, 30% short, and 65% adequate. Pasture and Range condition was rated at 55% fair, 40% good, and 5% excellent. There were measurable amounts of rainfall during the week in most localities. Temperatures reached highs in the upper 60s to low 70s and lows in the mid 20s to low 30s across the Garden State.

After a very mild winter, crop growth and soil temperatures were 3 to 5 weeks ahead of normal. Winter wheat is 100% emerged and the conditions is 5% fair and 95% good. A recent cool period may have damaged crops like peaches and strawberries. The recent rain helped improve conditions after the somewhat dry period. Producers continued field preparation for spring plantings. Farming activities are about a month ahead of regular schedule. Spring grain crops look good and farmers are cutting asparagus. Other activities included tillage work, spreading lime and fertilizer, vegetable producers laying plastic, and irrigation of sod and spinach. Livestock condition is good with young being born; dairy condition is average with normal milk production.

Climate summary for the week ending 8am April 2, 2012

Temperatures averaged near normal, averaging 44 degrees north, 47 degrees central, and 47 degrees south. Extremes were 71 degrees at Pomona on March 29, 2012 and 25 degrees at Charlotteburg and Flemington on March 28, 2012 and March 30, 2012.

Weekly rainfall averaged 0.87 inches north, 0.79 inches central, and 0.38 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 0.62 inches at Flemington on March 30, 2012 to March 31, 2012.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 91 percent north, 87 percent central, and 78 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 48 degrees north, 50 degrees central, and 50 degrees south.

Agricultural Weather Advisory for New Jersey and Southeastern Pennsylvania Issued By Rutgers University- New Brunswick, NJ 8 am EDT Monday April 2, 2012

Rainfall amounts none through Tuesday. Winds for spraying northwest 15 to 25 mph and gusty today, northwest 10 mph tonight, northwest 10 to 15 mph Tuesday.

Relative humidity in percent 40 to 50 today, 80 to 90 tonight, 30 to 40 Tuesday. Dew points dropping from the mid 30s this morning to the mid 20s by late tonight, upper teens to low 20s Tuesday.

Drying conditions becoming good today, very good Tuesday. No dew tonight but temperatures could drop to near freezing in some inland locations, little expected Tuesday night but wetting in showers is possible. Percent of possible sunshine 80 today, 90 Tuesday.

There is a 10 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 could drop to 28 to 32 tonight if winds subside but should remain above freezing due to clouds and showers Tuesday night.

Early season hay cutting will see fairly good conditions for most of the week with only a slight chance of showers Tuesday night with much above normal temperatures during the past winter the chill requirements for peaches was limited. Pressure from insects should be high this year due to above normal temperatures and little winter kill.

After a very wet 2011, soils have dried out significantly due to limited rain and snow and above normal temperatures so far this year.

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period April 9, 2011 to April 15, 2011 is calling for temperatures to average below normal and precipitation to average below normal.

Weather Summary for the Week Ending Monday, April 2, 2012

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	Base 50°F	Base 50°F	Percent
North										
Belvidere Bridge	0.74	1.53	-2.55	66	27	44	-1	92	92	100
Canoe Brook	0.98	1.96	-2.81	69	29	46	2	126	126	100
Charlotteburg.....	0.83	1.81	-2.58	68	25	44	2	103	103	100
Flemington.....	0.96	2.07	-2.38	68	25	43	-2	105	105	100
Newton.....	0.84	1.58	-2.20	66	27	45	2	107	107	100
Central										
Freehold.....	0.76	1.98	-2.71	69	28	47	1	121	121	100
Long Branch.....	0.86	2.84	-2.04	69	31	47	1	70	70	100
New Brunswick.....	0.98	2.37	-1.92	69	29	46	-1	116	116	100
Toms River.....	0.62	2.19	-2.35	70	29	47	1	107	107	100
Trenton.....	0.71	2.04	-2.21	69	32	48	0	170	170	94
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
Downtown.....	0.21	1.63	-2.60	69	27	46	-2	134	134	76
Glassboro.....	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hammonton.....	0.54	2.45	-1.78	69	31	47	-1	131	131	96
Pomona.....	0.46	2.98	-1.27	71	28	48	1	136	136	89
Seabrook.....	0.31	2.35	-1.33	69	31	48	0	154	154	86
South Harrison.....	0.21	2.59	-1.25	66	31	47	N/A	154	N/A	N/A

* Departure from normal.

¹ Growing degree days since March 1, 2012, 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.