



NJ-CW1512

## New Jersey Weather and Crop Bulletin

April 17, 2012

### Rainfall Amounts Were Below Normal

Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday, April 15, 2012 were 7. Topsoil moisture was rated as 40% very short, 40% short, and 20% adequate. Subsoil moisture was rated as 10% very short, 55% short, and 35% adequate. Pasture and Range condition was rated at 10% poor, 50% fair, and 40% good. Rainfall amounts were below normal for all locations. Temperatures reached highs in the mid 70s to low 80s and lows in the low to upper 30s across the Garden State.

The majority of winter wheat has headed and the condition is 10% fair and 90% good. Windy weather and some hot temperatures have dried soil reserves. This is interfering with planting, germination, and proper growth. More than sporadic rain showers are needed to help an especially early season. Windy and dry conditions have caused tip burn in some greens/lettuces and have caused poor asparagus growth due to curved spears. Strawberries are in full bloom while peaches and blueberries are starting to set fruit. Other farming activities during the week are; irrigation, tillage, planting, discing, and spreading fertilizer. Livestock conditions are average. Milk production is average to slightly below average due to heat stress associated with higher temperatures.

### Climate summary for the week ending 8am April 16, 2012

Temperatures averaged much above normal, averaging 52 degrees north, 54 degrees central, and 55 degrees south. Extremes were 83 degrees at Hammonton and Seabrook on April 16, 2012 and 29 degrees at Belvidere on April 13, 2012.

Weekly rainfall averaged 0.03 inches north, 0.01 inches central, and 0.01 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 0.05 inches at Belvidere on April 14, 2012 to April 15, 2012.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 89 percent north, 79 percent central, and 76 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 49 degrees north, 52 degrees central, and 49 degrees south.

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**Agricultural Weather Advisory for New Jersey and Southeastern Pennsylvania  
Issued By Rutgers University- New Brunswick, NJ  
8 am EDT Tuesday April 17, 2012**

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Rainfall amounts none through Wednesday. Winds for spraying northwest 10 to 15 mph and gusty today, northwest 5 to 10 mph tonight, northeast then southeast 5 to 10 mph Wednesday.

Relative humidity in percent 25 to 35 today, 70 to 80 tonight, 30 to 40 Wednesday. Dew points dropping from the 50s early this morning to the low 30s by late in the day and then remaining near 30 through Wednesday.

Drying conditions very good today and Wednesday. Frost freeze or dew little expected tonight and Wednesday night. Percent of possible sunshine 90 today, 40 Wednesday.

There is less than 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 should remain above freezing tonight due to winds but could drop to 21 to 25 Wednesday night.

Early season hay cutting will continue to see very good conditions for much of the week but with cooler temperatures the second half of the week.

Soil moisture levels continue to drop and are making for good plowing and planting conditions but early planted crops in the south's sandier soil will continue to need irrigation. Four inch soil temperatures are averaging near 60 degrees.

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period April 24, 2012 to April 30, 2012 is calling for temperatures to average near normal and precipitation to average below normal.

### Weather Summary for the Week Ending Monday, April 16, 2012

Weather Stations	Rainfall			Temperatures Last Week				Growing Degree Days <sup>1</sup>		Soil Moisture <sup>2</sup>
	Last Week	Since March 1		Max.	Min.	Avg.	Dept.*	Total	Dept.*	
		Total	Dept.*							Inches
<b>North</b>										
Belvidere Bridge .....	0.09	1.62	-4.32	75	29	50	0	116	116	84
Canoe Brook .....	0.03	2.00	-4.67	77	36	54	5	173	173	84
Charlotteburg.....	0.01	1.84	-4.57	75	32	51	4	125	125	85
Flemington.....	0.01	2.08	-4.25	80	33	52	2	137	137	86
Newton .....	0.00	1.62	-4.03	75	30	50	2	132	132	87
<b>Central</b>										
Freehold .....	0.00	1.98	-4.43	80	35	54	3	171	169	81
Long Branch .....	0.01	2.85	-3.30	77	34	54	4	117	117	67
New Brunswick.....	0.03	2.40	-3.65	81	35	54	2	169	165	85
Toms River .....	0.00	2.20	-4.19	81	35	54	4	151	151	65
Trenton.....	0.00	2.04	-3.77	82	39	56	3	240	228	64
<b>South</b>										
Cape May C.H. ....	0.02	2.45	-3.20	81	38	55	3	124	116	79
Downtown.....	0.01	1.79	-4.02	82	32	54	1	178	165	70
Glassboro.....	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hammonton.....	0.00	2.45	-3.44	83	36	55	2	181	170	64
Pomona.....	0.00	3.06	-2.68	82	36	55	4	201	198	63
Seabrook.....	0.01	2.36	-2.77	83	37	56	3	225	210	65
South Harrison.....	0.01	2.71	-2.90	82	39	55	N/A	219	N/A	N/A

\* Departure from normal.

<sup>1</sup> Growing degree days since March 1, 2012, total and departure from normal or long term average.

<sup>2</sup> Estimated soil moisture as % of field capacity based on climate data.

<sup>3</sup> Data not available.

### Jersey Fresh Availability for April 16, 2012

<b>ARUGULA</b>	Harvest should be starting in very light quantity. Volume should pick up each week.
<b>ASPARAGUS</b>	Earliest harvest in many years started a few weeks ago. Harvesting a light volume of good quality product with slowly increasing quantity. With the continued warm weather that we've been getting, and increasing soil temperatures, harvest volume will increase.
<b>CILANTRO</b>	A very light volume of good quality over-wintered product is finishing up while we wait for Spring planted product to become available.
<b>COLLARDS/KALE</b>	A very light volume of good quality over-wintered product is finishing up while we wait for Spring planted products to become available.
<b>DANDELIONS</b>	Good quality over-wintered bunched Italian product is available now and for some time. Spring planted should be starting sometime this week. San Pasquale variety starting in a week or two.
<b>DILL</b>	Harvest should be starting in very light quantity. Volume should pick up each week.
<b>LEEKS</b>	A light volume of good quality over-wintered product available as it has "greened up" very quickly and will be available until Spring planted product arrives in a few weeks.
<b>MINT</b>	A very light volume of very good quality harvesting. Volume should increase each week.
<b>PARSLEY</b>	Harvesting a light volume of good quality over-wintered curly and plain product while we wait for Spring planted product to become available.
<b>RADISHES</b>	Harvesting good quality product in light quantity. Volume should pick up each week.
<b>SPINACH</b>	A light volume of good quality over-wintered product is finishing up while we wait for Spring planted product to become available.
<b>SWISS CHARD</b>	Harvest of light volume of good quality product starting. Volume will pick up each week.

### Jersey Fresh Forecast

<b>BABY SPINACH &amp; ARUGULA</b>	Harvest should start sometime next week.
<b>BEETS</b>	Transplanted earlier than normal. Harvesting in a week or two.
<b>CABBAGE</b>	Transplanted earlier than normal. May be harvesting late month.
<b>ESCAROLE &amp; ENDIVE</b>	Should begin harvesting in early May.
<b>LETTUCE</b>	Should begin harvesting Boston by the end of the month. Red & Green Leaf follow in early May, followed by Romaine in mid-May.
<b>STRAWBERRIES</b>	Early harvests of Chandler variety berries should begin in early to mid-May. The bulk of the crop will be harvested about the third week, with lower volumes to continue through the end of May.
<b>TURNIPS</b>	Should begin harvesting around mid-May.