



NJ-CW1712

New Jersey Weather and Crop Bulletin

April 30, 2012

Blueberries and Strawberries in Full Bloom

Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday, April 29, 2012 were 5. Topsoil moisture was rated as 5% very short, 30% short, and 65% adequate. Subsoil moisture was rated as 30% short and 70% adequate. Pasture and Range condition was rated at 5% poor, 55% fair, and 40% good.

There were measurable amounts of rainfall for most of the state. Temperatures reached highs in the low 60s to upper 60s and lows in the upper 20s to mid 30s across the Garden State. The majority of winter wheat has headed and the condition was 25% fair and 75% good. Field corn planted was at 25% with 5% emerged. Blueberries and strawberries were in full bloom. Farmers were planting tomatoes, peppers, squash, and cucumbers. Producers continued to work the fields, and projected rain should be beneficial to germination. Asparagus and spinach harvest continued. Livestock condition was good with pastures greening up nicely due to the recent rain. Dairy condition was good with average milk production.

Climate summary for the week ending 8am April 30, 2012

Temperatures averaged much, below normal, averaging 46 degrees north, 49 degrees central, and 49 degrees south. Extremes were 68 degrees at Trenton on April 30, 2012 and 28 degrees at Pomona on April 29, 2012.

Weekly rainfall averaged 0.19 inches north, 0.05 inches central, and 0.23 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 0.36 inches at Newton on April 23, 2012 to April 24, 2012.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 98 percent north, 94 percent central, and 96 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 50 degrees north, 53 degrees central, and 52 degrees south.

Agricultural Weather Advisory for New Jersey and Southeastern Pennsylvania Issued By Rutgers University- New Brunswick, NJ 8 am EDT Monday April 30, 2012

Rainfall amounts none today, one to two tenths of an inch tonight and early Tuesday, none Tuesday afternoon. Winds for spraying south 5 to 10 mph today, southeast 5 to 10 tonight, southeast then northwest 5 to 10 mph Tuesday.

Relative humidity in percent 25 to 35 today, near 100 tonight, 40 to 50 Tuesday afternoon. Dew points mid 20s today then climbing to the mid 50s by Tuesday.

Drying conditions very good today, poor Tuesday morning but becoming fair Tuesday afternoon. Frost freeze or dew none tonight but wetting in showers is likely, little Tuesday night. Percent of possible sunshine 80 today, 20 Tuesday.

There is a near zero 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 and Tuesday night.

Hay cutting will see very good drying today but then the remainder of the week will see slower drying conditions and a chance of scattered showers tonight into Tuesday morning and again Wednesday night into Thursday.

Soil moisture levels have once again dropped significantly since last week. Any precipitation over the next several days is expected to be light. Four inch soil temperatures are in the upper 50s but will likely increase somewhat by the end of the week. Growing degree day totals base 50 are running well ahead of normal.

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period May 7, 2012 to May 11, 2012 is calling for temperatures to average below normal and precipitation to average near normal.

Weather Summary for the Week Ending Monday, April 30, 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.*							Base 50°F
North	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Base 50°F</i>	<i>Base 50°F</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Belvidere Bridge.....	0.05	4.12	-3.68	64	31	45	-10	173	138	94
Canoe Brook.....	0.07	4.50	-4.07	65	35	48	-6	257	231	95
Charlotteburg.....	0.30	4.20	-4.24	61	31	46	-6	198	193	95
Flemington.....	N/ A	N/ A	N/ A	N/ A	N/ A	N/ A	N/ A	N/ A	N/ A	N/ A
Newton.....	0.36	4.13	-3.39	61	32	46	-7	203	191	94
Central										
Freehold.....	0.00	4.52	-3.61	66	31	49	-7	255	204	92
Long Branch.....	0.02	6.33	-2.08	66	35	49	-6	176	137	86
New Brunswick.....	0.01	5.16	-2.65	66	30	48	-8	255	187	94
Toms River.....	0.08	4.92	-3.31	66	30	49	-6	232	188	87
Trenton.....	0.12	4.35	-3.03	68	33	50	-7	349	265	87
South										
Cape May C.H.....	0.33	5.49	-1.67	65	32	48	-8	184	115	100
Downstown.....	0.22	4.03	-3.36	66	29	48	-10	265	176	94
Hammonton.....	0.10	5.04	-2.52	67	31	49	-8	275	196	88
Pomona.....	0.14	5.11	-2.13	66	28	48	-8	278	223	90
Seabrook.....	0.35	5.07	-1.51	67	34	51	-7	329	237	97
South Harrison.....	0.23	4.76	-2.30	66	35	50	N/ A	315	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.

JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR APRIL 30, 2012

ARRUGULA	Harvesting good quality in light to fair quantity w/ volume picking up each week.
ASPARAGUS	Earliest harvest in many years. Harvesting a fair to increasing volume of good quality product. With increasing soil temperatures, harvest volume will increase each week.
BABY SPINACH & ARUGULA	Harvest starting this week.
BEETS	Transplanted earlier than normal. Just starting to harvest good quality product in very light to increasing volume.
CILANTRO	A fair to increasing volume of good quality Spring planted product harvesting.
COLLARDS/KALE	A light to increasing volume of good quality Spring planted products harvesting.
DANDELIONS	Good quality over-wintered bunched Italian product is finishing up as Spring planted should be starting this week. San Pasquale variety starting in next week.
DILL	Harvesting good quality in light to increasing quantity.
ESCAROLE & ENDIVE	Just started harvesting good quality products in very light to increasing volume.
LEEKs	A light volume of good quality Spring planted product harvesting. Leeks have "greened up" very quickly this Spring.
LETTUCES	Harvesting a light to increasing volume of good quality Boston. Starting Red & Green Leaf, with Romaine starting next week.
MINT	A light to fair volume of very good quality harvesting. Volume should increase each week.
PARSLEY	Harvesting a fair volume of good quality Spring planted curly and plain.
RADISHES	Harvesting good quality product in light to fair and increasing quantity.
SPINACH	A fair and increasing volume of good quality Spring planted product harvesting.
SWISS CHARD	Harvest of light to fair and increasing volume of good quality product. Volume will pick up each week.

JERSEY FRESH FORECAST

CABBAGE	Transplanted earlier than normal. Harvesting towards the end of May.
STRAWBERRIES	Early harvests of Chandler variety berries will begin next week but it will be mid-May before any kind of volume is available. The bulk of the crop will be harvested about the third week, with lower volumes to continue through the end of May.
TURNIPS	Should begin harvesting around mid-May.