



NJ-CW2012

## New Jersey Weather and Crop Bulletin

May 21, 2012

### Strawberry Harvest and Field Crop Planting Continue

For the week ending Sunday, May 20, 2012 there were 5.7 days suitable for field work. Topsoil moisture 15% short, 80% adequate, and 5% surplus. Subsoil moisture 10% short, 85% adequate, and 5% surplus. Pasture and Range condition 15% fair, 65% good, and 20% excellent. Temperatures reached highs in the mid 70s to mid 80s and lows in the low 40s to low 50s across the Garden State.

There were measurable amounts of rainfall for most of the state. Winter wheat condition was rated mostly good. Agricultural producers continued planting corn and soybeans, cutting hay, spreading fertilizers, and spraying chemicals. Blueberry damage, as a result of the frost a few weeks ago, were reported. Strawberry harvest is in full swing and asparagus harvest continued. Greenhouse tomatoes were readily available at local markets. Low night temperatures over the last 2-3 weeks have retarded growth in general.

### Climate summary for the week ending 8am May 21, 2012

Temperatures averaged above normal north and near normal central and south, averaging 64 degrees north, 64 degrees central, and 64 degrees south. Extremes were 84 degrees at Charlotteburg on May 20, 2012 and 41 degrees at Charlotteburg on the May 19, 2012.

Weekly rainfall averaged 1.15 inches north, 1.17 inches central, and 0.62 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 1.02 inches at Belvidere on May 15, 2012 to May 16, 2012 and Freehold on May 20, 2012 to May 21, 2012.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 94 percent north, 86 percent central, and 80 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 63 degrees north, 64 degrees central and 64 degrees south.

---

**Agricultural Weather Advisory for New Jersey and Southeastern Pennsylvania  
Issued By Rutgers University- New Brunswick, NJ  
8 am EDT Monday May 21, 2012**

---

Rainfall amounts tenth of an inch with locally higher amounts today, tonight and Tuesday. Winds for spraying east/southeast 5 to 10 mph through Tuesday.

Relative humidity in percent 70 to 80 today, near 100 tonight, 70 to 80 Tuesday. Dew points near 60 through Tuesday.

Drying conditions generally poor through Tuesday. Frost, freeze or dew little dew but wetting in showers is possible tonight and Tuesday night. Percent of possible sunshine less than 10 today and Tuesday.

There is less than a 60 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 will remain above freezing tonight and Tuesday night. Hay cutting is not recommended for the next few days with high humidity levels and scattered showers.

Soil moisture levels have decreased significantly over the past several days. Precipitation totals are not expected to be heavy on a widespread basis, but some locally heavy amounts could occur. Four inch soil temperatures are in the mid 60s and should remain somewhat steady over the next day or two and then increase somewhat. Growing degree day totals base 50 continue to run well ahead of normal.

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period May 28, 2012 to June 3, 2012 is calling for temperatures to average above normal and precipitation to average above normal.

### Weather Summary for the Week Ending Monday, May 21, 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 .....	1.72	7.74	-2.49	83	43	63	2	388	183	87
Canoe Brook .....	N/ A	N/ A	N/ A	N/ A	N/ A	N/ A	N/ A	N/ A	N/ A	N/ A
Charlotteburg.....	0.95	6.72	-4.40	84	41	63	5	400	286	86
Flemington.....	1.38	7.91	-2.80	83	44	64	3	454	257	95
Newton .....	0.56	6.27	-3.62	81	44	64	5	426	282	86
<b>Central</b>										
Freehold .....	1.46	7.99	-2.68	81	44	63	1	493	246	100
Long Branch .....	1.05	10.83	-0.19	74	47	62	1	368	158	93
New Brunswick.....	1.53	8.49	-1.96	82	44	64	1	509	235	99
Toms River.....	0.38	8.37	-2.31	81	44	63	1	456	224	66
Trenton.....	1.42	7.75	-1.91	80	48	66	2	638	331	79
<b>South</b>										
Cape May C.H. ....	0.32	6.42	-2.94	77	44	61	-1	361	90	69
Downstown.....	0.46	6.42	-3.20	82	43	65	1	514	195	71
Hammonton.....	0.44	8.00	-1.94	83	45	65	2	534	237	67
Pomona.....	0.95	7.64	-1.67	82	44	63	1	507	258	89
Seabrook.....	0.93	8.01	-0.76	83	50	68	4	631	307	74
South Harrison.....	0.78	6.84	-2.61	81	49	67	N/ A	595	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 MAY 21, 2012**

<b>ARRUGULA</b>	Harvesting good quality in good quantity.
<b>ASPARAGUS</b>	Harvesting a fair to good volume of good quality product as a cool late April has kept volume very slowly increasing and steady.
<b>BABY SPINACH &amp; ARUGULA</b>	Harvesting good quality in light to fair quantity w/ volume picking up each week.
<b>BEETS</b>	Harvesting good quality product in fair volume.
<b>CABBAGE</b>	Transplanted earlier than normal. Harvesting excellent quality product in light to increasing volume.
<b>CILANTRO</b>	A good volume of good quality Spring planted product harvesting.
<b>COLLARDS/KALE</b>	A fair and increasing volume of good quality Spring planted products harvesting.
<b>DANDELIONS</b>	Good quality Spring planted bunched Italian product is harvesting in good quantity. San Pasquale variety also harvesting in fair volume.
<b>DILL</b>	Harvesting good quality in fair quantity.
<b>ESCAROLE &amp; ENDIVE</b>	Harvesting very good quality products in light to fair and increasing volume.
<b>LEEKS</b>	A fair to good volume of good quality Spring planted harvesting.
<b>LETTUCES</b>	Harvesting all very good quality products in increasing quantities. Fair to good volume of good quality Boston. Fair volume of Red & Green Leaf. Romaine harvesting in light to fair volume.
<b>MINT</b>	Harvesting a fair to good volume of very good quality product.
<b>PARSLEY</b>	Harvesting a good volume of very good quality Spring planted curly and plain.
<b>RADISHES</b>	Harvesting good quality product in fair to good quantity.
<b>SPINACH</b>	A good volume of good quality Spring planted product harvesting.
<b>SQUASH</b>	Tunnel started Zucchini starting in very light quantity, followed by field grown and yellow squash next week.
<b>STRAWBERRIES</b>	Harvesting excellent quality Chandler variety berries in fair to good volume. The bulk of the crop will be harvested this week, with decreasing volumes the next two weeks.
<b>SWISS CHARD</b>	Harvest of good volume of very good quality product.
<b>TURNIPS</b>	Harvest very good quality in light to fair and increasing quantity.

**JERSEY FRESH FORECAST**

<b>BLUEBERRIES</b>	Minor quantities of early varieties like Weymouth starting in two weeks. The much more widely planted Duke variety will start 3-4 days later, with volume available a week after that.
<b>CUCUMBERS</b>	Pickles should begin next week, followed by cukes in two weeks.