



NJ-CW2912

New Jersey Weather and Crop Bulletin

July 23, 2012

Drought-like Conditions Continue for New Jersey Farmers

For the week ending Sunday, July 22, 2012, there were 6 days suitable for field work. Topsoil moisture was rated at 20% very short, 40% short, and 40% adequate. Subsoil moisture was rated at 10% very short, 50% short, and 40% adequate. Pasture and range condition was rated at 5% very poor, 15% poor, 55% fair, and 25% good. Temperatures reached highs in the low 100s and lows in the upper 50s across the Garden State.

Excessive heat continued throughout the week with temperatures in some areas reaching as high as 102 degrees. Last week's rain fall was welcomed by producers, but grain growers were still concerned about field corn condition. Irrigation was necessary for field crops. Vegetable growers have begun fall-plantings. Livestock condition was fair. Milk production was below average due to the heat and humidity. Other farming activities included harvesting vegetables, cutting and baling hay, spraying pesticides, and picking fruit.

Climate summary for the week ending 8am 7/23/12

Temperatures averaged slightly above normal, averaging 74 degrees north, 76 degrees central, and 78 degrees south. Extremes were 102 degrees at Downtown and Hammonton on July 19, 2012 and 58 degrees at Charlotteburg and Freehold on July 22, 2012.

Weekly rainfall averaged 2.51 inches north, 0.90 inches central, and 1.17 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 2.20 inches at Newton on July 18, 2012 to July 19, 2012.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 87 percent north, 70 percent central, and 60 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 76 degrees north, 77 degrees central, and 78 degrees south.

**Agricultural Weather Advisory for New Jersey and Southeastern Pennsylvania
Issued By Rutgers University- New Brunswick, NJ
8 am EDT Monday July 23, 2012**

Rainfall amounts one to two tenths of an inch with locally higher amounts possible this afternoon and tonight, none Tuesday. Winds for spraying southwest 5 to 10 mph through tonight, west 10 to 15 mph Tuesday.

Relative humidity in percent 50 to 60 today, 90 to 100 tonight, 40 to 50 Tuesday. Dew points 65 to 70 through Tuesday but dropping late in the day on Tuesday. Drying conditions fair at best today, good Tuesday. Little dew but wetting in showers is possible tonight, moderate dew Tuesday night. Percent of possible sunshine 30 today, 50 Tuesday.

There is a 50 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. Hay cutting runs a moderate risk of wetting in showers and thundershowers this afternoon and tonight, somewhat drier air will move in for Tuesday and Wednesday with a slight chance of showers again on Thursday.

Soil moisture conditions were improved with Friday's rainfall and may get a little additional input later today. Conditions do not appear favorable for the occurrence of cranberry scald today and Tuesday. Growing degree day totals base 50 continue to run well ahead of normal.

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period July 30, 2012 to August 5, 2012 is calling for temperatures to average above normal and precipitation to average near normal.

Weather Summary for the Week Ending Monday, July 23, 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.....	1.92	19.01	0.55	96	59	73	0	1,712	350	92
Canoe Brook.....	1.24	12.68	-6.87	101	61	76	2	1,915	557	81
Charlotteburg.....	1.05	13.98	-5.74	96	58	73	1	1,693	585	76
Flemington.....	1.74	15.78	-3.10	100	59	75	1	1,885	485	94
Newton.....	6.59	21.11	3.09	97	60	74	1	1,754	540	100
Central										
Freehold.....	0.62	15.24	-3.11	100	58	76	1	1,956	449	72
Long Branch.....	0.94	20.28	2.02	99	59	76	1	1,804	374	65
New Brunswick.....	1.15	16.52	-1.71	101	59	77	1	2,010	419	79
Toms River.....	0.79	15.60	-3.10	101	59	76	1	1,751	314	64
Trenton.....	0.99	13.89	-3.48	100	63	77	0	2,159	505	74
South										
Cape May C.H.....	1.75	13.17	-3.04	99	62	77	1	1,668	135	87
Downtown.....	0.61	12.11	-4.89	102	62	78	2	2,035	369	57
Hammonton.....	1.74	14.48	-3.49	102	63	78	2	2,049	409	80
Pomona.....	0.58	15.55	-0.64	101	62	78	3	1,939	414	50
Seabrook.....	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
South Harrison.....	0.18	10.75	-7.45	100	64	79	N/A	2,135	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 JULY 23, 2012

ARRUGULA	Harvesting good quality in light to fair quantity in this heat.
BABY SPINACH & ARUGULA	Harvesting very good quality in fair quantity.
BASIL	Likes the heat. Harvesting good quality in good volume.
BEETS	Harvesting good quality product in good volume.
BLUEBERRIES	Commercial harvest done due to the record early harvest date. A finishing volume of late season varieties like Elliot are in excellent quality.
CABBAGE	Harvesting excellent quality product in fair to good volume.
CILANTRO	A fair volume of good quality product harvesting.
COLLARDS/KALE	A light volume of good quality products harvesting due to the prolonged heat.
CUCUMBERS	Good quality Pickles & Cukes harvesting in light to fair volume in this heat.
DANDELIONS	Good quality bunched Spring planted Italian and San Pasquale varieties both harvesting in good quantity.
DILL	Harvesting very good quality in light volume as prolonged warmth has curtailed availability.
EGGPLANT	Harvesting very good quality product in good supply.
LEEKS	A good volume of good quality harvesting.
MINT	Likes the heat. Harvesting a good volume of excellent quality product.
NECTARINES	Still harvesting a fair to decreasing supply of excellent quality Eastern glo, the first high quality early yellow. Starting to harvest the more widely planted Sunglo variety which, by the end of the week, will provide a good steady volume through early September.
PARSLEY	Harvesting a light volume of good quality curly and plain due to heat.
PEACHES	Harvesting a good supply of excellent quality and widely planted Red Haven & John Boy freestone varieties, through early September. White Lady white peaches harvesting in fair to increasing volume. Source doughnut/flat peaches now as there is a strong demand for a limited supply of these short season peaches. Brix levels are high due to our early hot and dry weather, so sweetness is ensured. Sizing and color are good.
PEPPERS	Harvesting a good supply of good quality product.
RADISHES	Harvesting good quality product in very light volume as prolonged warmth has curtailed availability.
SPINACH	A very light volume of good quality product harvesting in this heat.
SQUASH	Very good quality green and yellow squash harvesting in light to fair volume.
SWEET CORN	Good volume of very good quality corn. Just past the peak of the season.
SWISS CHARD	Harvesting a fair volume of very good quality product.
TOMATOES	Harvesting excellent quality in good volume.
TURNIPS	Harvesting very good quality in very light volume due to the prolonged heat.