



Vegetable Crops are Doing Well

For the week ending Sunday, August 5, 2012, there were 5.5 days suitable for field work. Topsoil moisture was rated at 5% very short, 25% short, and 70% adequate. Subsoil moisture was rated at 5% very short, 30% short, and 65% adequate. Pasture and range condition was rated at 15% poor, 60% fair, and 25% good. Temperatures reached highs in the mid 90s and lows in the upper 50s across the Garden State.

New Jersey received some much needed rain this past week. Unfortunately, the supercell thunderstorms caused severe tree damage from hail and high winds. Hail damage was reported for peaches, apples, and tomatoes in some areas. Vegetable crops are doing well. Other farming activities included harvesting fruits, planting fall vegetables, irrigation, harvesting oats, cutting and baling hay, weed control, and starting 3rd cuttings of alfalfa hay. Milk production was slightly lower than average due to the heat and humidity.

Climate summary for the week ending 8am 08/06/12

Temperatures averaged much above normal, averaging 77 degrees north, 78 degrees central, and 77 degrees south. Extremes were 94 degrees at South Harrison, Downstown, and Hammonton on August 6, 2012 and 59 degrees at Belvidere on July 31, 2012.

Weekly rainfall averaged 1.55 inches north, 1.11 inches central, and 0.93 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 2.60 inches at Hammonton on August 5, 2012 to August 6, 2012.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 88 percent north, 79 percent central, and 74 percent south.

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

**Agricultural Weather Advisory for New Jersey and Southeastern Pennsylvania
Issued By Rutgers University- New Brunswick, NJ
8 am EDT Monday August 6, 2012**

Rainfall amounts none through Tuesday after a slight risk of a shower this morning. Winds for spraying north 5 to 10 mph today, northeast 5 mph tonight, variable 5 to 10 mph Tuesday.

Relative humidity in percent 40 to 50 today, 90 to 100 tonight, 40 to 50 Tuesday. Dew points dropping from near 70 early this morning to the upper 50s by late in the day and remaining in the upper 50s through Tuesday. Drying conditions good today and Tuesday. Light dew tonight and Tuesday night. Percent of possible sunshine 80 today, 90 Tuesday.

There is a 30 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 will see good drying conditions through Wednesday after a slight chance of wetting in a shower early this morning, and then another risk of showers on Thursday.

Conditions might be 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 August 13, 2012 to August 19, 2012 is calling for temperatures to average above normal and precipitation to average above normal.

Weather Summary for the Week Ending Monday, August 6, 2012

Weather Stations	Rainfall			Temperatures Last Week				Growing Degree Days ¹		Soil Moisture ² Percent
	Last Week	Since March 1		Max.	Min.	Avg.	Dept.*	Total	Dept.*	
	Inches	Total Inches	Dept.* Inches							
North										
Belvidere Bridge	0.59	21.07	0.57	90	59	75	2	2,070	377	77
Canoe Brook.....	2.74	17.04	-4.56	93	67	79	6	2,306	616	97
Charlotteburg.....	0.55	15.54	-6.24	91	63	75	4	2,043	723	79
Flemington.....	2.75	19.82	-1.08	93	65	78	5	2,271	535	92
Newton	1.12	25.55	5.53	89	64	76	4	2,113	575	92
Central										
Freehold	2.38	19.30	-0.99	93	65	78	4	2,354	496	100
Long Branch	N/ A	N/ A	N/ A	N/ A	N/ A	N/ A	N/ A	N/ A	N/ A	N/ A
New Brunswick	0.81	18.34	-1.97	94	65	79	5	2,413	470	83
Toms River	0.59	17.41	-3.45	92	64	77	4	2,144	364	64
Trenton	0.65	17.15	-2.26	92	67	78	2	2,556	529	71
South										
Cape May C.H.	0.47	15.68	-2.30	87	56	73	-3	2,018	118	71
Downstown	0.44	13.95	-5.05	94	64	79	3	2,443	404	64
Hammonton	2.71	18.31	-1.72	94	66	79	3	2,465	453	100
Pomona	0.10	18.40	0.25	91	64	78	4	2,345	467	54
Seabrook	N/ A	N/ A	N/ A	N/ A	N/ A	N/ A	N/ A	N/ A	N/ A	N/ A
South Harrison.....	0.74	12.74	-7.36	94	67	79	N/ A	2,561	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.

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 fair to good volume.
CABBAGE	Harvesting excellent quality product in fair volume.
CILANTRO	A light 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 volume in this heat.
DANDELIONS	Good quality bunched Spring planted Italian and San Pasquale varieties both harvesting in fair quantity.
DILL	Harvesting very good quality in very light volume as prolonged warmth has curtailed availability.
EGGPLANT	Harvesting very good quality product in good supply.
LEEKS	A fair volume of good quality harvesting.
MINT	Likes the heat. Harvesting a good volume of excellent quality product.
NECTARINES	Harvesting a fair to decreasing volume of the excellent quality Sunglo variety as the Fantasia variety comes on in fair to good supply for the next couple of weeks with decreasing 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 Bounty & Flaming Fury freestone varieties, through early September. White Lady & Klondike white peaches harvesting in good volume. 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.
SWISS CHARD	Harvesting a light to 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.