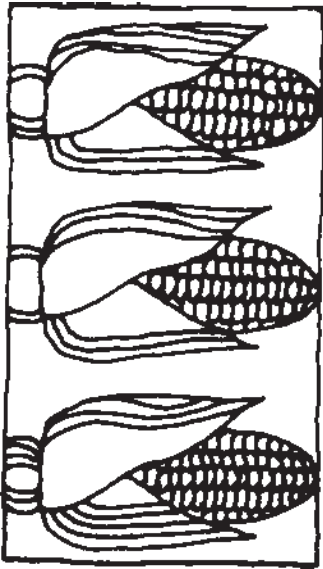


PLANT & PEST ADVISORY

VEGETABLE CROPS EDITION \$1.50

AUGUST 6, 2003



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Sweet Corn Crop Nitrogen Status Evaluation by Stalk Testing

Joseph R. Heckman, Ph.D., Specialist in Soil Fertility

With sweet corn harvest under way, now is a good time for evaluating your crop's nitrogen status. Although it is too late to take corrective action for the current crop, every growing season is an opportunity to learn and to improve production practices in the future. The 2003 growing season has been particularly challenging because of the excessive amount of spring rainfall that caused loss of soil nitrogen. If the lower leaves of your sweet corn crop are exhibiting yellowing or firing, it may be an indication of nitrogen deficiency. Further evidence includes an ear size that is smaller than normal and has poor husk color.

While nitrogen deficiency is relatively easy to detect by visual observation, an excessive nitrogen application rate is more difficult to identify. A stalk test called the "At-Harvest Stalk N Test for Sweet Corn" can be used to evaluate the nitrogen status of the crop. The test is especially useful for detecting excessive applications of nitrogen. The results of the test provide a report card of the nitrogen fertility program. This information can be used to learn from experience and to direct improvements or adjustments in the nitrogen fertility program in future growing seasons.

While the interpretation of the stalk nitrogen test is generally straightforward (Table 1), the results should be interpreted with consideration of any unusual weather conditions occurring within the growing season.

The test is performed when the corn ears are ripe for eating, on the day that the ears are harvested, for maximum accuracy. Sample randomly from healthy plants, avoiding plants at the edges of the field. Use clippers to cut the stalk at 14 inches from the ground, and dispose of the top part of the plant. Then, make a second cut at 6 inches above the ground, creating an 8 inch stalk sample. Remove all leaf tissue and check that the sample is not contaminated with corn borer damage. Sample about fifteen plants. If the sample cannot be sent immediately to the laboratory for analysis, it may be held for a few days in a refrigerator, or if it can be dried (48 hours at 70°C), the sample can be held indefinitely. Send the stalk sample to an agricultural testing laboratory that can perform the test. Request that the sample be analyzed for Total Nitrogen by Combustion, or, alternatively, for nitrate (NO₃-N). For more information, consult Fact Sheet 1020, "Sweet Corn Crop Nitrogen Status

SEE SWEET CORN N ON PAGE 2

Evaluation by Stalk Testing”, which can be found at <http://www.rce.rutgers.edu/pubs/pdfs/fs1020.pdf>.

Table 1. Interpretations of the at-harvest stalk nitrogen test of sweet corn. Laboratory testing of stalk tissue for either total nitrogen by combustion or nitrate-N (NO₃-N) can be used as the basis for the interpretation.

Nitrogen ¹	NO ₃ -N	Interpretation
%		
< 1.1	< 0.6	N-deficient, under fertilized.
1.1 to 1.6	0.6 to 1.1	Marginal, may be under fertilized.
1.6 to 2.2	1.1 to 1.5	Optimal range, N sufficient.
> 2.2	> 1.5	Excessive, over fertilized.

¹ Total Nitrogen by Combustion

Stinger Labeled for Strawberries

Bradley A. Majek, Ph.D., Specialist in Weed Science

Stinger has received a 24C Special Local Need label in New Jersey for weed control in strawberries. The weeds controlled by Stinger fall into two botanical plant families, composites and legumes. Common composite weeds found in strawberries include **Canada thistle** and other thistles, **goldenrod** species, **aster** species, common **dandelion**, **mugwort** (wild chrysanthemum), **horseweed** (marestail or stickweed), **galinsoga**, and **ragweed** species. Legume weeds include **vetch** species and **clover** species.

The labeled rate of Stinger for use on strawberries is one-third of a pint (0.125 lb ai/A) in the spring, and two-thirds of a pint per acre (0.25 lb ai/A) after harvest, but the rate needed also varies on the target weed species. Two fluid ounces per acre (0.047 lb ai/A) will control seedling annual weeds such as common ragweed, annual vetch, and galinsoga. Three to four fluid ounces per acre (0.070 to 0.094 lb ai/A) are needed to control perennial clover species. Most other susceptible perennial weeds require the full rate of one to two thirds of a pint per acre (0.125 to 0.25 lb ai/A).

Optimum results controlling deep rooted and hard to control perennial weeds, including Canada thistle, perennial asters, goldenrod species, and mugwort (wild chrysanthemum) will be obtained if the Stinger application is split. Apply one-third of a pint per acre Stinger before or as the weed emerges in the spring. Maintain a 30-day PHI (PreHarvest Interval). Some weeds can “survive” for months on established existing foliage even though Stinger suppresses all new growth. Apply Stinger before weeds establish a foliage canopy in the spring.

The spring application of Stinger timed to match the emergence of the perennial weed in the spring coincides with the time of year when the carbohydrate food reserves in the plant are at the lowest point. Treatment at this time reduces the weed’s chance of recovery and survival.

Apply another one-third pint of Stinger in early summer after harvest. No growth of the target weed may be observed at the time of the second application. Spray the second application even though no growth of the target weed is evident. The second application is essential to the elimination of the hard to kill established perennial weeds. If the second application is skipped, expect to see the weed re-emerge in late August or September. Do *not* exceed two-thirds of a pint of Stinger per acre in one year.

Stinger is both a postemergence foliar absorbed herbicide and a residual herbicide. The initial twisting and curling observed after application to susceptible species is due to the foliar absorption. Control of established perennials is due to residual Stinger in the soil which prevents regrowth from the roots. In certain species such as mugwort, Stinger prevents regrowth but does not kill the mature leaves. Apply Stinger in the spring before mugwort establishes a foliage canopy, or control existing foliage with another weed control technique.

- Do *not* apply Stinger in a hand held sprayer used to “spray until wet”. Stinger is a residual herbicide that must be applied on a rate per acre basis. When treating “patches” of perennial weeds, apply the recommended rate per acre with a calibrated sprayer. Treat ten to fifteen feet beyond the weed “patch” on all sides. Spray the sod adjacent to the weed “patch” in the tree row.
- Do *not* use a surfactant or any other type of additive with Stinger when treating strawberries.
- Do *not* tank-mix Stinger with any other herbicide labeled for use on strawberries.
- Maintain a 30-day PHI (PreHarvest Interval).

For a copy of the label, visit the Rutgers Cooperative Extension label page at: <http://www.rce.rutgers.edu/labels>. □

Vegetable Disease Update

Edited by Joe Ingerson-Mahar, Vegetable IPM Coordinator

Report from Wes Kline, Cumberland County Agricultural Agent

Late Blight of Tomatoes – Late blight has been found in processing tomatoes in Lancaster County Pennsylvania! Make sure all tomatoes are protected for the remainder of the production season with chlorothalonil or mancozeb. If late blight is found in the area, switch to Acrobat or Gavel. See Vegetable Recommendation Manual and pesticide labels for rates.

Phytophthora of pumpkins and squash – Stay on a good spray program for the remainder of the year. Phytophthora will spread quickly with the high temperatures and moisture. Check areas that are protected from wind since these are the areas which dry out last. The disease will start with a few plants then spread both up and down the field. If Phytophthora is just starting, remove the diseased plants and at least two or three good plants on each side. This will help reduce the spread. When removing the plants do not place them on the edge of the field or near an irrigation source.

Bacterial Leaf Spot on peppers – We have found bacterial spot on varieties that have resistance to race 1, 2, and 3 (X3R). We are not sure if this is a new race in our area. There are many others races, but the most common are 1, 2 and 3. Scout fields planted to resistant varieties and be ready to apply Oxidate or copper plus maneb to reduce bacterial spread. For better control when using copper plus maneb, agitate the materials in the spray tank and let stand for half hour before applying.

Report from Michelle Infante-Casella, Gloucester County Agricultural Agent

We continue to see **Verticillium wilt** in eggplants and with the rain this week **Phytophthora fruit rot** has been found on fruit touching the soil surface. For prevention of the stem and fruit rot stage of Phytophthora in eggplant apply a fixed copper at 2 lb 77WP/acre with a spreader sticker. See the accompanying eggplant article on page 7 in this newsletter for other injuries recently found on eggplant.

Blossom end rot continues to be a problem in tomatoes that are under moisture stress and on plants with heavy crop loads. High heat and windy conditions will also increase blossom end rot since water loss from the plant increases under these conditions. Be sure to wet the entire root zone and make water available deep in the root system to discourage this disorder. With heavy rains this week in some areas, also expect rain checking and cracking on ripening fruit. Some areas hit with heavy downpours have received 4+ inches in a single day.

With high temperatures and high humidity, **corn smut** has been found in local sweet corn fields. Also, check for **corn rust** under these weather conditions, especially on whorl stage plantings where control is most effective. Additionally, some sweet corn varieties are more susceptible than others when it comes to rust. If rust is found in whorl stage corn, apply one of the following fungicides: chlorothalonil (Bravo, Echo, Equus) at a rate of 0.75-2 pt 6F/acre on a 7-day schedule (not to be used on processing sweet corn), or mancozeb (Dithane, Manex II, Manzate, Penncozeb) at a rate of 1.5 lb 80WP/acre on a 7-day schedule, or maneb at a rate of 1.5 lb 80WP/acre on a 7-day schedule, or Quadris at a rate of 6.2-9.2 fl oz 2.1F/acre on a 7-14 day schedule and do not make more than 2 consecutive applications without alternating with another fungicide, or use Tilt at a rate of 4 fl oz 3.6EC/acre on a 7-14 day schedule. In the future choose varieties that have tolerance to rust for later plantings.

In past years, Dr. Steve Johnston would tell us to start scouting for **asparagus rust** and **purple spot** this time of year. Therefore, scout your asparagus fields for signs of rust or purple spot, especially in 1-2 year old beds. If purple spot is found when ferns are full size apply chlorothalonil (Bravo, Echo, Equus) at a rate of 2-4 pt 6F/acre every 2-4 weeks until frost. Burn down brush in winter to destroy overwintering sources of purple spot fungus. Rust can do significant damage to young beds, even with resistant varieties are planted. Rust normally begins in mid-August, but begin checking fields now. If found, treat fields at a 7-10 day interval with chlorothalonil (Bravo, Echo, Equus) at a rate of 2-4 pt 6F/acre, or mancozeb (Dithane, Manex II, Manzate, Penncozeb) at a rate of 2 lb 75DF/acre, or Nova at a rate of 5 oz 40WP/acre.

Report from Kris Holmstrom, Vegetable IPM Program Associate (Northern New Jersey)

Ozone injury on pumpkins (older leaves with small lesions that turn dry and fall through) has been observed probably owing to high humidity and temps with high soil moisture.

Phytophthora crown rot in pumpkins has begun to appear as of late last week. This is probably the result of the week long rains we had 3 weeks ago now, followed by high daytime temperatures. Growers should use Acrobat if they are concerned about the disease getting into the foliage and on top of the fruit, but there really isn't a good recommendation for areas where there is soil-to-fruit contact. □

IPM Update

Kristian Holmstrom, Program Associate in Vegetable IPM

Sweet Corn

European corn borer (ECB) adults have increased state-wide over the past week. Trap catches in parts of Cumberland and Salem Counties are quite high (see ECB map). These adults will lay eggs on whorl through silking stage corn. Feeding signs will increase in sweet corn plantings through much of August. Check fields weekly, and consider treating if greater than 12% of plants are infested with ECB alone or in combination with **fall armyworm (FAW)**. After the full tassel treatment, follow up with weekly insecticide applications unless local **corn earworm (CEW)** catches require a tighter schedule. The highest average nightly ECB blacklight trap catches are:

Cohansey	26	Seeley Lake	6	Crosswicks	4
Shirley	17	Bayside	5	Hammonton	4
Elmer	12	Mannington	5	Woodstown	4
Indian Mills	9	Cranbury	4	East Vineland	3

Corn earworm adult activity continues to increase steadily throughout New Jersey. At this time, the highest CEW catches are in Atlantic and lower Burlington Counties (see CEW map). This pattern of gradual increase will continue unless a cold front decreases activity, or moth emergence to our south coincides with southerly breezes. The latter situation is a distinct possibility, as we are currently experiencing a strong southerly flow in the Mid-Atlantic States, and CEW adult activity is on the rise now in Virginia and North Carolina. This situation could cause dramatic CEW increases in our area within the next 1-2 weeks. We will continue to monitor populations and weather conditions throughout the region to try to provide advance warning of CEW populations. In areas where CEW are being caught, spray schedules are necessary to protect developing ears. The cross-hatched area on the map represents a population requiring a 3-4 day silk spray schedule. Lightly shaded areas represent populations requiring a 5-6 day silk spray schedule. The highest average nightly CEW blacklight trap catches are:

Hammonton	13	Folsom	4	Hopewell	3
Indian Mills	9	Bayside	3	New Egypt	3
Fishing Creek	5	Egg Harbor	3	Sewell	3
Denville	4	Elm	3	Wall	3

General Sweet Corn Spray Schedule

Silking Corn:	North	4-5 days
	Central	3-4 days
	South	3-4 days

Fall armyworm (FAW) infestations are present in whorl and seedling stage sweet corn plantings throughout New Jersey, and infestations as high as 40% have been

reported in parts of Burlington County. FAW will often feed on seedling and short whorl stage sweet corn. For this reason, it is critical to scout even the youngest plantings for the rest of the season. Look for feeding that initially looks like ECB damage, but rapidly progresses to ragged holes in the leaves with large amounts of droppings in the whorl. FAW can be tough to control because penetration by the insecticide through the layer of droppings is sometimes difficult. Scout fields weekly and consider treating when 12% or more plants are infested with FAW alone or in combination with ECB. Increased spray volume and pressure often assist in control of FAW.

Corn leaf aphids may be found in some plantings.

These blue-gray aphids are often present in the tassels beginning in mid-Summer, and can become a nuisance to consumers as they move down the plant and get between husk layers on the ears. Their populations may be enhanced by repeated use of pyrethroid insecticides in the silk spray program. It is wise to make at least one application of methomyl or other non-pyrethroid insecticide in the silk spray program to minimize ear infestations of corn leaf aphid.

Corn leaf rust has been observed in at low levels in northern counties recently. This disease is probably present in other areas as well. While scouting, look for pustules on the oldest leaves of plants. Pustules rupture, emitting reddish, powdery spores. There is a wide range of host resistance to this disease, but some varieties can be adversely affected. Check the seed source for resistance in your varieties. If the variety is susceptible to leaf rust, pustules will increase on the plant until moisture stress causes a reduction in ear size. The potential for loss is greatest if the infection begins when susceptible plants are in the whorl or seedling stages. Later infections may not reduce yield, but can cause pustules on the husks, which may make ears less marketable. Consider using chlorothalonil or mancozeb (7 day schedule), or Tilt (7-14 day schedule) if rust is found in the seedling or whorl stages.

Pumpkins

As vines run, check plantings for the presence of **powdery mildew (PM)**. Look for powdery lesions on either surface of older leaves. A fungicide schedule may be initiated after 1 or more lesion is found per 50 older leaves. The recommended fungicide program is for chlorothalonil +Nova to be alternated with a strobilurin type fungicide at 7-10 day intervals. It is important to remember that Quadris (a strobilurin type) is effective on PM, but is highly phytotoxic to some apple types. For this reason, Flint is a good substitute if apples are to be sprayed with the same apparatus used for spraying pumpkins and winter squash.

As yet, **cucurbit downy mildew (DM)** has not been reported in New Jersey. The most recent report (Aug. 1) from NC State University's Cucurbit Downy Mildew

SEE IPM ON PAGE 5

Forecast System <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/pp/cucurbit/> does not place New Jersey at risk for infection, but notes that weather conditions in the mid-Atlantic region are conducive for development of DM if it appears. It is a good idea to check fields weekly for the presence of diffuse yellow blotches on the upper surface of leaves with dark, felt-like sporulation on the lower surface. The sporulation frequently occurs along the leaf veins. If this disease is found in any field, immediately treat all cucurbit crops with fungicides on a 7-day protectant schedule, and report the occurrence to your county agricultural agent. Consult the *2003 Commercial Vegetable Production Recommendations* for spray materials.

Ozone injury has recently been found in some plantings. Ozone causes small dry lesions on older foliage. As lesions dry, the centers fall out. No sporulation will be associated with this damage because it is an abiotic form of injury. Ozone injury is more common under conditions of high humidity and temperature, with high soil moisture.

Tomatoes

Maintain regular fungicide applications for **foliar diseases** on tomatoes, and monitor fields for **aphid** buildup. Often, the first sign of significant aphid populations is cast skins on leaves below the colonies. If this condition exists in the field, and fruit are sizing up, consider treating. Aphid populations that are present prior to fruit enlargement are often controlled adequately by natural predators and parasites.

Be sure to check field edges for the presence of **two-spotted spider mites (TSSM)**. TSSM will enter tomato plantings from field edges as surrounding vegetation dries up or is disrupted. Look for the whitish pin-spots (stipple) on the upper surface of leaves. Mites are often found on the lower surface. Spot treat for TSSM if possible, to prevent a greater infestation in the field.

Tomato hornworm (THW) feeding is increasing in some tomato plantings throughout the state. This pest will often strip all the leaflets from a stem prior to feeding on green fruit. Hornworms can become an economic problem, particularly on smaller plantings. Consider treating if recent fruit feeding is found at more than one site in the field. Extensive defoliation in the field may warrant a treatment as well. Another foliar pest of tomatoes that is now active is the **cabbage looper (CL)**. CL feeding looks like that caused by smaller THW, but is confined to the foliage. CL is rarely an economic problem in New Jersey. Consult the *2003 Commercial Vegetable Production Recommendations* for spray materials.

This is the time of the season when **stinkbug** injury generally begins to increase significantly in tomato plantings. Stinkbug pressure in tomatoes tends to be heavier during dry seasons, and thus far, our season has not been too droughty. Still, some adults in the *Euschistus* genus (larger, brown stinkbugs) have been

captured recently in light and pheromone traps throughout the state. The adults will move into tomato plantings when surrounding host vegetation is too dry or is mowed. Adults and emerging nymphs will feed on green and ripening fruit, causing the large, yellow "cloudy-spot" injury. If this feeding is found to be increasing in samples, consider protectant sprays for stinkbug. Consult the *2003 Commercial Vegetable Production Recommendations* for spray materials

Bacterial canker has appeared in several northern New Jersey tomato plantings. This disease is characterized by marginal necrosis on infected leaves, followed by stem lesions and the "birds-eye spot" or white rimmed blister on the surface of affected fruit. Recent hail events over the past few days will dramatically increase the incidence of bacterial infections in affected fields. As with all bacterial infections, avoid working in fields when the plants are wet. Surface sterilize pruning and tying tools between rows, and always work in infected plantings last. Copper with mancozeb may help minimize impact, although copper sprays can cause spotting on fruit. Actigard at the lowest recommended rate may also help. Actigard should be used weekly for a total of 6 applications.

Snap beans

ECB is again a significant threat to snap beans in parts of New Jersey. Areas shaded in black on the ECB map represent adult populations capable of considerable damage to developing pods. In those areas, beans should be treated in the bloom and pin stages. Weekly protectant sprays should continue on developing pods as long as local ECB adult catches remain above 5 per night. Continue to monitor for **potato leaf hopper (PLH)** in beans. This pest is capable of severely stunting beans, and reducing yield. As populations build up in fields, and PLH reproduces in the crop, chlorosis and deformation of leaves may become apparent. When these symptoms of infestation appear, damage to the crop has already occurred. Insecticide applications directed at ECB often control PLH as well. For this reason, it is important to check regularly for PLH. Consider treating if adults and nymphs exceed 100 per 20 sweeps prior to bloom, or 250 per 20 sweeps at bloom, or 250+ during pod development. If a sweep net is not available, consider treating if nymphs are found in random samples covering all areas of the field.

Cole crops

Imported cabbageworm (ICW), diamondback moth larvae (DBM), and cabbage looper (CL) are all active now on cole crops. In addition, **flea beetle** continues to be a problem on some plantings. Check plantings at least once a week for the presence of the above pests. Consider treating if greater than 20% of plants are infested prior to head formation or if greater than 5% are infested when heads are present. For collards, kale, mustard and

SEE COLE CROPS ON PAGE 6

COLE CROPS FROM PAGE 5

other leafy cole crops, consider treating when 10% or more plants are infested with any larvae. Flea beetle infestations should be treated when the pest is present on more than half the plants in the sample and damage is occurring.

Alternaria is a threat to maturing cole crops now, and will remain so for the rest of the season. Look for necrotic lesions on older tissue. The lesions often have concentric rings of within the borders. At the first sign of disease, begin a 7-10 day fungicide program. Consult the *2003 Commercial Vegetable Production Recommendations* for effective spray materials.

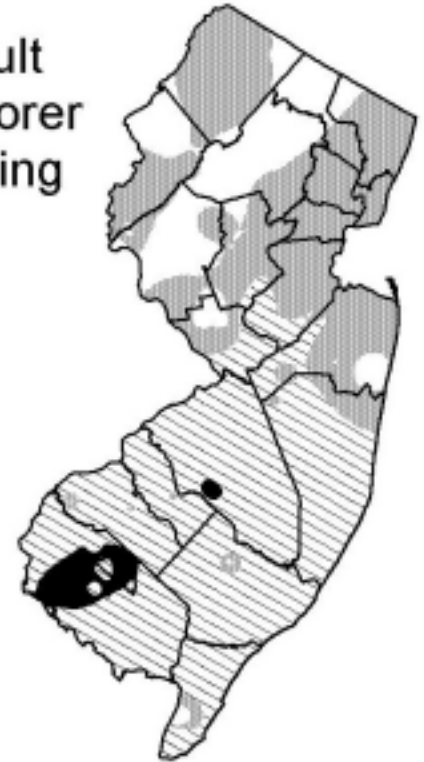
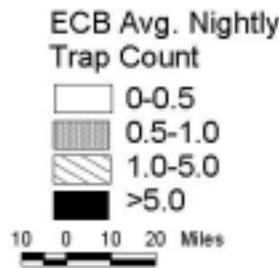
Peppers

In areas where **ECB** activity is increasing, consider a weekly protectant insecticide schedule to prevent fruit injury. On the ECB map, cross-hatched and dark portions (shaded green and red on the web version) represent areas where ECB activity is a threat to pepper fruit. As eggs hatch, larvae will tunnel into the fruit around the cap. As the larvae feed in the fruit, bacteria enter and can result in a high incidence of **soft rot**. When scouting, look at two leaves and fruit on five consecutive plants in ten random locations throughout the planting. Consider treating for ECB if more than one eggmass is found in the field. Consider preventive treatments if fruit are present and local trap catches are greater than one moth per night on average. Consult the *2003 Commercial Vegetable Production Recommendations* for spray materials.

TSSM is a threat to pepper plantings at this time. Consider spot treating if TSSM appears in the planting. Early detection and spot treatments can help prevent a difficult infestation later.

High levels of **FAW** feeding in sweet corn are an indication the population is high enough to cause problems for peppers as well. When scouting, determine the type of caterpillars present in fruit (if any). FAW is generally brown in color, with an inverted "Y" on its head capsule. ECB is a pale caterpillar with a dark brown, flattened head. It is important to distinguish between the two, because Orthene is not as effective on FAW as it is on ECB. Consult the *2003 Commercial Vegetable Production Recommendations* for spray materials effective against both pests.

Distribution of Adult European Corn Borer for the Week Ending August 06, 2003



Data collected and processed by: Kris Holmstrom, Marilyn Hughes
Rutgers Cooperative Extension & Center for Remote Sensing

Distribution of Adult Corn Earworm for the Week Ending August 06, 2003



Data collected and processed by: Kris Holmstrom, Marilyn Hughes
Rutgers Cooperative Extension & Center for Remote Sensing

Weekly Weather Summary

Keith Arnesen, Ph.D., Agricultural Meteorologist

Temperatures averaged near normal. Extremes were 90 degrees at Freehold on the 4th, and 55 degrees at Freehold on the 31st. Weekly rainfall averaged 1.60 inches north, 1.36 inches central, and 0.59 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 2.29 inches at Long Branch on the 1st to 2nd. Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 83 percent north, 74 percent central and 50 percent south. Four inch soil temperatures averaged 73 degrees north, 74 degrees central and 75 degrees south.

Weather Summary for the Week Ending 8 am Monday 8/ 4/ 3										
WEATHER STATIONS	RAINFALL			TEMPERATURE				GDD BASE50		MON %FC
	WEEK	TOTAL	DEP	MX	MN	AVG	DEP	TOT	DEP	
BELVIDERE BRIDGE	1.98	27.62	7.43	89	59	74.	1	1721	74	100
CANOE BROOK	1.61	27.26	5.98	89	59	75.	1	1781	138	94
CHARLOTTEBURG	2.54	29.07	7.61	87	59	75.	3	1361	83	100
FLEMINGTON	1.05	28.68	8.08	88	57	75.	1	1676	-13	87
LONG VALLEY	.86	24.02	1.93	82	58	71.	-1	1276	-180	86
NEWTON	1.58	24.32	4.61	86	57	72.	0	1540	46	99
FREEHOLD	1.66	23.60	3.61	90	55	75.	0	1825	16	91
LONG BRANCH	2.66	26.35	6.43	85	60	73.	-2	1663	-68	89
NEW BRUNSWICK	.28	25.65	5.66	89	59	76.	2	1780	-115	72
TOMS RIVER	.97	23.25	2.71	88	58	75.	1	1797	63	65
TRENTON	1.22	22.59	3.38	88	60	75.	-1	1756	-219	83
CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE	.77	19.58	1.89	86	61	74.	-2	1741	-107	39
DOWNSTOWN	.39	21.89	3.19	89	58	75.	-1	1852	-135	47
GLASSBORO	.48	23.03	3.35	87	63	76.	0	1973	12	61
HAMMONTON	.09	19.06	-.68	89	58	76.	0	1936	-24	25
POMONA	.74	20.64	2.79	88	59	75.	0	1802	-28	44
SEABROOK	1.07	23.78	5.72	86	64	76.	0	2026	32	70
SOUTH HARRISON	.36	22.04	2.20	87	61	75	NA	1953	NA	NA
WES KLINE — GDD BASE 40 PINEY HOLLOW Last Week 263 (Ending 7/28/03) This Week 249 (Ending 8/4/03)										

Eggplant Fruit Damage

Michelle Infante-Casella, Gloucester County Agricultural Agent

This past week some growers have seen scrape-like injury on the skins of eggplants. It was also seen on eggplants harvested at research trials at Rutgers Agricultural Research and Extension Center. The injury was not evident in the harvests prior to this week. The injury looks like a scrape from sand rubbing against the skin of the eggplant and has been severe on some fruit. The cause has not yet been determined. Some ideas may be high winds during storms this week that could have caused injury. At first glance, the injury was blamed on dirty harvest containers, but injury occurred on fruit that didn't touch the sides of baskets. More investigation on this injury will take place later this week. If anyone is seeing this type of injury, please let your agricultural agent know or call Michelle Infante-Casella at Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Gloucester County at 856-307-6450 ext 1. □

Summer Cover Crop

Wes Kline, Cumberland County Agricultural Agent

Sudan grass – If the Sudan grass is 3 feet tall or taller, now is the time to bush hog it to no shorter than 8 inches. This will allow the Sudan grass to regrow and encourage it to put out more roots. Mowing will also make it easier to handle in the fall when it should be mowed again and incorporated into the soil. The stocks can either be disked a couple of times and allowed to breakdown over the winter or moldboard plowed before planting wheat or rye for the winter. For more information on using Sudan grass or sorghum-Sudan grass hybrids for summer cover crops and crop rotations see the RCE fact sheet FS994 at <http://www.rce.rutgers.edu/pubs/pdfs/fs994.pdf>.

Other cover crops – If other cover crops such as clover have not been flailed off now is the time to do it. This will help control weeds and encourage continued growth of the cover crop. □

NJ Pesticide Applicator Website

Patricia Hastings, Program Associate, Pest Management

Not sure if you are in compliance with the new pesticide applicator regulations? Check out the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Pest Management Office 'Pesticide Applicator Training' web page at: www.pestmanagement.rutgers.edu/PAT. The purpose of these pages is to provide information and tools to meet the November 2001 licensing requirements for New Jersey commercial and private applicators. It is a good resource for those seeking a license for the first time, as well as those that wish to keep their certification and license current.

For licensed applicators, it offers the current schedule of recertification training courses in New Jersey. Further, there are links to easy-to-use templates for required pesticide application record forms. These templates incorporate all of the 'new' record-keeping requirements of the revised regulations. Remain in compliance with these easy-to-use tools. □

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