

# WEEKLY CROP UPDATE



UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE  
COOPERATIVE  
EXTENSION

Volume 33, Issue 2

February 21, 2025

## Notes

### Monthly Grain Market Outlook

*Nate Bruce, Farm Business Management Specialist, [nsbruce@udel.edu](mailto:nsbruce@udel.edu)*

The upward trend in corn prices has continued throughout the month of February. South American weather issues and a bullish market driven by reduced South American supplies are driving prices into historical typical seasonal price highs in the months prior to planting. It is unbelievable to think this was possible based on markets last fall. Depending on own expenses, current new corn prices could be profitable for dryland production. For irrigated production, current new corn prices could be close to being profitable as well. March and April have historically been two of the best months to market corn and soybeans. Make sure to watch markets in the months to come and ensure price target ranges are not too far spaced apart. Corn stocks to use ratio is sitting at 10.2%. Historically, prices have increased when the stocks to use ratio falls below 10%. This could be right around the corner with a favorable USDA report. Corn prices have traded in a price range of \$0.05-\$0.15 per bushel across all futures thus far in the month.

Soybean prices have stagnated in the high \$10.00 range across futures as the South American crop becomes more in picture. The end of the month and March will be critical. Still yet, prices are higher than where they've been in the past half year. Renewed discussions on

tariffs could dampen the markets potential as China has been significantly reducing soybean imports in the last couple of years, not just from the US, but also Brazil as well. Keep an eye on soybean prices in the months to come as historical seasonal price highs are right around the corner. Soybean prices have traded in a respectable \$0.05 - \$0.25 range thus far this month. Wheat prices have also trended high in the month of February trading in a \$0.05 - \$0.20 range across futures. A myriad of factors geopolitical, climatic, and more are the culprits for the current upward trends in wheat prices. There is certainly optimism at this point with the current trends in grain prices coupled with the USDA Economic Research Service (ERS) 2025 U.S. farm income projections. ERS projects the US net farm income will increase by 29% in 2025.

The February USDA (World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates) report was published on February 11th, 2025. Overall, January's reports major revisions remained in the February report. Estimated planted corn acres remained the same as the January estimate at 90.6 million acres. Estimated corn acres harvested also was unchanged in the February report at 82.9 million acres. Estimated harvested yield per acre for the marketing year remained at 179.3 bushels per acre. Beginning stocks remained unchanged at 1763 million bushels. Corn supply and demand remained unchanged from the January estimate. Corn ending stocks remained the same at 1540 million bushels. The projected farm season price increased by \$0.10 from \$4.25 per bushel to \$4.35 per bushel.

The February WASDE made no changes to estimated planted soybean acres from the January report leaving the total at 87.1 million. Estimated acres harvested also remained the same at 86.1 million acres. Projected harvested yield per acre also remained the same at 50.7 bushels per acre. Beginning stocks remained the same at 342 million bushels. Estimated domestic soybean supply and demand did not change from the January report. Ending stocks remained the same at 380 million bushels. The projected farm season average price dropped by \$0.10 from \$10.20 per bushel to \$10.10 per bushel.

Projected wheat acres planted remained the same as the January estimate at 46.1 million acres. Projected wheat acres harvested also remained the same at 38.5 million bushels. Estimated yield harvested per acre remained the same as the January estimate at 51.2 million bushels. Beginning stocks were also unchanged at 696 million bushels. Wheat supply and demand is projected for higher domestic demand driven by an increase in food use. Wheat food demand increased by 4 million bushels from 966 million bushels to 970 million bushels. The increase in demand resulted in projected ending stocks falling from 798 million bushels to 794 million bushels. The average farm season price remained unchanged from the January estimate at \$5.55 per bushel. The next USDA WASDE report will be released on March 11th. Make sure to keep an eye on markets around this time.

Weather issues such as extreme heat and lack of rain have dampened the projected record soybean crops in Argentina and Brazil. Some areas in the two countries grain production regions had temperatures reach 104 degrees Fahrenheit. USDA reduced its outlook for Argentina's corn and soybean production in the February report and reduced the Brazilian corn crop (safrinha) as well. Rain is in the forecast for major Brazilian soybean production regions in Brazil before the end of February. However, dry weather is expected in March.

Peace negotiations for a prompt ending to the Ukraine-Russia war has been undergoing the past month. Much of the negotiations have centered

around Ukraine making significant concessions to end the conflict promptly. An ending to the conflict could certainly impact grain markets.

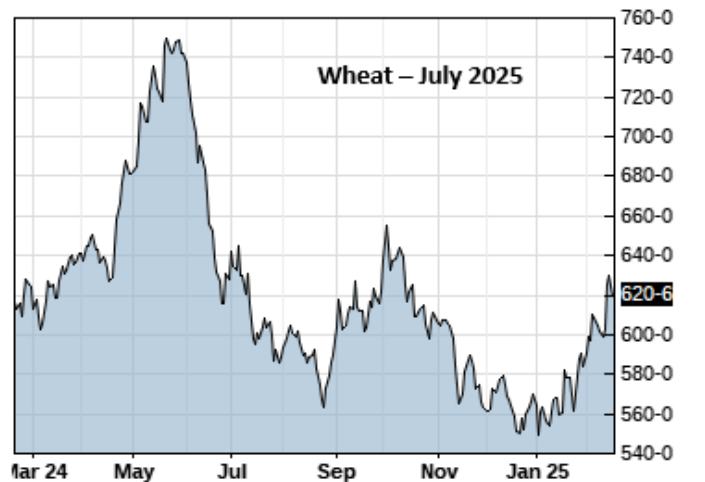
### Corn Futures



### Soybean Futures



### Wheat Futures



## **2025 Vegetable Enterprise Budgets**

*Nate Bruce, Farm Business Management Specialist, [nsbruce@udel.edu](mailto:nsbruce@udel.edu)*

Enterprise budgets for vegetables have been updated with prices and information for 2025. You can use these budgets to estimate your production costs and returns for several different crops: watermelons, pumpkins, fresh market sweet corn, processing lima beans, processing snap beans, processing sweet corn. All enterprise budgets are in Excel. The first tab contains research estimated costs and returns. The second tab allows you to enter your own costs and returns. New for 2025 are late harvest fresh market sweet corn budgets and machinery harvested fresh market sweet corn budgets.

To download the new enterprise budgets go to: <https://www.udel.edu/canr/cooperative-extension/sustainable-production/agribusiness/farm-business-management/> or download them directly from this webpage.

If you have any questions on the budgets, please contact me at by email or by phone 302-363-7619.

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## **Standout Snap Bean Varieties**

*Emmalea Ernest, Extension Fruit & Vegetable Specialist; [emmalea@udel.edu](mailto:emmalea@udel.edu)*

I have been testing round and flat podded bush snap bean varieties almost every year since 2017. Yearly trial reports are available on the [Extension Variety Trial Webpage](#). However, I recently updated an analysis comparing variety performance in multiple years and trials. There are some varieties that have consistently performed well over time.

Snap beans that are planted on Delmarva in May and June often experience high temperatures during flowering and have low yields as a result. One goal of my trials is to identify varieties that produce high marketable yields despite heat stress. The most heat tolerant varieties I have trialed are PV 857 and Greenback. Additional

varieties that have produced high marketable yields over multiple trials are Bridger, Byrd, Nyquist, Annihilator and Dominator. In 2024, one of my trials had a lot of stand loss due to pythium. The varieties with low levels of pythium, indicating tolerance, were Caprice, HM5101, Peary, Byrd and Greenback.

The best performing flat podded varieties in my trials have been Usambara, Solferina, and Velero. Generally, the flat podded varieties are not as heat tolerant as the round podded ones. Usambara does seem to have some heat tolerance.

In 2024 I tested eleven varieties of climbing snap beans. The best yielding varieties were Cobra (round podded) and Early Riser (flat podded). A summary of the results of that trial are in the table below.

Variety	Pod Description	Pod Length (cm)	Marketable Yield (lbs/20 ft)
Cobra	round, green	16.9	23.51
Early Riser	flat, green	18.0	15.96
Aunt Bea's Pole	intermediate, streaked	12.7	15.43
Witsa	round, green	17.7	14.76
Helda	flat, green	17.8	14.08
Ideal Market	round, green	12.3	13.46
Seychelles	round, green	12.2	12.95
Louisiana Purple Pod	round, purple	13.1	9.29
Gold Nectar	flat, wax	15.9	6.70
Kew Blue	flat, purple	14.3	2.97
Fortex	round, green	20.0	1.72

## **Announcements**

**The AI-CLIMATE Institute invites you to join a focus group led by researchers at Cornell University.**

We are looking for farmers and foresters to share their insights on using precision tools and AI to help address climate challenges in agriculture. Your views and experiences are essential to shaping a more inclusive and sustainable future! Participants will receive a \$20 gift card.

What is the AI-CLIMATE Institute? AI-CLIMATE is a joint effort of the University of Minnesota, Colorado State University, Cornell University, Delaware State, NC State, and Purdue. We're working to combine knowledge from agriculture and forestry sciences with unique new methods in artificial intelligence (AI), curb the effects of climate change, and lift rural economies.

Where: Zoom

When: February, March & April

Time Commitment: 1.5 hours

Scan the QR code or fill out this [form](#) to express your interest!



[https://cornell.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_3rDPKseqccaYXpY](https://cornell.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3rDPKseqccaYXpY)

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## 2025 Delaware Risk Management Conference

Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
University of Delaware and Delaware Farm Bureau  
Harrington Fire Hall  
20 Clark Street, Harrington, DE 19952

University of Delaware Cooperative Extension and Delaware Farm Bureau's 2025 Risk Management Conference will be held on March 3<sup>rd</sup> from 8:00 am to 3:00 PM at the Harrington Fire Hall. Lunch will be provided. Credits provided:

2.0 DE Nutrient Management Credits

2.0 MD Nutrient Management Credits

Topics will include:

- 2025 Commodity Crop Enterprise Budgets
- Fertilizer Market Trends
- Nitrogen Modeling Tool
- Grain Market Update
- International Trade and Events Impacting Agriculture Today
- Grain Producers and Risk Management
- Weathering Burnout

*To register, please use online weblink below:*

<https://defb.org/risk-management-conference/>

*If you have any additional questions about registration, please contact Mikayla Paul.*

*E: [mikayla.paul@defb.org](mailto:mikayla.paul@defb.org)*

*P: 302-697-3183*

*Please contact Nate Bruce [nsbruce@udel.edu](mailto:nsbruce@udel.edu) with any questions about the conference.*

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## UD Offering Produce Safety Training

**Date:** Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**Time:** 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

**Location:** University of Delaware Carvel Research & Education Center, 16483 County Seat Highway, Georgetown, DE 19947

University of Delaware is offering a Produce Safety Alliance Training to provide you with up-to-date training on the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule with information useful for improving general food safety practices and audits. We will be teaching new information about the new water rule that has changed this year. Please see all the details below about attendance and we look forward to seeing you.

### Who should Attend

Fruit and vegetable growers and others interested in learning about produce safety, the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule, Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), and co-management of natural resources and food safety. The PSA Grower Training Course is one way to satisfy the FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirement outlined in § 112.22(c) that requires 'At least one supervisor or responsible party for your farm must have successfully completed food safety training at least equivalent to that received under standardized curriculum recognized as adequate by the Food and Drug Administration.'

### What to expect at the PSA Grower Training Course

The trainers will spend approximately seven hours of instruction time covering content contained in these seven modules:

- Introduction to Produce Safety
- Worker Health, Hygiene, and Training

- Soil Amendments
- Wildlife, Domesticated Animals, and Land Use
- Agricultural Water (Part I: Production Water; Part II: Postharvest Water)
- Postharvest Handling and Sanitation
- How to Develop a Farm Food Safety Plan

In addition to learning about produce safety best practices, key parts of the FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirements are outlined within each module. There will be time for questions and discussion, so participants should come prepared to share their experiences and produce safety questions.

### **Benefits of Attending the Course**

The course will provide a foundation of Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) and co-management information, FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirements, and details on how to develop a farm food safety plan. Individuals who participate in this course are expected to gain a basic understanding of:

- Microorganisms relevant to produce safety and where they may be found on the farm
- How to identify microbial risks, practices that reduce risks, and how to begin implementing produce safety practices on the farm
- Parts of a farm food safety plan and how to begin writing one
- Requirements in the FSMA Produce Safety Rule and how to meet them.

After attending the entire course, participants will be eligible to receive a certificate from the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) that verifies they have completed the training course. To receive an AFDO certificate, a participant must be present for the entire training and submit the appropriate paperwork to their trainer at the end of the course.

**Registration Link:** <http://www.udel.edu/0012989>

Offered by the University of Delaware, Cooperative Extension and the Department of Animal and Food Sciences. **For additional**

information, contact Jennifer Jones at 302-856-7303 or email at [jbjones@udel.edu](mailto:jbjones@udel.edu)

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### **Soybean Inoculant Survey**

Please take this short 3 question survey on inoculants you have used when planting soybean seed.

[https://delaware.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_4IM9Fbtg3BymC1g](https://delaware.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4IM9Fbtg3BymC1g)

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### **Entomology Surveys**

*David Owens, Extension Entomologist,*  
[owensd@udel.edu](mailto:owensd@udel.edu)

It's the season for insect pest surveys! This year, we have three active survey efforts, please take a look and a few minutes to fill out these surveys. They help us justify our insect monitoring efforts, secure funding for those efforts, and guide research and extension activities. Please help me help you! A couple of survey respondents will also be sent a thank you gift.

#### **1. Soybean pest loss annual survey – now with corn questions too!**

[https://delaware.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_8GnhHa4rn9ToPP](https://delaware.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8GnhHa4rn9ToPP)



#### **2. University of Delaware Insect Trapping Economic and Pest Impact survey**

[https://delaware.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_9mNMsYAzR2Rhb8i](https://delaware.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9mNMsYAzR2Rhb8i)



3. University of Maryland Sweet Corn Economics  
[https://ume.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_0wk9kRXyebrKakm](https://ume.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0wk9kRXyebrKakm)



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### Fresh Market Vegetable Grower Survey Online University of Delaware

Fresh market fruit and vegetable growers are invited to take a survey about their operations to help Extension make research and education plans for the next few years based on results. The survey should take 10-15 minutes to complete and allows growers the opportunity for suggestions.

Paper copies of the survey are available, email Lyndsie Mikkelsen [lyndsie@udel.edu](mailto:lyndsie@udel.edu) or call 302-650-3162 if interested!

Survey URL:

[https://delaware.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_ezFc4kRfm1C8kOa](https://delaware.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ezFc4kRfm1C8kOa)

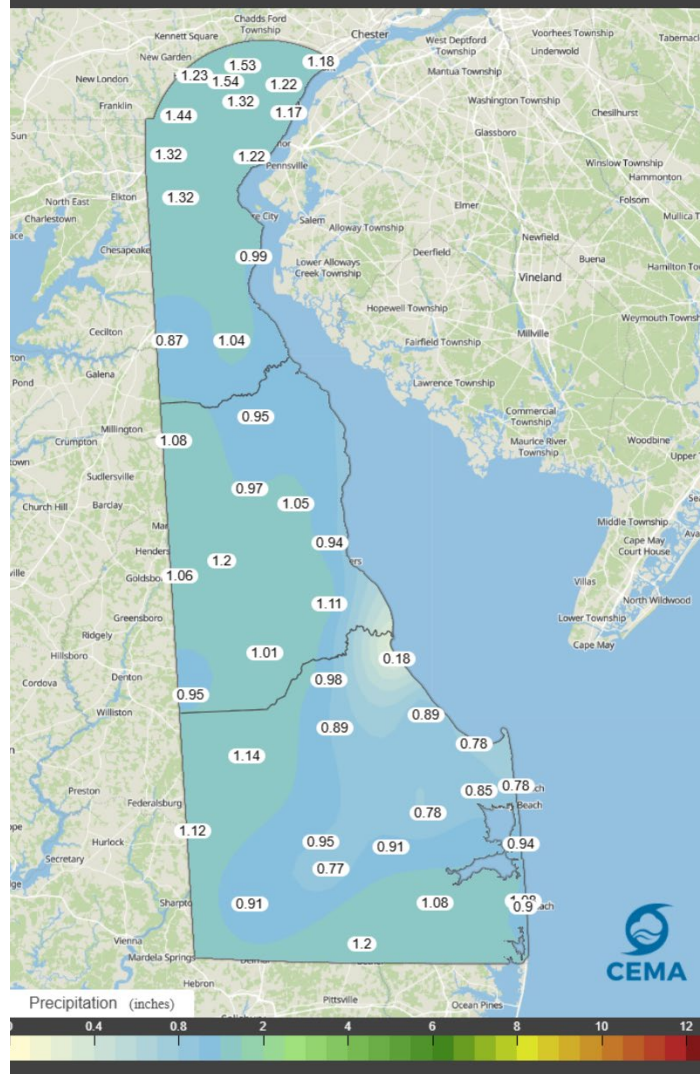
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# Weather Summary

## 1 Week Accumulated Precipitation

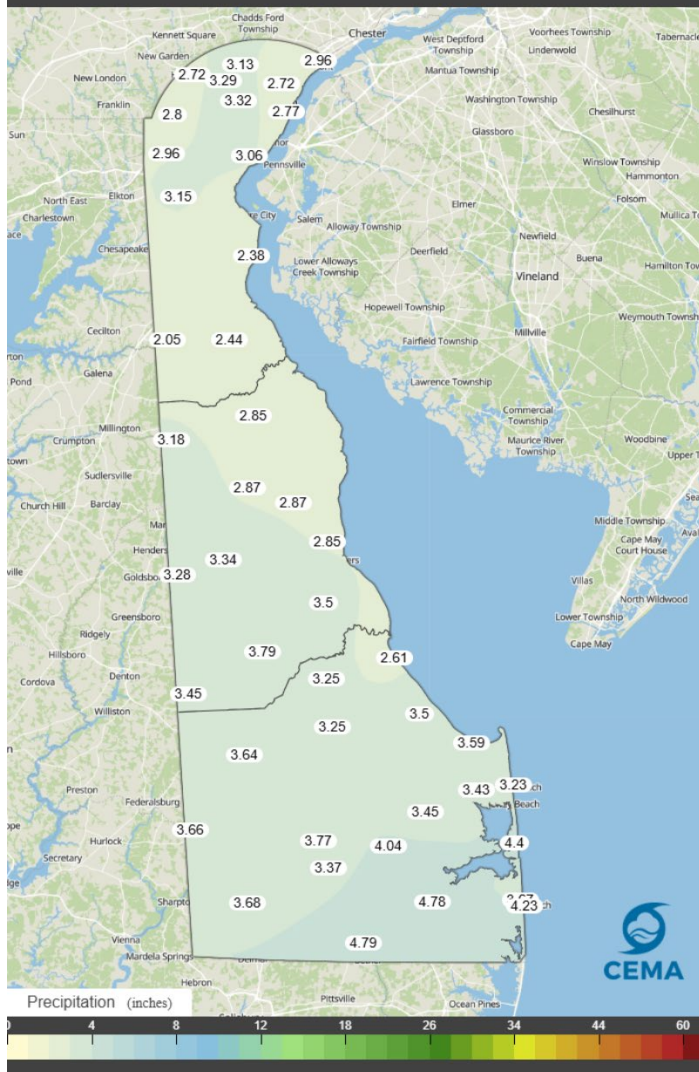
Total Precipitation  
Feb 14, 2025 - Feb 20, 2025



# 1 Month Accumulated Precipitation

## Total Precipitation

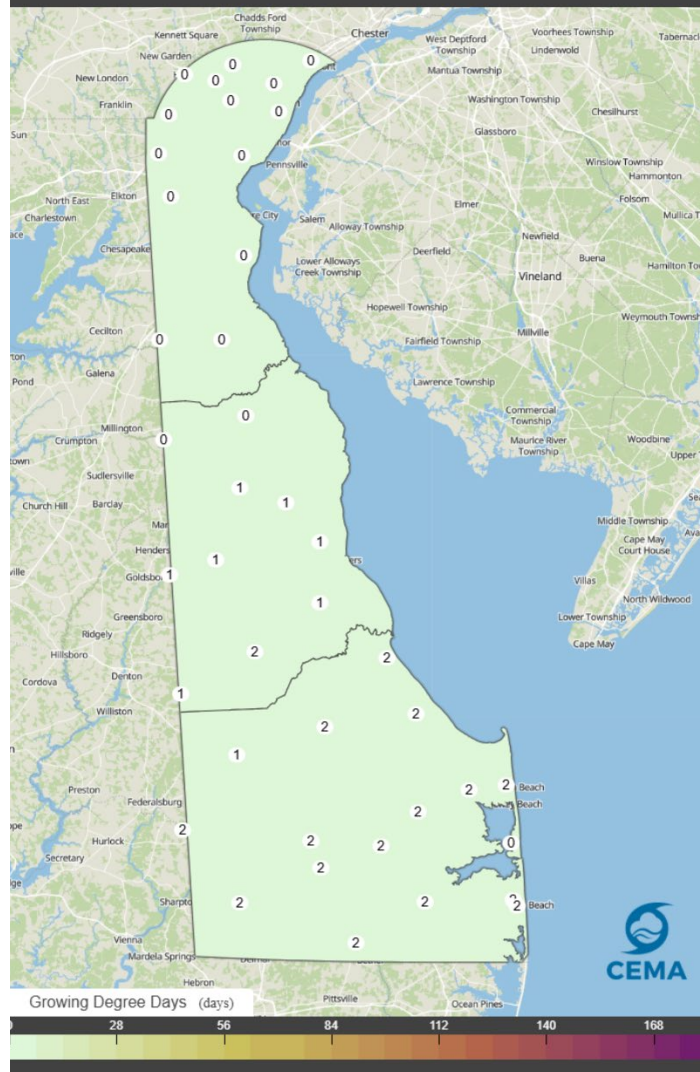
Jan 21, 2025 - Feb 20, 2025



# 1 Week Accumulated Growing Degree Days

## Total Growing Degree Days

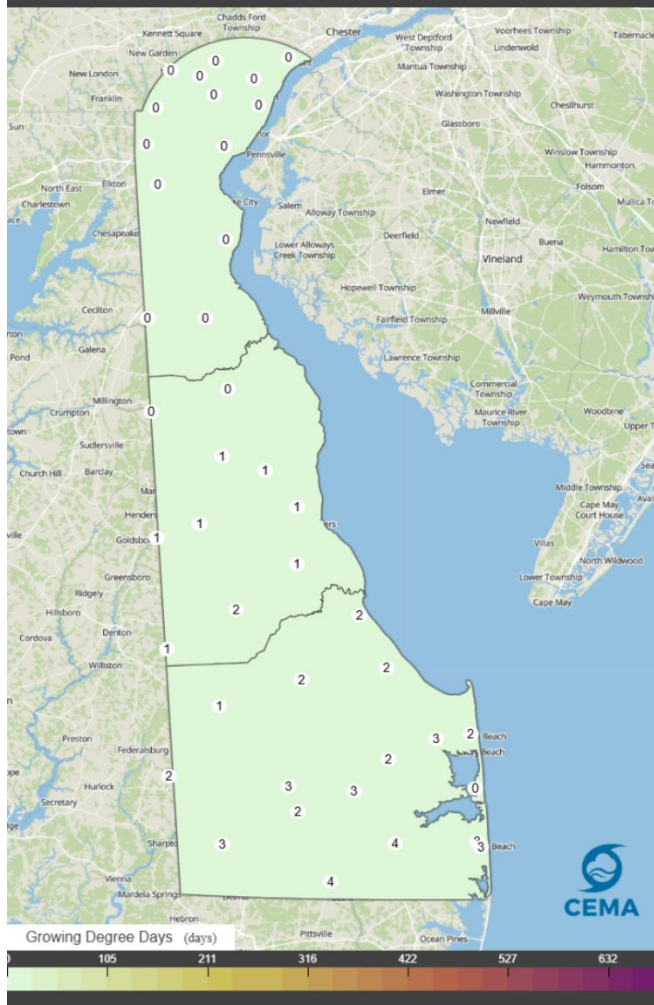
Feb 14, 2025 - Feb 20, 2025





# 1 Month Accumulated Growing Degree Days

Total Growing Degree Days  
Jan 21, 2025 - Feb 20, 2025



**Weekly Crop Update is compiled and edited by Emmalea Ernest - Extension Fruit & Vegetable Specialist, Drew Harris - Kent Co. Ag Agent and Lyndsie Mikkelsen - Fruit and Vegetable Agent**

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