



**Melissa Velez-Morales**

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**From:** Masser, Michelle  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 31, 2016 1:20 PM  
**To:** Harris, Laura  
**Cc:** Gouveia, Susan; Melissa Velez-Morales  
**Subject:** FW: NJDEP Press Release - DEP and the Dept of Ag Team Up to Allow the Protection of Flowering Crops  
**Attachments:** Agricultural Burning -- P17.pdf

CORRESPONDENCE

Michelle Masser  
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**From:** Rogers, Joseph [mailto:Joseph.Rogers@dep.nj.gov] **On Behalf Of** Randazzo, Cindy  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 31, 2016 1:14 PM  
**To:** Randazzo, Cindy <Cindy.Randazzo@dep.nj.gov>  
**Subject:** NJDEP Press Release - DEP and the Dept of Ag Team Up to Allow the Protection of Flowering Crops

Dear Municipal Clerk:

Please see the attached NJDEP Press Release concerning the cooperative effort between the DEP and the Department of Agriculture to protect flowering crops from frost damage.

If you have any questions, please contact me directly.

Sincerely

Cindy W. Randazzo  
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Office of Local Government Assistance  
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection  
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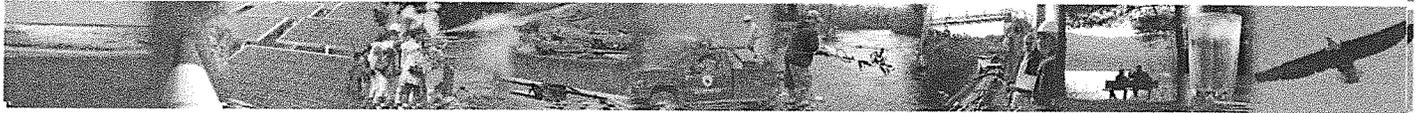
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# DEP NEWS RELEASE

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

Chris Christie, Governor  
Kim Guadagno, Lt. Governor  
Bob Murray, Commissioner



## IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 31, 2016

**Contact:** Lawrence Hajna (609) 984-1795  
Bob Considine (609) 292-2994  
Caryn Shinske (609) 984-1795

### DEP, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TEAM UP TO ALLOW FARMERS TO PROTECT FLOWERING CROPS AGAINST FROST CONDITIONS EXPECTED EARLY NEXT WEEK

**(16/ P17) TRENTON** – With temperatures in many parts of the state expected to approach freezing over the weekend into early next week, the Department of Environmental Protection and Department of Agriculture are working cooperatively to allow farmers to do controlled open burning or use specialized torches known as smudge pots to protect flowering crops from frost damage.



Forecasts call for near or below freezing conditions overnight Saturday through April 5. The cold temperatures could affect fruit and vegetable crops, as well as flowers in bloom or near bloom. Peaches, blueberries and apples are particularly susceptible. Frost damage now can significantly reduce yields of these crops later in the season.

The DEP and Department of Agriculture are allowing these steps

through April 5 to protect farmers' livelihoods and to ensure that consumers will be able to enjoy an ample supply of Jersey produce later this year.

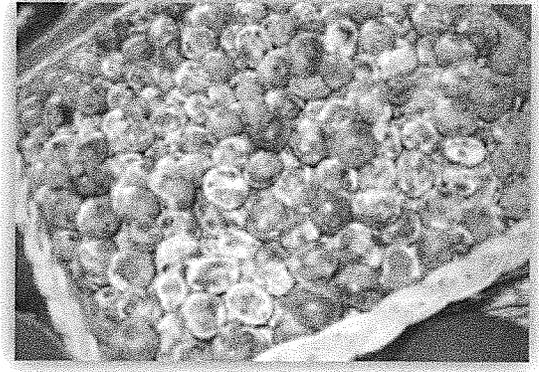
New Jersey is among the nation's leaders in blueberry and peach production. Blueberry production is focused in the Pinelands of Burlington County. Peach orchards can be found throughout the state, with Gloucester County ranking among the nation's leaders in peach production. New Jersey also sustains a vibrant apple industry, with orchards found around the state.

**Farmers who believe they will need to conduct open burns and/or use smudge pots must provide notice to the DEP's 24-hour Communications Center at 877- WARNDEP (1-877-927-6337.)** Notification to DEP does not require the implementation of either technique but

ensures proper procedures are followed should they become necessary.

If a farmer does not call DEP in advance but uses either technique, the farmer may notify DEP the morning following the use of either technique but no later than 9 a.m.

Farmers must record the incident number provided to them by the Communications Center. The following information is to be provided:



- Name of the individual making the decision to conduct the open burning/use of smudge pots; name of the farm;
- Actual street address of the farm on which either technique will be used (no P.O. Boxes);
- Telephone number of a contact at the farm;
- Predicted temperature (in degrees Fahrenheit) at the agricultural operation when the technique will be used;
- Wind speed anticipated when the technique will be used ;
- Predicted hours of open burning and/or use of smudge pots;
- Materials expected to be burned.

At the time of the initial call to the Communications Center, farmers will be given an email address and incident number. Within two days, they must submit to DEP via this email address the following information:

- The DEP Communications Center incident number;
- Ambient temperature (in degrees Fahrenheit) at the time the technique was used;
- Actual wind speed at the orchard at the time the technique was used;
- A statement verifying that all restrictions in the open burning or use of smudge pots were followed.

No open burning will be permitted unless the temperature within the orchard area is at or below the critical temperature for the bud stage for that particular crop and wind velocity is less than five miles per hour. Smudge pots must be fueled only with either kerosene or No. 2 fuel oil.

Open burning can consist only of either the following materials: clean and untreated scrap lumber, felled trees, clippings pruned from trees and shrubs, hedgerows or firewood. **Absolutely no refuse, trade waste, tires or garbage of any type may be added to the authorized open burning material.**

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