



U.S. Department of Agriculture
National
Agricultural
Statistics Service
New York Field Office

WEATHER AND CROPS

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Week Ending, October 2, 2005

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WEATHER: The remains of Hurricane Rita moved up the Ohio River Valley to the eastern Great Lakes and passed just to the west of the region on Monday, bringing heavy rain to much of the region. That was followed by a period of dry weather with seasonable temperatures. Another frontal system came through on Thursday bringing around a half inch to most of the region. A high pressure area off the eastern seaboard resulted in warm sunny weather the last two days of the week. Most of eastern New York had much above normal rainfall but rainfall was much less than normal south and east of Albany.

CROPS: There were 5.0 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated 13 percent very short, 14 percent short, and 54 percent adequate and 19 percent surplus. Corn was rated 6 percent poor, 19 percent fair, 49 percent good and 26 percent excellent. Silage Corn was 78 percent harvested compared to 44 percent a year ago. Corn for grain was 9 percent harvested. Hay was rated 6 percent poor, 27 percent fair, 58 percent good, and 9 percent excellent. Alfalfa third cutting was 92 percent harvested. Potatoes were 67 percent harvested compared to 100 percent last year. Dry beans were 45 percent harvested compared to 23 percent last year. Soybeans were 12 percent harvested. Following are comments from reporters across the state: In Jefferson County, heavy rains kept harvest activities to a snail's pace. Maturity of crop was past ideal stage for chopping. Soybeans looked excellent; leaf drop was almost complete with very good yield potential. More wet weather continued to delay silage harvest. Poor field conditions delayed wheat and rye planting. In Lewis County, silage harvest continued despite torrential downpours, resulting in many mud-covered choppers and deep ruts in fields. In St. Lawrence County, many producers were done with corn harvesting. Reports were good regarding yield. Some areas had an excess of rain, but no reports of inability to get on their fields. Some waited for grain moistures to come down for harvest. In Clinton County, it was another fine week for fieldwork. Corn silage yields were good. The quality appeared decent, and now some farmers turned to thoughts of a fourth cut of alfalfa. Farmers didn't get enough rain to keep away from the field more than a day or so. In Franklin County, rains throughout the week slowed harvest down some. Farmers who were done with corn silage were looking to take a fourth cut of alfalfa. Corn harvested for high moisture shelled corn was expected to begin soon. Soybeans were drying down. In Cortland County, heavy rain slowed down the corn harvest, but it was needed. This year's alfalfa seedings were looking great. Cold nights produced frost in some areas, but not enough to kill heavy vegetation. In Herkimer County, it was a great week for fieldwork. In Albany County, dry warm autumn weather kept harvest on schedule. Most corn was chopped and grain harvest was moving ahead. In Montgomery County, corn silage continued to be harvested. Some high moisture corn was harvested. In Delaware County, there was no mud whatsoever during the corn harvest, however, water supplies were tight in many places. Cows in some areas were out in the meadows eating the 3rd cutting that was available. Corn silage came out better than anticipated on the whole.

FRUIT: Apple and grape harvesting moved along in high gear. In the Capital Region farm stands and orchards had perfect weather over the weekend and were extremely busy with visitors purchasing products. Overall, the apple crop was 52 percent harvested, slightly behind last years progress of 60 percent. Grape harvest advanced to 58 percent complete, compared to 29 percent a year ago. Concord grapes in the Chautauqua County area were nearly 50 percent harvested. Sugars remain good. Grape harvest in the Lake Erie region has gone fairly smoothly so far with yields being slightly higher than growers first expected. Rains and warm temperatures have kept vines actively photosynthesizing and the Brix continues to accumulate faster than normal. Average berry weights continued to increase.

VEGETABLE: Most of the state received one to two inches of rain with the exception of Long Island and the lower Hudson Valley, which received less than one inch. Fall produce harvest continued with reports of sweet corn, cabbage, and snap bean condition mostly good to excellent, while lettuce, onions, and cucumbers were reported as mostly good. Condition of tomatoes was reported as mostly fair to good. Harvest of sweet corn and tomatoes was almost complete, and onions and snap beans were approximately 95 percent harvested. Cabbage harvest was close to 90 percent harvested.

LIVESTOCK: Despite the slightly warmer temperatures no livestock problems were reported. Pasture condition estimates show a slight rebound due to the recent rain. Pasture conditions were 7 percent very poor, 24 percent poor, 34 percent fair, 32 percent good, and 3 percent excellent.

This report is available on our website and by email free of charge. Please visit our website at ww.nass.usda.gov/ny for further information.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, October 2, 2005

Station	Temperature (°F)				Growing Degree Days Base 50°			Precipitation (Inches)			
	High	Low	Avg	Dep. from Norm	Week	Season 1/	Dep. from Norm	Week	Dep. from Norm	Season 1/	Dep. from Norm
<u>Hudson Valley</u>											
Albany	72	40	59	+4	67	3050	+628	1.04	+0.41	20.49	+0.69
Glens Falls	70	34	56	+2	44	2528	+430	1.47	+0.80	22.26	+2.61
Poughkeepsie	74	41	59	+2	66	3074	+519	0.35	-0.37	18.25	-4.52
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>											
Utica	74	40	59	+4	63	2740	+537	1.67	+0.77	19.75	-3.76
<u>Champlain Valley</u>											
Plattsburgh	72	36	57	+4	55	2487	+362	0.41	-0.22	21.81	+2.61
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>											
Canton	73	34	57	+5	54	2467	+557	1.53	+0.73	23.79	+3.06
Massena	74	36	57	+5	55	2466	+473	1.97	+1.25	22.11	+3.19
<u>Great Lakes</u>											
Buffalo	80	43	60	+4	75	2941	+590	2.65	+1.94	20.93	+0.43
Colden	77	39	57	+3	53	2462	+562	2.09	+1.12	24.47	+0.35
Niagara Falls	79	40	60	+4	73	3009	+654	2.30	+1.57	18.57	-1.51
Rochester	80	42	62	+5	82	2812	+530	1.42	+0.82	21.23	+3.66
Watertown	72	33	58	+4	59	2467	+503	1.27	+0.60	24.18	+7.63
<u>Central Lakes</u>											
Dansville	79	39	58	+2	59	2611	+325	1.24	+0.54	20.35	+1.01
Geneva	77	41	59	+3	62	2725	+461	1.83	+1.13	20.60	+1.51
Honeoye	79	38	58	0	59	2552	+168	1.29	+0.59	22.74	+3.85
Ithaca	74	36	57	+2	49	2538	+495	1.27	+0.50	18.19	-2.44
Penn Yan	75	42	60	+5	75	2886	+622	1.07	+0.37	18.65	-0.44
Syracuse	75	40	60	+4	74	3031	+730	0.77	-0.04	20.17	-1.56
Warsaw	76	37	56	+3	44	2288	+546	2.02	+1.18	24.61	+1.93
<u>Western Plateau</u>											
Alfred	74	37	56	+3	48	2412	+559	1.85	+1.07	23.16	+1.58
Elmira	74	36	58	+3	60	2609	+453	1.21	+0.52	18.27	-1.07
Franklinville	77	34	55	+3	38	2100	+522	2.33	+1.45	22.46	-0.45
Sinclairville	77	39	57	+3	52	2438	+651	2.16	+1.15	23.98	-1.79
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>											
Binghamton	70	38	57	+3	52	2657	+574	1.63	+0.91	16.72	-3.75
Cobleskill	75	38	56	+2	44	2483	+545	0.89	+0.10	19.31	-2.77
Morrisville	73	38	55	+2	38	2351	+509	2.26	+1.39	21.67	-0.54
Norwich	73	37	55	+2	39	2449	+510	2.59	+1.79	24.87	+2.93
Oneonta	73	38	57	+5	49	2748	+974	1.73	+0.96	25.10	+1.71
<u>Coastal</u>											
Bridgehamton	77	41	61	+2	81	2839	+389	0.46	-0.31	12.48	-9.03
New York	78	53	68	+5	129	3850	+591	0.29	-0.42	14.67	-7.92

1/ Season accumulations are for April 1st to date.

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The information contained in this weekly release is obtained from reports from Cornell Cooperative Extension agents, USDA Farm Service Agency agents, the National Weather Service, Agricultural Weather Information Service and other knowledgeable persons associated with New York agriculture. Their cooperation is greatly appreciated.

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