



# WEATHER AND CROPS

## May 3, 2010

---

Cooperating with New York Department of Agriculture and Markets  
10B Airline Drive, Albany, New York 12235  
(518) 457-5570 · (518) 485-8719 FAX · [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)

---

Released, May 3, 2010

Week Ending, May 2, 2010

No. 977-02-10

**WEATHER:** Low pressure tracked slowly east northeast from the Ohio Valley toward the southern New England Coast Sunday through Tuesday, bringing widespread light to moderate rainfall to central and southern portions of the state, along with areas of heavier rainfall across portions of south central New York into southeast New York and Long Island. The low then moved off the New England Coast, as high pressure built east from the Great Lakes for Wednesday through Friday, bringing fair weather along with below normal temperatures. Warmer temperatures averaging above normal, developed by Saturday as a warm front moved northeast across the state. Frost and freeze conditions occurred across portions of central and eastern New York Wednesday through Friday mornings, as the unseasonably chilly air mass spread across the region.

**CROPS:** Warm, dry weather accelerated spring plantings despite the snow flurries that moved through parts of the state. There were 5.1 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated 26 percent short, 72 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus. Condition of winter wheat was rated as 1 percent poor, 12 percent fair, 64 percent good, and 23 percent excellent. Oat condition was 9 percent fair, 79 percent good, and 12 percent excellent. Corn planting was 16 percent completed. Eighty percent of the oats were planted. Potatoes were 44 percent planted. The following are comments from throughout the state: An early, dry spring had producers out in the fields in Jefferson County. Spring tillage, emptying manure lagoons, and fixing fence had been going on for several weeks. A lot of corn was planted by May 1<sup>st</sup>, but a good soaking rain would certainly be welcomed. Hay fields were greened up, but cool temperatures have kept growth moderate. Dry conditions in Lewis County allowed for field work. Except for the snow on Tuesday, the weather has been mild and dry. Alfalfa and grass hay appeared to be 7-10 days ahead of last year. Corn was being planted in various areas of St. Lawrence County, even though Eastern portions of the county received 10-11 inches of snow Tuesday and Wednesday. There was less than an inch of rain locally in the past month, so grasses haven't benefitted as much from the mild weather as they would have otherwise. A foot of snow fell in Franklin County, most of which melted in a couple of days. So far there haven't been any negative consequences reported to recently planted crops, such as oats, hay seedings, and early sweet corn. Erie County was experiencing an extraordinary early spring with some farmers saying that hay will be ready to harvest by early next week. Niagara County's alfalfa was 14 to 20 inches tall! Orchard grass was in the boot stage and the winter wheat planted in September had four new leaves with nodes 3-4 inches off the ground on well drained soils. All perennials and winter annuals were two weeks ahead of normal. Mild spring temperatures in Ontario County promoted field work and allowed the beginning of planting to occur. Rain over the weekend in Chenango had jumped the growth of grass and alfalfa hay, as well as the small grains planted. Field work was moving right along in Cortland County with spring tillage and manure spreading being underway since early April. Pastures and hay fields were green in mid-April. Hay was looking good in Madison County, and will be ready early this year. Farmers are either taking a chance and planting corn or anxiously awaiting warmer weather. In Albany County, dry planting conditions have producers ahead of schedule on plantings. Seedings went in well, and corn planting was moving ahead nicely. Montgomery and Fulton County started planting field corn, however if this dry weather continues a lot will be planted the following weeks. Rye in Suffolk County was growing well, and a large amount of the potatoes were planted.

**FRUIT:** Apples were at 82 percent half-inch green to pink stage of development, 35 percent full bloom, and 15 percent petal fall. Peaches were at 95 percent half-inch green to pink stage, 90 percent full bloom, and 17 percent petal fall. Pears were at 95 percent half-inch green to pink stage, 77 percent full bloom, and 15 percent petal fall. Sweet cherries were 95 percent half-inch green to pink, 90 percent full bloom, and 32 percent petal fall. In the Lake Ontario fruit region, both inland and lake sites were in bloom for apples. Cold snaps were still a worry to producers in central New York due to early budding on trees, but no frost damage was reported yet. In Albany County, apples and strawberries were ahead of normal. The southern tier was waiting to see if cold temperatures and intermittent snow on Tuesday and Wednesday affected apple and cherry blossoms. In the Hudson Valley, spotty frost was reported, but windy conditions kept it from damaging the crop. Strawberries were also looking good. Windy conditions were also reported on Long Island. Chardonnay had 2 to 5 inch shoots and continued to look good.

**VEGETABLE:** Planting continued with sweet corn still being placed under plastic. Sweet corn was at 14 percent planted, up from 6 percent previous week. Onions were at 60 percent planted, even with last year's progress. Onion planting in Orange County reached 80 percent. Snap beans and cabbage were both near 9 percent planted.

**LIVESTOCK:** Pastures have greened up, but cool temps have kept growth moderate. There are lots of livestock out grazing. Pasture conditions across most of the state were estimated to be in good condition. Pasture conditions were rated 5 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 47 percent good, and 19 percent excellent.

**Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, May 2, 2010**

Station	Temperature (°F)				Growing Degree Days Base 50° <sup>1/</sup>			Precipitation (Inches) <sup>1/</sup>				
	High	Low	Avg	Dep. from Norm	Week	Season	Dep. from Norm	Week	Dep. from Norm	Season	Dep. from Norm	
<b><u>Hudson Valley</u></b>												
Albany	84	35	54	+3	42	141	+99	0.37	-0.33	1.26	-1.93	
Glens Falls	82	26	50	0	35	94	+67	0.31	-0.44	1.55	-1.65	
Poughkeepsie	88	31	55	+3	43	165	+107	0.79	-0.13	1.74	-2.02	
<b><u>Mohawk Valley</u></b>												
Boonville	80	30	49	+3	22	76	+56	0.12	-0.93	1.26	-3.67	
<b><u>Champlain Valley</u></b>												
Plattsburgh	71	33	48	-1	18	68	+39	0.93	+0.27	2.53	-0.45	
<b><u>St. Lawrence Valley</u></b>												
Canton	75	31	48	+1	17	84	+61	0.73	+0.03	1.82	-1.23	
Massena	70	33	49	+1	17	81	+54	0.86	+0.26	1.49	-1.32	
<b><u>Great Lakes</u></b>												
Buffalo	77	37	54	+4	41	153	+113	0.53	-0.17	2.07	-1.00	
Wales	79	32	50	+3	29	119	+95	0.59	-0.25	2.10	-1.91	
Niagara Falls	78	34	55	+5	47	153	+108	0.27	-0.43	2.32	-1.03	
Rochester	82	33	54	+3	45	185	+138	0.57	-0.06	1.56	-1.23	
Watertown	80	34	52	+4	27	104	+78	0.19	-0.43	1.12	-1.57	
<b><u>Central Lakes</u></b>												
Dansville	82	31	52	+3	37	158	+116	0.90	+0.25	1.39	-1.60	
Geneva	83	32	53	+3	39	147	+110	0.97	+0.27	1.85	-1.26	
Honeoye	84	32	53	+4	44	162	+124	0.71	+0.03	1.92	-1.21	
Ithaca	85	27	51	+3	38	135	+106	1.17	+0.47	2.29	-0.82	
Penn Yan	85	36	53	+4	42	171	+134	1.16	+0.46	1.91	-1.20	
Syracuse	86	36	54	+4	46	171	+126	0.18	-0.59	0.90	-2.65	
Warsaw	78	31	50	+4	32	112	+94	0.86	+0.09	2.16	-1.43	
<b><u>Western Plateau</u></b>												
Angelica	82	31	51	+5	32	123	+106	0.82	+0.19	2.13	-0.82	
Elmira	87	34	53	+4	41	150	+117	0.95	+0.29	1.98	-0.89	
Franklinville	79	26	48	+3	27	87	+74	0.65	-0.12	2.48	-1.02	
Jamestown	80	29	50	+4	30	116	+95	0.53	-0.37	2.18	-1.90	
<b><u>Eastern Plateau</u></b>												
Binghamton	84	32	52	+3	45	177	+147	1.01	+0.24	2.26	-1.09	
Cobleskill	85	32	51	+3	24	95	+69	0.51	-0.26	1.62	-1.89	
Morrisville	82	30	49	+2	31	108	+86	0.98	+0.21	2.63	-0.68	
Norwich	86	30	50	+2	28	97	+70	1.31	+0.49	2.72	-0.87	
Oneonta	85	32	51	+4	29	104	+82	1.30	+0.40	2.71	-1.03	
<b><u>Coastal</u></b>												
Bridgehamton	73	37	53	+3	27	110	+82	0.92	+0.01	2.27	-1.96	
New York	83	42	59	+4	63	288	+187	1.45	+0.54	2.55	-1.50	

<sup>1/</sup> Season accumulations are for April 1<sup>st</sup> to date. Weekly accumulations are through 7:00 AM Sunday Morning

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

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [www.nass.usda.gov/ny](http://www.nass.usda.gov/ny) AND CLICK ON "SUBSCRIBE TO NY REPORTS" FOR INSTRUCTIONS ON SUBSCRIBING ELECTRONICALLY. YOU MAY ALSO VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO ACCESS ALL OUR REPORTS WHICH ARE AVAILABLE FOR FREE ONLINE.**