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USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, N.Y. Dept. of Agriculture and Markets, Division of Statistics
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Week Ending, May 1, 2005

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WEATHER: The week started out cool and ended cool with Tuesday being the only mild day as temperatures reached the mid 60's to lower 70's. In addition many locations experienced near or below freezing temperatures on Friday morning. Temperatures for the week averaged about 5 degrees below normal. Most of the state experienced below normal precipitation for the week, except far southeast sections and the area from the Finger Lakes Region into the upper Hudson Valley where precipitation was above normal. Low pressure systems impacted the state on Sunday and Saturday, with a cold front on Thursday resulting in some thunderstorms which brought small hail to parts of central New York.

CROPS: Cool, wet weather slowed fieldwork and early planting. Too much water meant fields were too wet to support machinery. Adverse weather conditions provided 2.5 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated 56% adequate, and 44% surplus. Pasture condition were 4% very poor, 12% poor, 19% fair, 56% good, 11% excellent. Following are comments from reporters across the state: In Lewis County, soil temperature was less than ideal with high anticipation of frost which caused many operators to delay planting corn. In St Lawrence County, the ground was too cold and wet for planting crops. Clinton County reported rain and adverse field conditions. Though some seedings were planted and corn fields were being plowed, the rain put an end to field activity. Ontario County reported only two days absent of rain. Temperatures were slightly cooler, but still seasonable, with rain on and off in Cortland County. Some onions, barley, oats, and corn are in the ground but cold rainy weather slowed field work in Madison County. Two continuous days of rain delayed planting in some areas in Schuyler. In Delaware County cool damp weather kept operators inside most of the week. Hay growth varied by elevation and drainage conditions.

FRUIT: Across the State, growers were finishing fertilizer applications, pruning sweet cherries and young apple trees. In the Lake Ontario fruit region, vineyards were near bud break stage of development but the recent low temperatures have slowed development. Workers were finishing up trellis repairs. Sweet cherry mature trees were starting to show bloom. Sweet cherries were approaching white bud stage of development and apricots were in bloom. Pears were at bud burst. In locations south of Rt. 104, apples were at close tight cluster. In more northern locations, many varieties were at half-inch green with outer leaves started to peel back. In the Lake Erie grape region, vines had reached the 10% pink stage of development. In the Long Island grape region, bud break was just beginning in Chardonnay and Pinot Noir varieties. Merlot and Dornfelder were expected to break bud earlier this week. Despite the cool weather this spring, bud break is right on schedule.

VEGETABLES: A rainy week with cool temperatures delayed planting and crop development in most areas of the state. Not much happened in fields.

LIVESTOCK: Weather conditions were rainy throughout most of New York last week. Pastures have thus far seen good growth however the rain has limited some livestock access. Pasture conditions were 4 percent very poor, 12 percent poor, 19 percent fair, 54 percent good, and 11 percent excellent.

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

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, May 1, 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	Dep. from Norm	
<u>Hudson Valley</u>												
Albany	70	33	52	+1	22	102	+64	0.48	-0.22	2.42	-0.67	
Glens Falls	68	34	49	-2	9	45	+21	1.24	+0.50	4.82	+1.73	
Poughkeepsie	68	36	51	-2	17	96	+43	0.96	+0.06	3.82	+0.20	
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>												
Utica	69	32	47	-4	12	64	+29	0.88	+0.06	5.31	+1.63	
<u>Champlain Valley</u>												
Plattsburgh	68	36	50	+2	14	45	+19	1.70	+1.03	4.92	+2.03	
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>												
Canton	67	32	47	-1	8	29	+9	0.75	+0.05	3.15	+0.20	
Massena	66	33	47	-2	9	38	+14	1.69	+1.08	4.58	+1.85	
<u>Great Lakes</u>												
Buffalo	68	32	45	-6	6	68	+32	0.62	-0.08	4.44	+1.47	
Colden	67	30	43	-5	5	39	+18	0.67	-0.17	4.20	+0.31	
Niagara Falls	69	31	46	-5	7	59	+18	0.54	-0.16	4.03	+0.78	
Rochester	70	31	47	-5	11	58	+15	0.41	-0.22	4.14	+1.44	
Watertown	67	34	47	-2	7	38	+15	1.22	+0.60	5.23	+2.63	
<u>Central Lakes</u>												
Dansville	70	31	45	-6	4	52	+14	0.31	-0.35	3.50	+0.60	
Geneva	68	31	46	-5	8	58	+25	0.93	+0.23	5.45	+2.44	
Honeoye	69	29	46	-4	10	52	+18	0.44	-0.25	4.61	+1.57	
Ithaca	68	29	46	-3	10	47	+21	0.24	-0.46	4.67	+1.66	
Penn Yan	69	32	47	-3	14	74	+41	0.51	-0.19	5.10	+2.09	
Syracuse	72	32	49	-2	18	88	+47	0.87	+0.10	5.78	+2.34	
Warsaw	63	28	41	-6	2	33	+17	0.45	-0.32	5.25	+1.77	
<u>Western Plateau</u>												
Alfred	68	29	44	-5	5	41	+21	0.57	-0.13	4.03	+0.83	
Elmira	70	24	47	-4	14	62	+32	0.24	-0.42	3.92	+1.14	
Franklinville	67	25	41	-6	2	20	+9	0.80	+0.03	4.47	+1.08	
Sinclairville	66	30	43	-5	4	41	+22	0.79	-0.11	4.02	+0.07	
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>												
Binghamton	65	30	46	-4	7	71	+44	0.50	-0.27	4.39	+1.15	
Cobleskill	67	32	48	-2	8	38	+15	0.65	-0.12	3.85	+0.45	
Morrisville	68	30	44	-4	5	40	+21	0.72	-0.05	5.09	+1.89	
Norwich	68	31	45	-5	2	38	+14	0.58	-0.25	4.43	+0.95	
Oneonta	72	32	48	+2	6	47	+28	0.68	-0.21	4.93	+1.32	
<u>Coastal</u>												
Bridgehamton	64	39	51	+2	16	54	+29	1.55	+0.64	4.96	+0.86	
New York	67	41	55	-2	37	167	+73	1.20	+0.29	4.63	+0.71	

^{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.