



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

Fact Finders for Agriculture
10B Airline Drive
Albany, New York 12235
(518) 457-5570
www.nass.usda.gov/ny/

WEATHER AND CROPS

USDA, Agricultural Statistics Service, NY Field Office, N.Y. Dept. of Agriculture and Markets, Division of Statistics
Cooperating with

U.S. Dept. of Commerce, NOAA National Weather Service and Cornell Cooperative Extension

Released, May 22, 2006

Week Ending, May 21, 2006

No. 977-05-06

WEATHER: A large cut off low pressure system kept the state cool and wet. Western areas had less precipitation. Since January 1st, most of the eastern third of the state has had above normal precipitation, while the western two thirds remain below normal. Average temperatures for the week at the higher elevation stations were below 50 degrees.

CROPS: Cool, wet weather slowed spring fieldwork and planting. Less than ideal conditions provided 2.8 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated 5 percent short, 55 percent adequate, and 40 percent surplus. Oats were rated 11 percent fair, 67 percent good and 22 percent excellent. Winter wheat was rated 13 percent fair, 63 percent good and 24 percent excellent. Corn for grain was 73 percent planted compared to 72 percent last year. Oats were 96 percent planted compared to 92 percent last year. Potatoes were 55 percent planted compared to 54 percent last year. Soybeans were 29 percent planted compared to 37 percent a year ago. Following are comments from reporters across the state: Weather in Jefferson County brought to mind "cool wet May, barn full of hay." Corn emerged and eyes watched for a break in the weather to get haylage chopping. Some soybeans have gone in. Much needed rains kept many out of fields. The majority of St Lawrence County planted crops. Producers came in to the county office to report acreages. Weather was a mixture of sun and rain. Wet weather stopped fieldwork. It was wet, wet, wet in Clinton County, where 4" of rain fell in 10 days. In Niagara County, many dry areas received rain, some heavy, but cooler temperatures were recorded. Ontario County continued to be ahead of spring work with continued planting despite some damp cool conditions. Cool and wet conditions slowed further progress in planting. There was hail in Wayne County on May 21st. Rains spurred the growth of hay crops. Some have been busy with soybeans, but wet cool conditions slowed progress. There was rain in Wyoming County. In Cortland County, some much needed rain moved into the area, but temperatures were dropping. In Herkimer County, most moisture concerns were settled. Seedings were slow to come, but looked good in Madison County. In Oneida County, rains stopped field preparation and planting and put moisture back to about normal. In Albany County, extremely wet conditions continued, little fieldwork was accomplished. Haylage was ready to harvest but the fields were too wet. Corn was emerging but looked yellow due to cold temperatures and too much water. There was rain in Fulton and Montgomery Counties, and too much of it. Washington County received around 2" of rain. Corn planting and spraying were delayed. In Steuben County, a good soaking helped soil moisture quite a bit. Corn was coming up, but could use warmer temperatures other than in the 50's and low 60's. In Schuyler County, hail was reported on May 20th. In Delaware County, wet weather provided needed moisture to planted fields and pastures. Cool weather kept hay from maturing too fast, but grass hay was ready to cut in many areas. In Dutchess County, late planting of corn fell behind due to too much rain; between 2" to 4".

FRUIT: In addition to the frost damage grapes received on April 25 and April 26, a frost occurred on May 7th affecting many fruit trees and vineyards. Many farmers in various counties continue to determine vineyard damage from the frosts. In the Lake Ontario fruit region, apples in inland sites were at or were approaching petal fall. In Wayne County, some apple trees appeared to have sustained winter injury. Sweet cherries were at fruit set, and there was significant blooming in strawberries. In the Finger Lakes fruit region, most grape development consisted of 3 to 4 leaves visible and 3 to 5 inches in the shoot growth stage. There was very little winter bud injury and currently it seems that the Finger Lakes fruit region has escaped the frost injury. In the Lake Erie fruit region, growers were observing the extent of the frost damage in their vineyards. Frost damage was mostly scattered throughout Chautauqua County. Niagara County grape producers were also trying to assess the damage in their vineyards due to the frost. Damage was heavier in some spots than others, which will result in highly non-uniform blocks. Also, disease pressure was high due to persistent rainfall. The average shoot length on the Concord vines reported at the Vineyard Lab was at 9 inches as of May 15th. Shoots on Cabernet Sauvignon were approximately 1 to 3 inches and Riesling shoots were slightly ahead at about 2 to 5 inches. In the Southern part of the Lake Erie Belt, Concord shoots were 4.5 inches in length along the lake, with an average of 3.3 leaves per shoot. In the Long Island fruit region, thrips were detected in strawberry flowers. Grape vine development was slow due to the prolonged rainfall and cool weather. Farmers observed uneven growth particularly on spur pruned vines. Growers were hoping for some heat and sunshine in the forecast which will assist in aiding the vines.

VEGETABLE: Well, we wanted rain and we got it! While the moisture received was beneficial, there were still areas that were below normal in precipitation for the season. Even with the rain, progress in planting continued. Planting of onions in Orange County was complete with a few fields showing emergence. In the western part of the state, onion planting was completed on approximately 60 percent of acreage. Planting of sweet corn for fresh market was approximately 60 percent complete throughout the state. Early plantings of sweet corn for fresh market emerged with some plants 6" to 12" high. Planting of snap beans was approximately 50 percent complete, and cabbage was about 40 percent planted in the state. Early bloom is anticipated during the week of the 29th on green peas for processing that were planted early. Planting of carrots for processing was nearly complete, and emergence of early-planted processing beet, carrot, and sweet corn crops began.

LIVESTOCK: Pasture conditions showed good growth, with orchard grass starting to head out across the state. Much needed rain stopped fieldwork while hay improved due to the rain. Most pastured animals are enjoying the lush growth. Pasture condition estimates are 1 percent poor, 19 percent fair, 53 percent good and 27 percent excellent.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, May 21, 2006

Station	Temperature (°F)				Growing Degree Days Base 50°			Precipitation (Inches) ^{1/}				
	High	Low	Avg	Dep. from Norm	Week	Season ^{1/}	Dep. from Norm	Week	Dep. from Norm	Season	Dep. from Norm	
Hudson Valley												
Albany	74	37	54	-5	35	256	+85	1.36	+0.59	8.49	+3.25	
Glens Falls	73	42	54	-3	32	159	+29	1.44	+0.60	7.83	+2.43	
Poughkeepsie	77	43	56	-5	39	287	+83	2.61	+1.63	9.43	+3.01	
Mohawk Valley												
Utica	71	36	53	-5	29	191	+38	1.01	+0.17	4.66	-1.34	
Champlain Valley												
Plattsburgh	67	47	55	-2	37	191	+60	2.37	+1.74	6.34	+1.65	
St. Lawrence Valley												
Canton	72	44	55	0	38	175	+64	2.01	+1.35	5.52	+0.69	
Massena	66	44	56	-1	44	194	+68	2.42	+1.86	6.17	+1.84	
Great Lakes												
Buffalo	69	42	55	-3	37	274	+116	0.58	-0.12	3.55	-1.39	
Wales	66	40	51	-4	17	151	+38	0.86	+0.07	4.44	-1.71	
Niagara Falls	66	39	54	-4	34	217	+45	0.64	+0.01	3.67	-1.43	
Rochester	68	42	56	-3	42	247	+69	0.39	-0.24	3.77	-0.65	
Watertown	73	41	55	0	40	177	+62	1.11	+0.48	4.24	-0.06	
Central Lakes												
Dansville	67	40	53	-5	22	192	+30	0.53	-0.10	3.36	-1.34	
Geneva	66	39	53	-5	25	175	+24	0.46	-0.20	3.55	-1.31	
Honeoye	69	39	54	-4	28	190	+35	0.37	-0.26	2.35	-2.47	
Ithaca	66	37	52	-5	18	146	+17	0.48	-0.29	3.37	-1.71	
Penn Yan	66	41	53	-5	23	200	+49	0.43	-0.23	2.89	-1.97	
Syracuse	71	38	54	-5	34	236	+59	0.62	-0.10	5.72	+0.21	
Warsaw	63	38	50	-5	10	128	+30	0.94	+0.17	5.02	-0.66	
Western Plateau												
Angelica	66	36	50	-5	10	92	-5	0.58	-0.07	4.21	-0.43	
Elmira	69	37	51	-6	11	137	-6	0.89	+0.18	4.45	-0.32	
Franklinville	67	37	50	-3	13	92	+16	0.94	+0.17	5.03	-0.56	
Jamestown	68	39	52	-2	20	145	+45	0.92	+0.03	5.24	-1.05	
Eastern Plateau												
Binghamton	64	41	52	-6	16	185	+49	0.69	-0.08	4.22	-1.17	
Cobleskill	72	42	52	-4	23	128	+8	1.15	+0.31	6.66	+0.98	
Morrisville	65	38	50	-6	10	117	+5	0.58	-0.26	6.99	+1.47	
Norwich	71	36	53	-3	29	136	+12	0.91	+0.07	6.20	+0.34	
Oneonta	70	40	54	0	32	199	+93	0.76	-0.22	5.14	-1.23	
Coastal												
Bridgehamton	69	47	57	0	48	199	+66	1.11	+0.27	9.66	+3.08	
New York	74	53	61	-2	80	477	+176	2.90	+2.06	9.66	+3.25	

^{1/} Season accumulations are for April 1st to date. Weekly accumulations are through 7:00 AM Sunday Morning. R16May423

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.

FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. G-38
RALEIGH, NC 27601

NEW YORK AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS
SERVICE
Dept. of Agriculture & Markets
108 Airline Drive, Albany, N.Y. 12235-0001
OFFICIAL BUSINESS
Penalty for Private Use \$300
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED