



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

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Week Ending, September 3, 2006

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WEATHER: It was a mainly gray, cool and damp week across New York State with rainfall well above normal. A fast moving low pressure system brought over running rainfall to the region Sunday with the cold front becoming stationary over the Midwest and upper Mid-Atlantic States on Monday as a weak area of surface high pressure built in. The stationary front lifted north with another area of low pressure over portions of central New York, the lower Catskills, and the mid Hudson Valley where one to three inches fell. Cool Canadian high pressure settled in over the northeast with dry weather until Friday. The remnants of Ernesto brought another batch of rain to the region Friday night through Saturday. The heaviest rainfall occurred over the Niagara Frontier, Central New York, and the upslope regions of the Catskills where another one to three inches fell. Two and a half to five inches of rain was common across much of western and central New York, as well as the eastern Catskills and mid Hudson Valley. The North Country only received about a half inch of rainfall or less for the week. Temperatures were slightly below normal for the week. They were generally two to four degrees below normal. Some isolated frost occurred over the northern Adirondacks and the North Country in the middle of the week.

CROPS: Cool, damp conditions provided 4.0 days suitable for fieldwork. Topsoil moisture was rated as 6 percent short, 61 percent adequate and 33 percent surplus. Hay was in 3 percent poor condition, 24 percent fair, 54 percent good, and 19 percent excellent. Third cutting was 75 percent complete compared to 64 percent a year ago. Corn condition was 9 percent poor, 19 percent fair, 43 percent good, and 29 percent excellent. Oats were 94 percent harvested compared to last years 97 percent. Potatoes were 45 percent harvested, behind last years 49 percent. Silage corn harvest was just getting underway. Following are comments from reporters across the state: Corn silage harvest has begun in Jefferson County. Some short season corn is almost dry enough to combine. Initial reports show yields should be above average. Several producers were finishing haying before they start chopping corn. Still quite dry around St. Lawrence County, but crops are looking good. Corn has been tasseled quite a while now. The crop season is winding down. Some corn chopping is starting. Another great week for forage harvest, manure spreading and most any other field activity in Clinton County. Corn conditions remain variable in Franklin County. A late frost will be needed for some of it to reach maturity. Oat harvest was nearly complete. Corn silage harvest evaluations indicate silage harvest should begin the week of Labor Day in Wyoming County. Cortland was spared from the forecasted rainfall for Ernesto that had everyone worried about flooding. Some standing water was present in river bottom fields. Replanted corn reached waist high; more heat is needed to keep the crops growing, but it looks like summer has come to an abrupt end. More rainy cool weather for Madison County. Need more sunny days for the corn and hay production. The effects of Hurricane Ernesto dashed plans to harvest hay in Albany County. Fortunately not a lot of rain was received that could hamper corn harvest which is still off in the future a bit due to immature corn. The rainy weekend hurt all types of weather dependant businesses including farm stands and nursery operations. In Fulton and Montgomery Counties they continue to harvest hay. There were just a few farmers harvesting corn silage. Most growers were thinking another week to 10 days before beginning.

FRUIT: Apples were judged to be in 10 percent poor condition, 13 percent fair, 42 percent good, and 35 percent excellent. Grapes were 8 percent poor condition, 15 percent fair, 15 percent good and 62 percent excellent. Pears were 7 percent poor, 13 percent fair, 30 percent good, and 50 percent excellent. In the Lake Erie fruit region, Concord grapes were starting to gain sugar. Niagara harvest will begin around September 18th. In the Southern part of the Lake Erie Belt, Concord berries were about 9.7 brix, Niagara at 10.1, and Chardonnay at about 15-16 brix. Due to the wet weather, growers were scouting their vineyards for downy mildew. In the Finger Lakes fruit region, growers were busy inspecting vineyards for foliar mildews. This past week's weather provided favorable conditions for downy mildew leaf infections to occur. In the Hudson Valley fruit region, the apples were large in size and showed good color for early varieties. Vineyards on Long Island received extremely heavy rainfall from the remnants of Hurricane Ernesto. Currently, grape conditions are being assessed.

VEGETABLE: Rainy cool weather put a damper on farm stand activity and harvesting. Onion condition ranged from fair to excellent outside of Madison County where onion fields were still under water. Sweet corn was rated as mostly good to excellent. Tomatoes, cabbage and snap beans were in mostly good to excellent condition. Cucumbers were in mostly fair to good condition. Tomatoes were 54 percent harvested, below the five-year average of 64 percent. Sweet corn was 74 percent harvested, less than the 82 percent reported last year, but slightly above the 5-year average of 70 percent. Snap beans were 65 percent harvested, behind last year's 89 percent and the five-year average of 79 percent. Onion harvest continued with 65 percent of acreage harvested, below last year's 68 percent but above the five-year average of 58 percent. Cabbage was 35 percent harvested, below last year's 57 percent and the five-year average of 51 percent.

LIVESTOCK: Pastures were rated in 4 percent poor condition, 30 percent fair, 47 percent good, and 19 percent excellent. Timely rainfall helped improved pasture conditions from a week earlier.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, September 3, 2006

Station	Temperature (°F)				Growing Degree Days Base 50° ^{1/}			Precipitation (Inches) ^{1/}			
	High	Low	Avg	Dep. from Norm	Week	Season	Dep. from Norm	Week	Dep. from Norm	Season	Dep. from Norm
<u>Hudson Valley</u>											
Albany	79	50	64	-3	102	2412	+296	1.46	+0.69	26.00	+9.00
Glens Falls	76	41	61	-4	81	2015	+163	1.11	+0.30	25.83	+9.13
Poughkeepsie	80	54	64	-4	102	2513	+296	2.89	+2.05	27.51	+7.98
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>											
Utica	75	46	62	-4	82	2090	+165	1.88	+0.91	26.17	+6.81
<u>Champlain Valley</u>											
Plattsburgh	77	45	62	-2	86	2117	+239	0.29	-0.59	19.34	+3.06
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>											
Canton	78	37	61	-3	79	1973	+286	0.52	-0.46	14.43	-2.65
Massena	76	40	62	-1	89	2027	+254	0.44	-0.47	18.41	+2.79
<u>Great Lakes</u>											
Buffalo	79	51	64	-3	99	2411	+384	2.55	+1.61	16.94	-0.26
Wales	76	49	61	-4	78	1827	+175	2.85	+1.78	21.79	+2.11
Niagara Falls	79	50	64	-3	98	2303	+269	2.36	+1.43	16.65	+0.03
Rochester	79	50	65	-1	105	2450	+491	2.08	+1.31	20.02	+5.25
Watertown	78	39	64	0	96	2061	+347	1.36	+0.52	13.70	+0.23
<u>Central Lakes</u>											
Dansville	77	44	61	-5	80	2099	+126	3.09	+2.32	22.24	+6.13
Geneva	76	46	61	-5	81	2092	+135	3.20	+2.43	20.03	+4.03
Honeoye	77	39	61	-7	76	2077	+35	2.76	+1.99	17.44	+1.58
Ithaca	78	45	62	-4	83	1944	+170	3.30	+2.47	24.16	+6.92
Penn Yan	74	43	62	-5	83	2235	+278	3.17	+2.40	15.43	-0.57
Syracuse	75	47	63	-4	93	2334	+347	1.71	+0.86	25.59	+7.50
Warsaw	75	47	62	-1	84	1765	+235	3.99	+3.03	25.36	+6.51
<u>Western Plateau</u>											
Angelica	75	43	60	-3	71	1620	+110	4.25	+3.41	22.23	+4.25
Elmira	79	47	63	-2	95	1997	+122	4.64	+3.94	24.80	+8.43
Franklinville	77	42	59	-3	68	1664	+280	4.93	+3.97	22.00	+2.94
Jamestown	76	47	62	-1	89	1883	+327	3.60	+2.49	19.63	-1.54
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>											
Binghamton	77	49	61	-3	82	1996	+176	2.90	+2.13	29.02	+11.74
Cobleskill	77	44	61	-3	80	1907	+213	2.29	+1.45	26.60	+8.10
Morrisville	74	46	60	-3	73	1769	+155	2.38	+1.48	34.09	+15.69
Norwich	81	48	62	-2	87	1908	+212	4.07	+3.23	30.16	+11.82
Oneonta	82	50	64	+3	100	2179	+615	2.78	+1.94	29.66	+9.68
<u>Coastal</u>											
Bridgehamton	77	55	66	-3	111	2391	+328	4.94	+4.10	30.48	+12.29
New York	79	62	69	-4	136	3294	+540	1.98	+1.14	29.34	+9.98

^{1/} Season accumulations are for April 1st to date. Weekly accumulations are through 7:00 AM Sunday Morning. R34Sept417

The information contained in this weekly release is obtained from reports from Cornell Cooperative Extension agents, IUSDA 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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