



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, October 8, 2006

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WEATHER: The first week of October started out wet with a low pressure system that moved north of the St. Lawrence River Valley. Its associated occluded front moved through the region with some wet weather. High pressure briefly built in on Monday with dry weather that lasted into Tuesday. Another cold front brought scattered showers and even a few thunderstorms over southern New York and Long Island on Wednesday. A cool air mass descended on New York from the upper Great Lakes region and Ontario on Thursday and that ridge of high pressure has kept it dry through Saturday. There were widespread frosts and freezes across New York State Friday and Saturday nights. Freezes generally occurred north and west of the Capital District that ended the growing season. Precipitation was near normal to slightly above normal across eastern New York and Long Island. Rainfall was slightly below normal over central and western New York. Temperatures were near normal to slightly below normal for the week.

CROPS: There were 4.6 days suitable for fieldwork. Topsoil moisture was rated 60 percent adequate and 40 percent surplus. Corn condition was reported as 12 percent poor, 23 percent fair, 52 percent good, and 13 percent excellent. Potato harvest was 70 percent complete compared with 69 percent last year. Soybeans were 7 percent harvested. Silage corn harvest reached 71 percent complete behind last years 87 percent. Grain corn harvest was 6 percent complete compared with 19 percent last year. Dry beans were 7 percent harvested, behind last years 25 percent. Following are comments from reporters across the state: In Clinton County producers were winding up corn harvest, spreading manure, fall tillage dominates field activities. Finally some days in a row of sunshine in Ontario County to assist with the fall harvest. Soybeans started to be combined and corn continues to be harvested and some hay was actually baled. Hard frost hit parts of Cortland County while fog protected other areas. Grain corn harvest started as silage continues. Lots of hay was cut in Madison County while the weather was dry. Corn harvest proceeded along and yields vary depending on soils. Best week of the year for fieldwork in Otsego County. In Montgomery and Fulton Counties corn silage was being harvested with some farmers finished. A lot of hay has been cut hoping to make the last dry hay of the season. The growing season is over in most parts of the counties with the killing frost over the weekend. First light frost in Saratoga County. Excellent weather for hay harvest, both dry and haylage. Most producers were finishing up or done with corn silage harvest. No reports of grain corn harvest. Producers using this time to spread and incorporate manure, harvest 3rd or 4th cutting haylage and complete other fall cropping maintenance chores.

FRUIT: Apples were judged to be in 5 percent poor condition, 30 percent fair, 58 percent good, and 7 percent excellent. Apple harvest reached 64 percent finished compared to 57 percent last year and 68 percent for the average. Grapes were 18 percent poor condition, 38 percent fair, 26 percent good and 18 percent excellent. Grape harvest reached 42 percent finished compared to 66 percent last year and 64 percent for the average. In the Lake Ontario fruit region, recent sunshine aided in grape harvesting. In the Lake Erie fruit region, sugar levels were increasing in Concords, but field conditions were very sloppy. A major factor in the low sugar levels was the lack of heat since veraison. In the Southern part of the Lake Erie Grape Belt, Concord brix levels were 14.1, (virtually unchanged from last week). Farmers sustained close to 5 inches of rain during late September and look forward to drier weather. Apple harvest was going very well in Madison County. Due to summer like weather conditions this past weekend, pick your own apple orchards were extremely busy. In the Finger Lakes fruit region, grape harvest proceeded slowly. Concord harvest continued. Most varieties were 7 to 10 days later than usual. Overall, grape harvest in the Finger Lakes was about 33 to 50 percent completed.

VEGETABLE: A somewhat drier week allowed harvest of fall vegetables to progress. With the warm and dry weekend, farm stands were hosting record numbers of customers. Pumpkins were being sold at all farm stands, though producers were reporting a somewhat lighter crop than last year. Lettuce, sweet corn, tomatoes, cucumbers and snap bean condition were all reported as fair to good. Onion condition was reported to be 32 percent poor, 52 percent fair, and 17 percent good. Sweet corn acreage was 98 percent harvested, slightly below last year's harvested amount but equal to the 5-year average. Snap beans acreage was close to 100 percent harvested. Cabbage harvest was almost 85 percent complete, slightly below last year's figure of 90 percent but higher than the 5-year average of 83 percent. Onion acreage was reported to be 85 percent harvested with Madison County reporting that harvest of onion acreage was going slowly due to the field conditions.

LIVESTOCK: Pastures were rated as 6 percent very poor condition, 18 percent poor, 27 percent fair, 37 percent good, and 12 percent excellent. Conditions remained comparable to the previous week. Cooler temperatures have slowed pasture growth and encouraged supplemental feeding for livestock on pasture.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, October 8, 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	75	33	54	-1	31	2779	+325	1.01	+0.38	30.59	+10.25
Glens Falls	69	28	51	-2	23	2274	+154	0.92	+0.29	29.12	+8.93
Poughkeepsie	76	39	56	+1	40	2901	+310	0.84	+0.14	34.50	+11.13
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>											
Utica	67	33	52	-2	27	2400	+168	0.61	-0.19	29.13	+4.94
<u>Champlain Valley</u>											
Plattsburgh	71	30	51	-2	20	2416	+269	0.32	-0.25	20.53	+0.85
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>											
Canton	69	28	52	+2	24	2232	+301	0.67	-0.10	20.04	-1.35
Massena	68	29	50	-2	18	2288	+274	0.17	-0.48	21.36	+1.89
<u>Great Lakes</u>											
Buffalo	69	37	54	-2	35	2758	+370	0.90	+0.20	23.34	+2.24
Wales	67	33	49	-4	10	2062	+135	0.92	+0.05	26.41	+1.55
Niagara Falls	68	35	54	-2	34	2645	+252	1.14	+0.49	21.29	+0.66
Rochester	71	36	55	+1	41	2855	+536	0.73	+0.17	24.99	+6.94
Watertown	71	29	51	-1	24	2355	+365	1.17	+0.54	18.72	+1.63
<u>Central Lakes</u>											
Dansville	70	34	53	-2	28	2411	+89	0.98	+0.34	26.61	+6.73
Geneva	71	35	52	-2	26	2388	+91	0.25	-0.43	25.37	+5.70
Honeoye	71	33	51	-5	22	2365	-58	0.45	-0.22	22.10	+2.64
Ithaca	68	29	51	-3	21	2223	+152	0.71	-0.06	26.37	+5.08
Penn Yan	68	34	54	-1	34	2580	+283	0.60	-0.08	18.98	-0.69
Syracuse	70	33	53	-3	30	2700	+363	0.25	-0.52	28.89	+6.50
Warsaw	65	34	49	-3	12	1972	+209	0.92	+0.14	30.97	+7.63
<u>Western Plateau</u>											
Angelica	65	30	49	-3	10	1811	+71	1.00	+0.29	26.82	+4.85
Elmira	70	32	52	-2	25	2295	+109	0.40	-0.23	26.72	+6.84
Franklinville	68	30	49	-2	13	1884	+287	1.04	+0.20	27.51	+3.88
Jamestown	69	33	52	0	18	2149	+339	0.83	-0.10	24.94	-1.50
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>											
Binghamton	71	36	53	+0	28	2270	+160	0.43	-0.24	32.71	+11.67
Cobleskill	73	30	51	-2	24	2155	+192	0.74	+0.02	30.19	+7.50
Morrisville	64	32	50	-2	16	1979	+115	0.47	-0.33	37.88	+14.99
Norwich	68	31	51	-1	19	2153	+192	0.52	-0.24	34.94	+12.35
Oneonta	74	32	54	+3	30	2483	+688	0.72	-0.05	34.24	+10.19
<u>Coastal</u>											
Bridgehamton	74	43	58	+2	61	2825	+328	0.44	-0.27	38.63	+16.52
New York	84	53	65	+4	103	3943	+617	0.84	+0.16	31.92	+8.75

^{1/} Season accumulations are for April 1st to date. Weekly accumulations are through 7:00 AM Sunday Morning. R43Oct417

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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