



WEATHER AND CROPS

April 30, 2007

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

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This is the first edition of the New York “Weather and Crops” for the 2007 season. To reduce costs, we will discontinue mailing our Weekly Weather and Crop Report. You may subscribe to our free email releases through our website. The New York Field Office looks forward to working with the Agricultural Weather Information Service, National Weather Service personnel, Agricultural Extension agents, USDA Farm Service Agency agents, and independent volunteer observers who collectively make this report possible.

WEATHER: The week began with warm, dry weather as temperatures climbed well into the 80’s on Monday. Monday night, as a strong cold front tracked through the region, severe thunderstorms tracked through western and central New York, with wind damage reported around Syracuse and Utica. Tuesday through Saturday, the region was stuck in an unsettled pattern as waves of low pressure tracked along the old cold front that stalled just south of our region. On Wednesday and Wednesday night, between a tenth and half inch of rain fell over much of New York. On Friday morning parts of southern New York received over 1 inch of rain, locally over 2 inches. Friday afternoon through Saturday, weak low pressure brought another few hundredths to a quarter of an inch of rain to the state. Snowmelt was another issue during the week, as runoff from snowmelt caused flooding in the Adirondacks, Lake George, Saratoga and northern Taconics regions. Growing Degree Day totals since April 1st were above normal in all areas of the state. Departures from normal ranged from +3 to +37. Rainfall totals for the season were also above normal across the state.

CROPS: Cool, wet spring weather hindered early spring plantings. The dry weather in the early part of the week allowed farmers to spread manure and prepare their fields, but rain quickly moved into the region before any significant acreage could be planted. The rain and wet conditions only allowed 2.8 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was 37 percent adequate; 63 percent surplus. The following are comments throughout the state: Field work took place on some farms in Jefferson County. Some fields around St. Lawrence County were prepared. The moist conditions prevented almost any field activity in Clinton County. Rain showers delayed spring planting in Ontario County. Oneida County experienced warm weather in the early part of the week which allowed for some farmers to sneak in oat plantings, new seedlings and a minimal amount of corn acres. Otsego County had some seedlings and small grains go in. The first corn and oats were planted in Montgomery County.

FRUIT: Across the State, growers were finishing fertilizer applications on apples. In the Lake Ontario fruit region, rain showers fell resulting in scab infections. Bud stage quickly progressed in this region. Many varieties inland were at least ½ inch green approaching tight cluster. Sweet cherries and peaches were susceptible to brown rot blossom blight at this time. Sweet cherries were between budburst and early white bud depending on location and variety. Tart cherries were between swollen bud and budburst. Peaches were between swollen bud to ½ inch green, with an occasional pink bud observed in some varieties and locations. In the Lake Erie Grape Region, as of April 18th, accumulated precipitation was 1.13 inches. Bud break is expected to occur sometime next week. Grape growers were still tying and pruning. In the Long Island grape region, Chardonnay grapes were on the verge of bud break, despite the overcast, rainy weather received this past weekend.

VEGETABLE: The wet and cool spring has delayed planting of summer crops. Onion producers in Orange County began to recover from the flooding rains a few weeks ago, and onion planting was progressing slowly. In the western section of the state, some farmers were still waiting for wet fields to dry out. Onion acreage planted was below the five-year average of 26 percent. Sweet corn planting began under plastic across the state. Approximately 5 percent of sweet corn acreage was planted, compared to a five-year average of 12 percent. Planting of snap beans and cabbage progressed very slowly. Strawberry fields in Long Island looked good and were covered with straw.

LIVESTOCK: Pasture condition was rated 7 percent excellent, 41 percent good, 27 percent fair, and 14 percent poor and 11 percent very poor. Pastures were wet, but starting to grow with the occasional sunshine and warmer temperatures. Animals started to appear on pastures as soils began to dry.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, April 29, 2007

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	87	32	56	+6	51	62	+32	0.40	-0.30	5.90	+3.01	
Glens Falls	85	29	54	+6	36	39	+21	0.11	-0.61	4.52	+1.65	
Poughkeepsie	84	30	54	+7	39	48	+28	0.34	-0.34	3.99	+1.29	
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>												
Boonville	76	28	47	+3	12	17	+3	0.72	-0.33	4.96	+0.48	
<u>Champlain Valley</u>												
Plattsburgh	82	35	55	+7	45	61	+34	1.10	+0.40	3.14	+0.33	
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>												
Canton	76	39	52	+4	32	46	+17	0.91	+0.21	2.94	+0.17	
Massena	78	31	50	+4	23	28	+13	1.34	+0.57	4.95	+1.97	
<u>Great Lakes</u>												
Buffalo	79	32	53	+6	37	51	+30	0.74	-0.03	2.59	-0.43	
Wales	79	38	51	+5	25	29	+13	1.14	+0.29	3.58	-0.07	
Niagara Falls	79	34	51	+6	24	34	+19	1.11	+0.20	4.38	+0.68	
Rochester	89	39	59	+8	61	72	+28	0.84	-0.04	8.09	+4.73	
Watertown	81	33	53	+6	34	40	+22	0.92	+0.29	1.81	-0.62	
<u>Central Lakes</u>												
Dansville	82	38	54	+5	36	41	+10	0.93	+0.25	2.84	+0.12	
Geneva	82	33	52	+4	31	39	+12	1.05	+0.35	3.29	+0.48	
Honeoye	83	37	54	+6	40	51	+23	1.08	+0.38	3.69	+0.84	
Ithaca	77	39	53	+3	30	42	+9	0.88	+0.17	3.12	+0.07	
Penn Yan	84	32	53	+7	34	42	+27	0.79	-0.08	5.52	+2.17	
Syracuse	84	33	55	+6	44	54	+21	1.16	+0.39	4.33	+1.11	
Warsaw	76	36	49	+4	22	27	+15	1.14	+0.36	4.20	+0.94	
<u>Western Plateau</u>												
Angelica	78	30	49	+4	17	19	+8	1.13	+0.50	3.40	+0.72	
Elmira	82	32	54	+6	40	52	+28	0.63	-0.02	1.96	-0.63	
Franklinville	77	35	50	+6	20	20	+12	1.07	+0.30	3.66	+0.49	
Jamestown	79	34	51	+6	24	34	+19	1.11	+0.20	4.38	+0.68	
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>												
Binghamton	74	37	55	+6	40	48	+29	1.23	+0.32	6.69	+2.85	
Cobleskill	79	33	53	+7	29	39	+23	0.67	-0.03	3.21	+0.46	
Morrisville	85	48	62	+8	86	118	+37	1.93	+1.02	11.78	+8.12	
Norwich	80	30	53	+6	33	42	+24	0.61	-0.02	3.14	+0.57	
Oneonta	81	31	50	+4	20	23	+5	0.81	-0.03	4.39	+1.14	
<u>Coastal</u>												
Bridgehamton	76	28	47	+3	12	17	+3	0.72	-0.33	4.96	+0.48	
New York	81	32	52	+5	33	37	+17	0.94	+0.24	3.45	+0.64	

^{1/} Season accumulations are for April 1st to date. Weekly accumulations are through 7:00 AM Sunday Morning. R6April200

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.

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