



WEATHER AND CROPS

October 22, 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 last edition of the New York “Weather and Crops” for the 2007 season. The New York Field Office gratefully acknowledges the weekly cooperation of the Agricultural Weather Information Service, Inc., National Weather Service personnel, Agricultural Extension agents, FSA representatives, and independent volunteer observers who collectively make this report possible.

WEATHER: We began the period with high pressure controlling our weather resulting in dry conditions through Thursday night. A frontal system tracked through late Friday and Friday night, producing over an inch of rain in central New York and a third to three quarters of an inch in western and southern areas. High pressure and dry conditions returned for Saturday. Temperatures were generally near normal in all areas during the middle part of the week, then trended above normal by Thursday and Friday becoming well above normal during the weekend.

CROPS: There were 5.6 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated as 6 percent very short, 31 percent short, 60 percent adequate, and 3 percent surplus. Hay condition was rated as 22 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 42 percent good, and 7 percent excellent. Corn condition was rated as 6 percent poor, 24 percent fair, 48 percent good, and 22 percent excellent. Corn for silage was 96 percent harvested compared to 90 percent last year and the five year average of 90 percent. Thirty-two percent of corn for grain was harvested ahead of 24 percent from last year and the five year average of 24 percent. Dry beans were 65 percent harvested behind last year’s 66 percent and the five year average of 71 percent. Forty-six percent of the soybeans were harvested compared to 36 percent from last year and the five year average of 39 percent. The following are comments from across the state: In Montgomery and Fulton Counties there was still some dry hay being harvested with the summer like weather and the combining of corn had been slowed due to there not having been a killing frost yet to help it dry down. Corn and soybeans continued to be harvested in Jefferson County. Soybean yields were poor due to lack of rainfall causing the beans not to develop. Corn silage and high moisture yields were average. The harvest season in St. Lawrence County looks like it has come to an end with almost all of the corn either being put up or being fed directly to the cattle. Corn and soybean harvest continued throughout Ontario County. Dry weather conditions allowed for the harvest of 2007 crops and the planting of 2008 winter wheat. Corn harvest slowed down in Madison County due to the rainy weather. Alfalfa continues to grow in Onondaga County for possibly another post-frost cutting. In Albany County the corn harvest was going well due to good field conditions.

FRUIT: Apples were judged to be in 6 percent poor condition, 11 percent fair, 58 percent good, and 25 percent excellent. Harvest reached 79 percent finished compared to 85 percent last year and 82 percent for the average. Grapes were 3 percent poor condition, 11 percent fair, 66 percent good and 20 percent excellent. Harvest reached 88 percent finished compared to 80 percent last year and 85 percent for the average. Across the state, Concord and Catawba grape harvest was winding down. In the Lake Erie fruit region, Concord harvest continued moving smoothly due to the favorable weather conditions. Virtually all wine grapes were harvested except some late season reds like Cabernet Sauvignon for ice wine production. Apple harvest also continued throughout Ontario County. In the Finger Lakes fruit region, Concord and Catawba grape harvest was wrapping up too. Cabernet Franc, Merlot, and Cabernet Sauvignon were still hanging in the vineyards, but growers anticipated that these varieties will be picked within the next week or so. In Albany County, many people picked apples which kept farm stands and u-pick farm operations very busy. In the Long Island fruit region, Merlot harvest began this week with high sugars. Many blocks of Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon will continue to hang until late October early November. Vineyard harvest for white varieties was virtually completed. The warm dry fall assisted in promoting good fruit quality and kept growers optimistic about wine quality.

VEGETABLE: Weather continued to be warmer than normal. Farmstands were busy selling pumpkins and other fall vegetables. Harvest was virtually complete on all fall vegetables, with the exception of cabbage. Cabbage harvest was 94 percent complete, slightly ahead of the five year average of 93 percent. Condition of cabbage was rated 14 percent poor, 20 percent fair, 38 percent good and 28 percent excellent.

LIVESTOCK: Pasture conditions across much of the state were estimated to be in fair condition. Pasture conditions were rated as 15 percent very poor, 19 percent poor, 34 percent fair, 30 percent good, and 2 percent excellent. Livestock producers in Jefferson and Lewis counties are hauling water to cattle due to dry conditions.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, October 21, 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	76	40	58	+9	54	2978	+483	1.07	+0.44	28.04	+6.53	
Glens Falls	75	29	52	+6	35	2393	+248	0.97	+0.34	21.32	-0.04	
Poughkeepsie	74	41	58	+9	60	3196	+558	1.09	+0.40	29.73	+5.11	
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>												
Boonville	67	33	52	+7	24	1964	+294	2.32	+1.34	27.06	-3.91	
<u>Champlain Valley</u>												
Plattsburgh	73	30	53	+7	36	2276	+102	1.17	+0.61	22.23	+1.51	
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>												
Canton	81	33	53	+8	39	2337	+381	2.00	+1.30	25.00	+2.30	
Massena	81	30	53	+7	37	2350	+311	1.49	+0.87	21.01	+0.38	
<u>Great Lakes</u>												
Buffalo	76	43	60	+10	70	3089	+651	0.76	+0.06	15.15	-7.19	
Wales	73	40	55	+8	41	2332	+371	0.20	-0.62	17.35	-9.05	
Niagara Falls	75	41	59	+9	65	2960	+516	0.13	-0.48	14.48	-7.29	
Rochester	74	45	59	+10	63	3063	+694	0.20	-0.33	13.22	-5.82	
Watertown	79	27	56	+9	54	2502	+479	0.56	-0.04	13.64	-4.56	
<u>Central Lakes</u>												
Dansville	76	41	57	+8	50	2724	+352	0.13	-0.43	15.50	-5.45	
Geneva	73	40	56	+8	43	2736	+395	0.62	-0.01	16.10	-4.74	
Honeoye	75	39	57	+7	50	2572	+95	0.05	-0.58	19.05	-1.58	
Ithaca	73	40	56	+8	44	2498	+389	0.65	-0.06	21.22	-1.44	
Penn Yan	74	44	58	+9	56	2991	+650	0.50	-0.13	16.03	-4.81	
Syracuse	74	38	58	+9	60	2963	+576	0.39	-0.31	19.48	-4.21	
Warsaw	73	38	54	+8	36	2327	+537	0.22	-0.49	19.46	-5.24	
<u>Western Plateau</u>												
Angelica	72	36	54	+8	31	1992	+223	0.31	-0.32	19.18	-4.01	
Elmira	75	35	56	+9	47	2633	+408	0.51	-0.12	18.70	-2.35	
Franklinville	74	36	54	+10	36	2101	+479	0.16	-0.64	18.93	-6.22	
Jamestown	74	37	57	+11	51	2363	+524	0.20	-0.69	22.72	-5.51	
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>												
Binghamton	72	45	57	+10	53	2735	+592	1.16	+0.53	23.09	+0.88	
Cobleskill	73	34	52	+5	29	2240	+247	0.57	-0.06	27.47	+3.55	
Morrisville	69	37	53	+7	33	2235	+345	1.27	+0.54	25.42	+1.14	
Norwich	73	39	55	+9	41	2345	+357	1.14	+0.44	26.81	+2.92	
Oneonta	76	40	57	+11	50	2835	+1012	1.16	+0.41	26.77	+1.32	
<u>Coastal</u>												
Bridgehamton	74	40	59	+7	69	3054	+489	1.65	+0.89	21.78	-1.69	
New York	79	53	66	+11	117	4251	+823	0.64	-0.02	35.56	+11.19	

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

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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