



# WEATHER AND CROPS

## April 28, 2008

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Week Ending, April 27, 2008

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**This is the first edition of the New York “Weather and Crops” for the 2008 season. 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:** For the second week in a row it was a very warm week with dry weather continuing from Sunday into Wednesday as high pressure over the Canadian Maritimes controlled the weather across the state. Showers and a few thunderstorms occurred across western and central New York ahead of a cold front which swept across the state Wednesday afternoon into Wednesday evening. High pressure from the Ohio Valley moved into the state on Thursday into Friday bringing more dry weather. Light rain fell across parts of the state Friday night ahead of a warm front with more widespread rain due to some showers and thunderstorms ahead of a cold front Saturday afternoon into Saturday evening. Some of the thunderstorms over western New York Saturday afternoon produced large hail, damaging winds and heavy downpours. Temperatures for the week averaged 10 to 15 degrees above normal in most areas, with many locations reaching 80 degrees or higher at least once during the week. Despite the dry conditions continuing in many areas, melting snow continued to produce flooding on several rivers that flow out of the Adirondacks.

**CROPS:** Dry, warm spring weather accelerated early spring plantings. Ideal weather most of the week allowed farmers to spread manure and prepare fields, as rain moved into the region over the weekend. The dry conditions allowed 6.6 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated 21 percent short, 73 percent adequate, and 6 percent surplus. Condition of winter wheat was rated as 12 percent fair, 68 percent good, and 20 percent excellent. Corn planting was 5 percent completed. Fifty-three percent of the oats were planted. Potatoes were 22 percent planted. The following are comments throughout the state: In Jefferson County a good week for fieldwork allowed hay seedings and some corn to be planted, but for the most part farmers were busy doing spring tillage and emptying manure pits. The wheat was making rapid growth in Niagara County. Unseasonably warm weather allowed the producers in Ontario County to prepare their fields and start planting some corn. Chenango County reported that the soil moisture was very low. The corn fields were prepped and some fields were planted in Madison County in addition to almost all of the oats being done. Washington and Saratoga Counties had a week of dry, warm weather which enabled farmers to put in oats and new hay seedings and start planting field corn. Some corn was planted in Delaware County on the warmer valley soils. Sullivan County was still experiencing the region wide burn ban as conditions remained dry. Cortland County experienced the best spring for fieldwork that can be remembered in recent years.

**FRUIT:** Apples were at 65 percent half-inch green to pink stage of development; 30 percent full bloom. Peaches were at 59 percent half-inch green to pink; 50 percent full bloom. Pears were at 55 percent half-inch green to pink; 50 percent full bloom. Sweet cherries were at 93 percent green tip or earlier; 55 percent half-inch green to pink; and 50 percent full bloom. In the Lake Ontario fruit region, lack of rainfall prevented brown rot and apple scab, while traps were being hung for Oriental fruit moth. Inland sites saw apricots, plums, and sweet cherries in bloom. Pears were approaching white bud, while most apple varieties were in tight cluster. Orchards closer to the lake were about 2-3 days behind inland sites, with apples between ½ inch and tight cluster, sweet cherries at white bud, and tart cherries at budburst. The Finger Lakes vineyards were out of dormancy. Several varieties shed their bud scales, with some varieties showing pink. Many growers applied their early season pre-emergent and some post-emergent herbicides. In the Long Island grape region, early bud break on Chardonnay grapes occurred on April 24<sup>th</sup>.

**VEGETABLE:** Dry conditions most of the week kept the fields busy with plowing, disking, and seeding. The warm weather brought planting percentages up across the board. Sweet corn jumped up to 16 percent planted from 6 percent the previous week. Onions were up to 22 percent with Orange County nearly 50 percent planted. Snap beans and cabbage were at 4 percent.

**LIVESTOCK:** Pastures were turning green and late week precipitation improved pasture growth across the state. Livestock began to move back onto pasture as growth allows. Pasture conditions across the state were estimated to be in good condition. Pasture conditions were rated 12 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 46 percent good, and 13 percent excellent. A light shower in the middle of the week helped to green up the pastures in Franklin County. In Erie County the spring pastures looked lush.

**Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, April 27, 2008**

Station	Temperature (°F)				Growing Degree Days Base 50° <sup>1/</sup>			Precipitation (Inches) <sup>1/</sup>				
	High	Low	Avg	Dep. from Norm	Week	Season	Dep. from Norm	Week	Dep. from Norm	Season	Dep. from Norm	
<b><u>Hudson Valley</u></b>												
Albany	80	39	62	+13	88	149	+122	0.05	-0.65	1.67	-1.03	
Glens Falls	80	32	59	+12	69	100	+84	0.08	-0.63	1.77	-0.89	
Poughkeepsie	85	39	62	+12	88	172	+132	0.04	-0.83	2.56	-0.56	
<b><u>Mohawk Valley</u></b>												
Boonville	74	36	57	+14	53	85	+73	0.64	-0.41	3.19	-0.99	
<b><u>Champlain Valley</u></b>												
Plattsburgh	78	33	58	+12	61	80	+62	0.08	-0.61	1.68	-0.85	
<b><u>St. Lawrence Valley</u></b>												
Canton	82	35	61	+16	81	113	+99	0.33	-0.37	1.89	-0.68	
Massena	80	35	59	+13	66	92	+76	0.17	-0.46	1.39	-1.01	
<b><u>Great Lakes</u></b>												
Buffalo	79	41	63	+15	95	175	+149	0.01	-0.69	1.57	-1.01	
Wales	80	34	58	+12	56	106	+92	0.07	-0.79	1.47	-1.94	
Niagara Falls	77	36	61	+12	78	138	+108	0.02	-0.70	1.30	-1.55	
Rochester	85	42	63	+14	92	174	+143	0.37	-0.26	1.73	-0.62	
Watertown	82	32	60	+14	71	110	+94	0.89	+0.26	2.79	+0.53	
<b><u>Central Lakes</u></b>												
Dansville	81	36	59	+11	67	131	+103	0.49	-0.20	1.17	-1.38	
Geneva	81	40	60	+12	71	120	+96	1.23	+0.53	2.33	-0.30	
Honeoye	84	35	61	+13	76	124	+99	0.04	-0.66	1.25	-1.41	
Ithaca	80	35	59	+13	65	109	+91	1.35	+0.65	2.23	-0.39	
Penn Yan	84	40	61	+13	81	148	+124	0.88	+0.18	1.58	-1.05	
Syracuse	84	38	63	+14	90	160	+131	1.30	+0.53	2.69	-0.31	
Warsaw	80	44	59	+15	68	113	+103	0.14	-0.65	1.43	-1.62	
<b><u>Western Plateau</u></b>												
Angelica	84	31	55	+10	35	69	+60	0.30	-0.34	1.47	-1.04	
Elmira	82	33	58	+10	57	108	+87	1.31	+0.67	2.39	-0.02	
Franklinville	82	31	55	+11	35	68	+61	0.35	-0.42	1.77	-1.19	
Jamestown	80	30	57	+12	51	93	+80	0.42	-0.49	1.61	-1.84	
<b><u>Eastern Plateau</u></b>												
Binghamton	76	42	61	+13	76	137	+119	0.39	-0.38	2.03	-0.78	
Cobleskill	78	34	57	+11	53	88	+72	0.00	-0.77	1.58	-1.39	
Morrisville	76	41	58	+12	59	96	+83	0.55	-0.22	2.33	-0.45	
Norwich	78	34	57	+10	47	78	+62	0.20	-0.64	1.34	-1.69	
Oneonta	82	36	59	+14	63	112	+99	0.33	-0.53	1.88	-1.24	
<b><u>Coastal</u></b>												
Bridgehamton	75	38	55	+6	37	66	+49	0.00	-0.91	1.56	-2.02	
New York	77	47	60	+6	71	162	+88	0.03	-0.88	1.78	-1.63	

<sup>1/</sup> Season accumulations are for April 1<sup>st</sup> 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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