



WEATHER AND CROPS

May 5, 2008

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

Released, May 5, 2008

Week Ending, May 4, 2008

No. 977-02-08

WEATHER: It was a cool and wet week across upstate New York with temperatures below normal and precipitation generally above normal. A low pressure system using Gulf and Atlantic moisture brought a much needed moderate to heavy rainfall to central and eastern New York Monday into Tuesday. Some locations received one to one and a half inches of rainfall. A cool Canadian air mass brought dry and unseasonably cold weather to the region Wednesday and Thursday mornings. Record cold occurred Thursday morning with a widespread freeze where the growing season began in the Finger Lake Region, Mohawk, and Hudson River Valleys. Unsettled weather returned Thursday night through Saturday with scattered showers associated with a warm front. Cloudy and cool conditions persisted into the weekend with maximum temperatures close to 10 degrees below normal. Aside from Long Island, most locations fell below 32 degrees during the week.

CROPS: Cool, wet spring weather slowed farmers continuing their field preparation. Frost was reported in several counties across the state. Scattered showers throughout the state only allowed 3.9 days of suitable fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated 3 percent short, 79 percent adequate, and 18 percent surplus. Winter wheat condition was 12 percent fair, 73 percent good, and 15 percent excellent. Corn planting reached 14 percent compared to 8 percent last year and a five year average of 13 percent. Oat planting had reached 72 percent completed compared with 34 percent completion last year and 54 percent for the five year average. Potatoes were 42 percent planted compared with 23 percent at the same time last year and 24 percent for the five year average. The following are comments from reporters from across the state: Lewis County was cool all week with frost occurring Tuesday and Wednesday. Planting was underway in St. Lawrence County. Field preparation continued in Cortland County as farmers waited for the right time to begin planting corn. Corn planting was ahead for the season in Albany County. Montgomery and Fulton Counties had the planting come to a stop last week but plowing was still underway as farmers waited for a date to plant. Field work and planting continued at a rapid pace in Dutchess County. Rain halted the work in both Ontario and Niagara Counties.

FRUIT: Apples were at 20 percent petal fall, ahead of the 6 percent average progress. Peaches, pears, and cherries were at 60 percent full bloom, well ahead of normal. In the Lake Ontario fruit region, apples were in the midst of a potentially severe scab infection. Across the state, cold weather affected the fruit crop. Monroe County experienced cold weather that affected the cherries and peaches. Frost in the latter part of the week caused potential damage to fruit trees, grapes, and strawberries in Ontario County, while Albany County suffered severe damage to apples, pears, plums, and possibly strawberries. In the Finger Lakes vineyards, many grape varieties were 10-14 days ahead of average development and bud injury appeared relatively low after this past winter. Cold temperatures caused spotty frost damage to a few varieties, but overall damage was less than 5 percent. On Long Island, strawberry buds were beginning to open. Many varieties of grape buds were also starting to open, although cool weather slowed their growth.

VEGETABLE: There was much needed rain that swept throughout the state to aide in the dry spell. A cold front accompanied the rain and caused problems with its morning frost. It was reported in Madison Co. that planting was on schedule for sweet corn and a forecast of sun throughout the week will be helpful. Onions planted had the largest increase, plus 22 percent from previous week, to 43 percent planted. In Orange County, onion planting reached 63 percent complete. Sweet corn is at 20 percent, cabbage at 18 percent, and snap peas at 6 percent planted.

LIVESTOCK: Pastures continue to green across the state. Livestock were beginning to move back onto pasture as growth allows. Pasture conditions across most of the state were estimated to be in good condition. Pasture conditions were rated 1 percent very poor, 2 percent poor, 25 percent fair, 57 percent good, and 15 percent excellent.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, May 4, 2008

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	65	28	48	-5	11	160	+104	1.90	+1.20	3.57	+0.17
Glens Falls	66	24	46	-6	6	106	+68	2.25	+1.48	4.02	+0.59
Poughkeepsie	66	29	49	-6	11	183	+109	1.69	+0.74	4.25	+0.18
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>											
Boonville	68	27	43	-5	7	92	+66	1.96	+0.94	5.15	-0.05
<u>Champlain Valley</u>											
Plattsburgh	66	27	46	-6	6	86	+47	1.36	+0.72	3.04	-0.13
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>											
Canton	74	32	49	0	22	135	+103	0.92	+0.22	2.81	-0.46
Massena	71	26	49	-2	22	114	+77	0.95	+0.38	2.34	-0.63
<u>Great Lakes</u>											
Buffalo	73	30	49	-3	27	202	+150	1.10	+0.43	2.67	-0.58
Wales	70	25	46	-4	18	124	+91	0.88	+0.04	2.35	-1.90
Niagara Falls	71	27	48	-5	22	160	+101	1.34	+0.64	2.64	-0.91
Rochester	75	32	52	-1	39	213	+151	0.65	+0.02	2.38	-0.60
Watertown	75	29	50	+1	25	135	+100	1.13	+0.54	3.92	+1.07
<u>Central Lakes</u>											
Dansville	71	28	50	-2	31	162	+107	0.95	+0.32	2.12	-1.06
Geneva	67	31	49	-3	23	143	+94	0.73	+0.05	3.06	-0.25
Honeoye	77	25	50	-2	32	156	+106	0.36	-0.29	1.61	-1.70
Ithaca	68	26	49	-2	23	132	+93	0.69	-0.01	2.92	-0.40
Penn Yan	72	29	52	+1	35	183	+134	0.83	+0.15	2.41	-0.90
Syracuse	71	28	50	-3	23	183	+123	1.22	+0.45	3.91	+0.14
Warsaw	70	23	44	-4	16	129	+103	0.83	+0.06	2.26	-1.56
<u>Western Plateau</u>											
Angelica	74	23	46	-3	20	89	+64	1.55	+0.92	3.02	-0.12
Elmira	71	23	51	0	36	144	+99	1.20	+0.53	3.59	+0.51
Franklinville	69	23	46	-2	19	87	+68	1.23	+0.46	3.00	-0.73
Jamestown	67	27	47	-2	19	109	+80	1.41	+0.54	3.02	-1.30
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>											
Binghamton	65	30	48	-4	15	152	+111	1.06	+0.31	3.09	-0.47
Cobleskill	66	23	44	-7	5	93	+58	1.47	+0.70	3.05	-0.69
Morrisville	65	26	47	-3	12	108	+77	1.26	+0.49	3.59	+0.04
Norwich	68	24	47	-3	18	96	+59	1.37	+0.56	2.71	-1.13
Oneonta	69	26	49	0	18	130	+99	1.25	+0.34	3.13	-0.90
<u>Coastal</u>											
Bridgehamton	59	30	49	-3	7	73	+34	1.55	+0.64	3.11	-1.38
New York	59	44	52	-5	18	180	+57	1.56	+0.65	3.34	-0.98

^{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.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT www.nass.usda.gov/ny AND CLICK ON "SUBSCRIBE TO NY REPORTS" FOR INSTRUCTIONS ON SUBSCRIBING ELECTRONICALLY. YOU MAY ALSO VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO ACCESS ALL OUR REPORTS WHICH ARE AVAILABLE FOR FREE ONLINE.