



WEATHER AND CROPS

May 19, 2008

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WEATHER: The week got off to a chilly start Sunday morning with lows in the 30's but under strong sunshine temperatures climbed into the upper 60's to low 70's by afternoon. A deep upper trough then moved across the region resulting in much cooler temperatures Monday. As the upper trough moved east into the Atlantic temperatures again warmed up Tuesday and Wednesday with Massena in the St. Lawrence Valley reaching 80. The warm spell was brought to an abrupt end by a cold front which moved east to the Hudson Valley and then stalled over the region as a wave moved northeast resulting in Friday being a cloudy and cool day. High pressure then moved in Saturday bringing seasonable temperatures. For the week temperatures averaged close to normal. Precipitation for the week varied widely, some areas including Albany, Rochester, Glens Falls and Honeoye were much below normal with less than a tenth of an inch while over an inch at Franklinville and Norwich.

CROPS: Cool weather with some scattered showers allowed farmers to continue their planting operations. The lack of rainfall allowed 5.3 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated 13 percent short, 81 percent adequate, and 6 percent surplus. Oat condition was 7 percent fair, 76 percent good, and 17 percent excellent. Winter wheat condition was 11 percent fair, 69 percent good, and 20 percent excellent. Corn for grain was 58 percent planted compared with 55 percent last year and 53 percent over the last five years. Oats were 94 percent planted compared with 88 percent last year, and a five year average of 87 percent. Potatoes reached 65 percent completion compared with 60 percent last year and 53 percent as the five year average. Soybeans were 20 percent planted compared with 24 percent last year, and a five year average of 20 percent. The following are reports from across the state: In Jefferson County the corn planting continued and the hay harvesting began on some farms. Forages in Lewis County are close to being ready for the 1st cutting although yields may be down from lack of rain. Spring preparation and planting continued throughout Ontario County. The cool weather in Chenango County had slowed growth of row crops but kept forage crops at an above average condition. Some much needed rain fell mid-week in Cortland County as fieldwork continued at a steady pace. A tornado touched down in Oneida County over the weekend, but damage to crop or livestock has yet to be reported. Fantastic week in Onondaga County where the wheat was getting ready to boot, and the alfalfa was nearly ready to harvest. Early planted corn had emerged and the hay looked excellent in Saratoga County. Tests from around Delaware County at various elevations showed that the grass hay was ready to cut. Another prime week for planting in St. Lawrence County, although they could use some rain.

FRUIT: Apples were at 75 percent petal fall, peaches were at 80 percent petal fall, pears were at 93 percent petal fall, and cherries were at 92 percent petal fall. In the Lake Ontario fruit region, inland sites saw petal fall in apples, while closer to the lakeshore, apple trees were still in blossom. A scab infection occurred on Wednesday night during passing showers. Additionally, codling moth was starting to fly. Pears and peaches were at petal fall, with peaches moving toward shuck split in inland sites. Strawberry buds were also beginning to open. In Albany County, apples were in bloom, but some varieties showed damage from earlier frosts. Severe pear damage was also reported after the May 1 freeze. In the Finger Lakes, grapes were looking good, but native grape varieties near Keuka Lake had bud damage from earlier frosts. On Long Island, the cool weather caused slow and erratic shoot growth in grapes. Chardonnay grapes were at 4 to 8 inches and reds varied from 1 to 6 inches. Strawberry fields were at or near full bloom.

VEGETABLE: Spring preparation began with a mix of cooler than normal temperatures and slight rain. The weekend showers were the first significant rain of the week but still left several areas dryer than normal. Cortland County reported that fabric covered sweet corn has popped up. Across the state sweet corn was 46 percent planted, onions 71 percent and snap beans 23 percent planted. Cabbage was on track with its 5-year average of 34 percent planted.

LIVESTOCK: Pastures continue to green. 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, 4 percent poor, 20 percent fair, 53 percent good, and 22 percent excellent.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, May 18, 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	77	40	58	0	56	263	+110	0.06	-0.71	3.63	-1.30
Glens Falls	76	35	55	-1	39	166	+51	0.07	-0.77	4.10	-0.96
Poughkeepsie	80	40	57	-3	51	284	+100	0.96	-0.02	5.93	-0.10
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>											
Boonville	71	37	53	-1	23	120	+41	0.45	-0.53	5.95	-1.21
<u>Champlain Valley</u>											
Plattsburgh	76	36	56	0	41	146	+30	0.22	-0.41	3.35	-1.08
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>											
Canton	78	34	56	+2	42	183	+85	0.17	-0.47	3.27	-1.28
Massena	80	34	55	-1	37	167	+55	0.16	-0.40	2.65	-1.44
<u>Great Lakes</u>											
Buffalo	70	43	55	-3	35	266	+125	0.37	-0.33	3.30	-1.35
Wales	69	37	52	-4	17	156	+56	0.57	-0.20	3.27	-2.52
Niagara Falls	71	42	55	-3	38	223	+69	0.39	-0.24	3.37	-1.45
Rochester	75	42	56	-2	43	287	+127	0.09	-0.53	2.73	-1.43
Watertown	77	36	55	+2	38	189	+87	0.25	-0.38	4.45	+0.41
<u>Central Lakes</u>											
Dansville	76	37	54	-3	31	214	+69	0.27	-0.36	2.52	-1.92
Geneva	75	41	54	-2	35	198	+63	0.31	-0.33	3.50	-1.08
Honeoye	76	37	54	-3	29	204	+66	0.49	-0.13	2.85	-1.70
Ithaca	75	33	52	-4	24	177	+62	0.54	-0.21	3.56	-1.21
Penn Yan	75	41	56	-1	42	258	+123	0.24	-0.40	2.70	-1.88
Syracuse	77	39	56	-3	42	252	+93	0.51	-0.19	4.53	-0.65
Warsaw	68	39	51	-3	13	156	+70	0.66	-0.11	3.20	-2.16
<u>Western Plateau</u>											
Angelica	70	32	49	-5	9	107	+22	0.90	+0.27	4.13	-0.23
Elmira	75	32	53	-4	31	204	+77	0.53	-0.17	4.19	-0.29
Franklinville	69	33	50	-3	13	111	+45	1.09	+0.32	4.38	-0.89
Jamestown	71	34	51	-4	12	144	+56	0.85	-0.02	4.11	-1.92
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>											
Binghamton	73	37	53	-4	31	212	+91	0.91	+0.14	4.11	-0.96
Cobleskill	76	34	53	-2	31	142	+36	0.42	-0.41	3.58	-1.76
Morrisville	71	38	53	-3	27	148	+49	0.56	-0.28	4.45	-0.74
Norwich	76	33	51	-4	18	127	+17	1.08	+0.24	4.01	-1.51
Oneonta	82	36	55	+2	33	196	+102	0.76	-0.22	3.93	-2.06
<u>Coastal</u>											
Bridgehamton	70	39	54	-3	32	156	+39	0.81	-0.03	4.84	-1.37
New York	74	49	60	-3	72	338	+65	0.83	-0.01	5.16	-0.89

^{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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