



# WEATHER AND CROPS

## May 27, 2008

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Week Ending, May 25, 2008

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**WEATHER:** It was another chilly week across the state as most climatic divisions averaged 5 to 10 degrees below normal for the week. Precipitation for the week was also below normal in many areas with the exceptions being the St. Lawrence Valley, Western and Eastern Plateau and Coastal Climatic Divisions which had near normal precipitation. An upper level low persisted across eastern Canada for much of the week. A series of weak troughs of low pressure moved through the state early in the week followed by a fairly strong cold front on Wednesday which resulted in some thunderstorms containing small hail. While these systems did not produce a lot of rainfall, they reinforced the cold air already in place across the region and created cool and windy conditions. The low pressure system finally moved east into the Canadian Maritimes Friday into Saturday as a large ridge of high pressure started to nose into the state. The coldest temperatures during the week occurred early Tuesday and Wednesday mornings with frost occurring in some areas.

**CROPS:** Cool, dry weather conditions allowed farmers to continue planting and begin harvesting hay. Scattered showers in the region allowed 5.3 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated as 1 percent very short, 18 percent short, 75 percent adequate, and 6 percent surplus. Oat condition was 13 percent fair, 65 percent good, and 22 percent excellent. Winter wheat condition was 15 percent fair, 58 percent good, and 27 percent excellent. Corn for grain was 75 percent planted compared with 77 percent last year and 72 percent as a five year average. Potatoes were 68 percent planted compared with last year's 78 percent and a five year average of 63 percent. Forty-four percent of the soybeans were planted compared with 43 percent last year and 36 percent for the five year average. Oats were 97 percent planted compared with 96 percent last year and 94 percent for the five year average. The following are reports from across the state: Cooler weather in Sullivan County had slowed corn emergence. Hay fields in Dutchess County were flourishing, but a good soaking rain is needed. Soybean planting and 1<sup>st</sup> cutting of hay began in Fulton and Montgomery Counties. Small Grains looked great in Madison County and the corn planting was nearing completion. Corn had emerged in Cortland County. Some looked yellow due to the cooler temperatures, but with the warmer weather it should take off now. Fieldwork continued in Ontario County due to the lack of moisture. It was a great week for fieldwork in Clinton County as the spring planting was winding up. Snow fell in the higher elevations of Erie County Sunday evening and Monday morning.

**FRUIT:** Apples and peaches were at 90 percent petal fall, while pears and cherries were at 95 percent petal fall. All were slightly above last year's progress. In the Lake Ontario fruit region, some consultants found apple scab infections, mainly in unsprayed trees. Sites closer to the lake were dropping petals, although some varieties were still in bloom. In Albany County, apples survived the early May frost better than expected. Some varieties, however, were quite thin and will not require further chemical thinning. On Long Island, cool weather continued. Frost at the beginning of May affected apples, peaches, strawberries, and grapes. Grape growers were thinning shoots and disbudding the base of vines.

**VEGETABLE:** The state was burdened with unseasonably cool weather and reports from the western side of the state revealed small amounts of sprouted sweet corn. However, sweet corn under fabric was looking great, reported Wyoming County. A warmer forecast is expected this week to help with the growth. The remaining areas of the state have also reported small sprouted amounts. Sweet corn was 60 percent planted, plus 14 percent from last week and plus 6 percent on the 5 year average. Onions were 76 percent planted. Snap beans were 31 percent planted and cabbage was 36 percent planted. All crops are down from previous year 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, 3 percent poor, 23 percent fair, 53 percent good, and 20 percent excellent.

**Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, May 25, 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	71	36	51	-10	18	281	+58	0.33	-0.45	3.96	-1.75
Glens Falls	67	30	49	-10	6	172	-1	0.32	-0.52	4.42	-1.48
Poughkeepsie	70	39	53	-8	26	310	+50	0.56	-0.42	6.49	-0.52
<b><u>Mohawk Valley</u></b>											
Boonville	63	33	45	-11	2	122	+2	0.39	-0.59	6.34	-1.80
<b><u>Champlain Valley</u></b>											
Plattsburgh	66	35	51	-7	17	163	-11	0.55	-0.11	3.90	-1.19
<b><u>St. Lawrence Valley</u></b>											
Canton	65	37	49	-8	7	190	+42	1.16	+0.46	4.43	-0.82
Massena	69	37	51	-7	15	182	+15	0.68	+0.12	3.33	-1.32
<b><u>Great Lakes</u></b>											
Buffalo	65	37	48	-12	7	273	+67	0.31	-0.41	3.61	-1.76
Wales	62	35	45	-12	0	156	+6	0.71	-0.13	3.98	-2.65
Niagara Falls	64	38	49	-11	10	233	+12	0.29	-0.39	3.66	-1.84
Rochester	67	39	51	-9	13	300	+73	0.23	-0.40	2.96	-1.83
Watertown	64	33	48	-9	1	190	+38	0.56	-0.07	5.01	+0.34
<b><u>Central Lakes</u></b>											
Dansville	65	35	49	-11	6	220	+11	0.10	-0.57	2.62	-2.49
Geneva	65	36	50	-9	15	213	+16	0.26	-0.44	3.76	-1.52
Honeoye	69	35	49	-11	5	209	+7	0.24	-0.41	3.09	-2.11
Ithaca	65	33	47	-11	0	177	+7	0.17	-0.60	3.73	-1.81
Penn Yan	67	39	52	-8	18	276	+79	0.21	-0.49	2.91	-2.37
Syracuse	65	37	50	-10	9	261	+33	0.42	-0.35	4.95	-1.00
Warsaw	60	33	44	-12	2	158	+26	0.65	-0.16	3.85	-2.32
<b><u>Western Plateau</u></b>											
Angelica	64	29	44	-12	0	107	-24	0.46	-0.27	4.59	-0.50
Elmira	67	29	48	-11	4	208	+21	0.35	-0.41	4.54	-0.70
Franklinville	61	29	44	-12	0	111	+7	0.65	-0.17	5.03	-1.06
Jamestown	64	30	45	-12	0	144	+11	0.50	-0.41	4.61	-2.33
<b><u>Eastern Plateau</u></b>											
Binghamton	63	36	48	-11	5	217	+38	0.62	-0.15	4.73	-1.11
Cobleskill	65	39	49	-9	6	148	-10	0.58	-0.27	4.16	-2.03
Morrisville	65	34	47	-10	3	151	+2	0.55	-0.32	5.00	-1.06
Norwich	66	31	48	-10	3	130	-33	0.50	-0.35	4.51	-1.86
Oneonta	70	32	49	-8	6	202	+60	0.52	-0.46	4.45	-2.52
<b><u>Coastal</u></b>											
Bridgehamton	70	38	55	-4	38	194	+18	0.51	-0.33	5.35	-1.70
New York	70	50	59	-6	62	400	+28	0.66	-0.18	5.82	-1.07

<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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