



# WEATHER AND CROPS

## October 20, 2008

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Week Ending, October 19, 2008

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**This is the last edition of the New York "Weather and Crops" for the 2008 season. The New York Agricultural Statistics Service 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:** The week began with a large area of high pressure situated over the northeast which allowed for dry weather for Sunday and Monday. A weak front passed through the region on Tuesday into Wednesday which brought some widely scattered showers to parts of the upstate mainly in western areas. By Thursday, a more potent cold front passed through the region. This brought a widespread rainfall to much of upstate New York with the heaviest rainfall in excess of one inch across far western New York and the Niagara Frontier. Most of the southeastern New York around New York City and Long Island saw little to no rainfall from this system. Another area of high pressure dominated the state for Friday and Saturday with dry weather returning to the entire state. Temperatures for the beginning to middle part of the week were above normal with high temperatures reaching the 70's across the state with the exception of northern areas. Behind Thursday's cold frontal passage, temperatures dropped considerable. Friday and Saturday averaged below normal across the entire state. Temperatures Saturday morning were below freezing across much of upstate New York, resulting in a killing frost. However, parts of the mid Hudson Valley, the lower Hudson Valley, New York City area, and much of Long Island escaped a killing frost on Saturday morning as temperatures in those areas only dropped into the middle and upper 30's.

**CROPS:** Scattered showers slowed outside activities as farmers worked to complete silage harvests, and continued grain corn and soybean harvest. There were 5.6 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated as 4 percent short, 88 percent adequate and 8 percent surplus. Hay condition was rated as 6 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 46 percent good, and 18 percent excellent. Alfalfa third cutting reached 97 percent complete, behind the five year average of 98 percent, and behind last years 100 percent. Corn condition was rated as 1 percent poor, 10 percent fair, 53 percent good, and 36 percent excellent. Silage corn harvest advanced to 87 percent complete, behind last years 93 percent, and behind the five year average of 89. Grain corn was 18 percent completed, behind last years 29 percent, and the average of 22 percent. Potatoes were 93 percent dug, the same as the five year average. Dry beans were 76 percent harvested, ahead of the 68 percent average. Soybeans were 30 percent harvested, behind the five year average of 36 percent and last years 43 percent. The following are comments from across the state: Cortland County continued silage harvest, and grain corn harvest picked up momentum with yields reported as good. Hay was baled in Madison County, as soybean and corn harvest began. Soybean harvest rapidly progressed in Onondaga County. High moisture corn was harvested in Albany County. Corn silage harvest was completed in Fulton, Montgomery, and Herkimer Counties, and high moisture corn harvest began. Corn was ready to be harvested in Delaware County. High moisture corn harvest was in full swing in Cayuga County, and the weather was perfect for harvesting soybeans. Ontario County proceeded with harvest after last week's heavy rain. It was a good week for spreading manure, and winding up the last of crop harvest in Clinton County. Lots of corn was chopped in St. Lawrence County. Silage harvest was wrapping up in Lewis County, and the grain harvest will begin soon. Jefferson County silage was virtually complete, and shell corn was combined. Soybean harvest began, and grain corn yields were good to very good.

**FRUIT:** Apples were in 21 percent poor condition, 28 percent fair, 34 percent good, and 17 percent excellent. The harvest was 81 percent complete, in line with the average of 79 percent. Pears were 41 percent poor, 31 percent fair, and 28 percent good. Pears were 96 percent harvested, in line with the average of 98 percent. Grapes were in 12 percent poor condition, 23 percent fair, 58 percent good, and 7 percent excellent. Grapes were 93 percent harvested, above the average of 81 percent. Sun and warm temperatures in the Finger Lakes region produced ideal grape harvest conditions. Growers primarily harvested Riesling and were pleased with the quality of this year's crop. In the Lake Erie region, grapes on the vines were close to peak ripeness. The Concord harvest continued to be a challenge for heavily-cropped vineyards due to low sugar levels. One of the processors decreased sugar standards to be able to accept fruit from blocks that could not meet the higher standard. The Hudson Valley neared the end of the harvest, with only late varieties left. Long Island vineyards experienced no rain and sunny, warm days. The Merlot harvest began. Keeping large flocks of starlings out of the vineyards became the biggest challenge.

**VEGETABLE:** Harvest was close to completion for several vegetable commodities. Tomatoes were 98 percent harvested, down from 99 percent harvested last year. Tomato conditions were 30 percent poor, 41 percent fair, 27 percent good, and 2 percent excellent. Lettuce conditions were 20 percent poor, 36 percent fair, and 44 percent good. Cucumber conditions were 23 percent poor, 45 percent fair, and 32 percent good. Onion harvest was 96 percent complete, down from 100 percent harvested last year. Onion conditions were 12 percent fair, 82 percent good, and 6 percent excellent. Sweet corn harvest was 99 percent complete, down from 100 percent harvested last year. Sweet corn conditions were 6 percent poor, 26 percent fair, 49 percent good, and 19 percent excellent. Cabbage harvest was 83 percent completed, down from 100 percent harvested last year. Cabbage conditions were 8 percent poor, 13 percent fair, 65 percent good, and 14 percent.

**LIVESTOCK:** Pasture conditions across most of the state were estimated to be in good condition. Pasture conditions were rated 8 percent poor, 33 percent fair, 48 percent good and 11 percent excellent. Cooler temperatures slowed pasture growth and encouraged supplemental feeding for livestock on pasture.

**Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, October 19, 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	70	30	53	+4	38	2887	+394	0.43	-0.20	24.96	+3.63
Glens Falls	68	24	50	+3	22	2275	+131	0.58	-0.05	23.22	+2.05
Poughkeepsie	74	32	54	+4	41	2969	+333	0.02	-0.66	27.28	+2.89
<b><u>Mohawk Valley</u></b>											
Boonville	70	24	48	+3	20	1764	+95	0.97	-0.01	30.52	-0.16
<b><u>Champlain Valley</u></b>											
Plattsburgh	71	26	49	+3	16	2180	+7	0.42	-0.14	21.21	+0.65
<b><u>St. Lawrence Valley</u></b>											
Canton	75	23	49	+4	23	2171	+216	0.53	-0.17	22.13	-0.39
Massena	74	21	50	+4	25	2181	+143	0.17	-0.45	19.03	-1.43
<b><u>Great Lakes</u></b>											
Buffalo	76	32	54	+5	46	2699	+264	1.51	+0.82	23.68	+1.53
Wales	77	26	51	+3	30	2022	+63	1.41	+0.59	26.66	+0.50
Niagara Falls	76	29	54	+4	43	2553	+112	0.74	+0.14	20.22	-1.36
Rochester	81	30	56	+6	56	2787	+421	1.06	+0.54	16.40	-2.48
Watertown	73	23	50	+2	28	2238	+217	0.62	+0.03	23.02	+4.99
<b><u>Central Lakes</u></b>											
Dansville	82	25	53	+3	43	2487	+118	0.70	+0.14	22.38	+1.59
Geneva	77	29	52	+4	37	2424	+85	1.50	+0.87	21.26	+0.59
Honeoye	81	28	53	+2	38	2350	-124	1.65	+1.02	21.41	+0.96
Ithaca	78	22	51	+3	33	2244	+137	0.43	-0.29	20.05	-2.42
Penn Yan	80	31	56	+7	58	2862	+523	0.37	-0.26	19.28	-1.39
Syracuse	78	28	53	+4	42	2656	+272	1.26	+0.56	21.45	-2.03
Warsaw	77	29	50	+4	31	1988	+199	1.70	+1.00	29.94	+5.45
<b><u>Western Plateau</u></b>											
Angelica	78	20	49	+3	24	1739	-29	0.36	-0.27	22.33	-0.69
Elmira	79	22	53	+6	48	2451	+228	0.27	-0.36	17.86	-3.02
Franklinville	78	21	49	+4	26	1849	+228	1.22	+0.41	26.24	+1.30
Jamestown	80	24	51	+4	28	2134	+296	0.54	-0.35	22.64	-5.34
<b><u>Eastern Plateau</u></b>											
Binghamton	75	31	55	+7	51	2425	+284	0.42	-0.21	20.23	-1.79
Cobleskill	75	24	50	+3	26	2191	+199	0.42	-0.22	26.29	+2.56
Morrisville	73	20	50	+4	31	2038	+149	0.69	-0.05	22.69	-1.40
Norwich	76	24	51	+4	24	2125	+138	0.47	-0.23	21.32	-2.37
Oneonta	74	26	52	+6	31	2492	+670	0.61	-0.13	19.83	-5.41
<b><u>Coastal</u></b>											
Bridgehampton	73	39	57	+4	53	2855	+294	0.00	-0.75	24.86	+1.63
New York	78	43	62	+6	83	3906	+485	0.00	-0.65	24.58	+0.43

<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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