



WEATHER AND CROPS

April 27, 2009

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This is the first edition of the New York “Weather and Crops” for the 2009 season. The New York Agricultural Statistics Service 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: Cool and dry conditions began last Monday April 20th as high pressure from central Canada was in control. A storm system brought rainfall to most of the region Monday night into Tuesday. In its wake, much cooler weather and even some snow to portions of the area for the mid week period. Thereafter, a strong southerly flow of very mild air arrived for the later half of the week and into the weekend with well above normal temperatures.

CROPS: Dry, warm spring weather accelerated early spring plantings. Rain moved out of the area early in the week allowing farmers to spread manure and prepare their fields. The dry conditions allowed 4.9 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated 2 percent very short, 18 percent short, 70 percent adequate, and 10 percent surplus. Condition of winter wheat was rated as 3 percent poor, 23 percent fair, 64 percent good, and 10 percent excellent. Oat condition was 24 percent fair, 67 percent good, and 9 percent excellent. Corn planting was 4 percent completed. Forty-eight percent of the oats were planted equal to last year’s progress. Potatoes were 43 percent planted ahead of last year’s 20 percent. Most plantings were on Long Island and in southern New York. The following are comments throughout the state: Jefferson County’s seedings and small grain were up after last weeks rain and heat. Corn planting will start this week. Even though St. Lawrence County received a lot of rain, it wasn’t enough to make the fields too muddy to prepare for planting. Rain helped to make recently fertilized hay fields jump up overnight. Corn, spring grains, and forage seedings were planted in Niagara County, with wheat top dressing and weed control applied at a rapid pace. Warm weather in Ontario County had field preparations going strong with some producers planting corn. Chenango County farmers should finish their seedings and oats this week, and start to plant corn. Fertilizer costs have some farmers lowering the application rates on the fields, and there is concern that the forage harvest will be low without some rain. Some much needed rain in Cortland County slowed fieldwork, but new seedings and small grains continued to go in. Most of the oats and seedings are planted in Madison County with some corn starting to be planted. Corn planting began in earnest in Albany County with producers taking advantage of the warm, dry weather conditions. Herkimer, Montgomery, and Fulton Counties had seedings and field preparation underway. Saratoga County expects corn planting to begin this week. Not much corn was planted in Washington County, but a lot of seedings had gone in. Steuben County had reports that the ground was dry in some areas. Some oats and barley were also planted. Fields in Suffolk County were too wet to work.

FRUIT: Apples were at 40 percent half-inch green to pink stage of development, compared to 56 percent last year. Peaches were at 60 percent half-inch green to pink, ahead of 51 percent last year. Pears were at 47 percent half-inch green to pink, the same as last year. Sweet cherries were at 77 percent half-inch green to pink, ahead of 49 percent last year. In the Lake Ontario fruit region, bud development progressed quickly with the warm temperatures. Unusually warm temperatures in Wayne County pushed the fruit trees slightly faster than normal. Spraying occurred in Albany County to control scab and insects. In the Long Island grape region, vineyards were still quiet. Budbreak may be slightly late this year due to the cool temperatures.

VEGETABLE: Warmer weather allowed some farmers to begin planting crops ahead of normal timelines. Early planting of peas and sweet corn under plastic were reported in Eastern New York. Sweet corn was at 10 percent planted. Onions were at 10 percent planted slightly behind last year’s progress of 19 percent. Onion planting in Orange County reached 30 percent complete. Snap beans and cabbage were both near 1 percent planted.

LIVESTOCK: Pastures are turning green across the state. Livestock are 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 9 percent very poor, 10 percent poor, 36 percent fair, 43 percent good, and 2 percent excellent.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, April 26, 2009

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	89	32	54	+6	42	61	+40	0.53	-0.17	1.40	-1.19	
Glens Falls	89	26	52	+5	33	38	+26	0.44	-0.26	1.51	-1.04	
Poughkeepsie	90	30	53	+4	36	66	+34	0.77	-0.08	1.89	-1.08	
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>												
Boonville	81	29	47	+4	17	17	+8	1.05	+0.00	3.09	-0.94	
<u>Champlain Valley</u>												
Plattsburgh	88	24	50	+4	28	37	+23	0.63	-0.07	1.64	-0.78	
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>												
Canton	82	32	49	+4	22	27	+17	0.91	+0.21	2.49	+0.04	
Massena	83	35	52	+6	30	39	+27	0.56	-0.07	1.96	-0.34	
<u>Great Lakes</u>												
Buffalo	80	35	52	+4	38	48	+28	1.17	+0.47	2.77	+0.30	
Wales	83	30	49	+4	29	34	+24	0.61	-0.27	1.98	-1.31	
Niagara Falls	82	36	52	+4	40	56	+32	1.16	+0.42	3.47	+0.72	
Rochester	83	34	53	+5	41	61	+36	0.56	-0.07	1.91	-0.34	
Watertown	79	34	52	+6	34	38	+26	1.09	+0.46	3.91	+1.75	
<u>Central Lakes</u>												
Dansville	89	30	51	+4	36	50	+28	0.15	-0.55	0.54	-1.90	
Geneva	87	31	51	+4	33	43	+25	0.24	-0.46	1.34	-1.17	
Honeoye	87	31	50	+4	32	49	+30	0.43	-0.27	1.72	-0.83	
Ithaca	87	28	50	+4	27	36	+22	0.45	-0.25	1.95	-0.56	
Penn Yan	88	32	53	+6	44	69	+51	0.11	-0.59	1.03	-1.48	
Syracuse	88	32	54	+7	49	67	+44	0.42	-0.35	2.15	-0.74	
Warsaw	82	30	47	+3	25	27	+20	0.55	-0.26	2.16	-0.77	
<u>Western Plateau</u>												
Angelica	85	25	48	+4	21	24	+18	0.33	-0.33	1.12	-1.29	
Elmira	89	24	51	+4	35	58	+42	0.37	-0.26	1.56	-0.74	
Franklinville	84	27	47	+5	23	28	+23	0.50	-0.28	1.97	-0.87	
Jamestown	85	30	49	+5	27	30	+21	0.56	-0.35	2.15	-1.16	
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>												
Binghamton	85	33	52	+5	39	59	+45	0.56	-0.21	1.76	-0.93	
Cobleskill	87	33	51	+5	31	35	+23	0.30	-0.47	1.04	-1.81	
Morrisville	84	24	48	+3	23	26	+17	0.92	+0.15	2.95	+0.30	
Norwich	88	27	51	+5	32	44	+32	1.11	+0.29	2.70	-0.19	
Oneonta	87	30	50	+6	26	33	+24	0.87	+0.03	2.02	-0.94	
<u>Coastal</u>												
Bridgehamton	69	39	52	+4	19	36	+23	1.86	+0.95	4.91	+1.46	
New York	88	44	56	+3	45	100	+36	2.03	+1.12	4.69	+1.42	

^{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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