



WEATHER AND CROPS

May 18, 2009

Cooperating with New York Department of Agriculture and Markets
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WEATHER: A chilly air mass was positioned across the state on Sunday in wake of a cold front passage with breezy conditions and showers across the Adirondacks. High temperatures were only in the 50's in most areas with 40's across the higher elevations. High pressure built into the region on Monday with sunshine returning. Dry conditions persisted into Tuesday with temperatures moderating back to near normal Tuesday and especially Wednesday. Rain returned to the state on Thursday ahead of a frontal boundary. Windy conditions also occurred on Thursday. Rainfall amounts were generally around one quarter to one inch Thursday night with the greatest amounts across eastern New York. Dry conditions with warm temperatures returned for Friday. Showers and thunderstorms moved across the state Saturday afternoon and night ahead of a strong cold front. Some of the storms were severe while heavy rain fell across portions of eastern New York especially across the Adirondacks where 2 to 3 inches fell.

CROPS: Cool, wet, and breezy conditions ended the week after moderating temperatures dominated the beginning of the week across the state. There were 4.6 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated 7 percent short, 74 percent adequate, and 19 percent surplus. Condition of winter wheat was rated as 2 percent poor, 8 percent fair, 74 percent good, and 16 percent excellent. Oat condition was 13 percent fair, 70 percent good, and 17 percent excellent. Corn planting was 57 percent completed ahead of last year's and five year average of 55 percent. Ninety-five percent of the oats were planted ahead of last year's 93 percent, and ahead of the five year average of 89 percent. Potatoes were 71 percent planted ahead of last year's 62 percent, and the five year average of 55 percent. Soybeans were 24 percent planted, ahead last year and five year average of 19 percent. The following are comments throughout the state: Heavy rain hit the northern part of Lewis County in the beginning of the week and southern parts of the county by end of the week. Grass hay may be ready for harvest within the next week. St. Lawrence County saw plenty of rain with lots of corn planted already. Grasses grew rapidly with a first cut by next week. Corn planted in Niagara County moved rapidly as wheat stems elongated and rye heads emerged. Early planted field corn looked excellent. Ontario County continued a good spring planting season. In Cayuga County, 90 percent of the corn was planted. Cortland County planting was stalled by showers, but the rain had hay fields and pastures growing well. Northeast Cortland County had high winds and possibly tornado activity. Rain this past week in Albany County made up for much of this year's deficit. Plantings remain on schedule or ahead of normal. Most corn was in, given good spring planting conditions. Haylage chopping will begin this week if weather permits. Herkimer, Montgomery, and Fulton Counties report corn is out of the ground and the producers were in full swing to winding down with planting. Now they are looking at soybeans. The rain sure has the hay crop responding. Corn planting slowed down momentarily so that haylage harvesting could be accomplished in Saratoga County. Many grass and mixed legume grass fields were harvested for haylage. No dry baled hay was harvested. In Washington County, corn planting continued at a steady pace. A few farmers had started chopping haylage. Heavy rains in Schuyler County caused fields to be flooded and the potential for some replanted acres. Delaware County, grass for haylage was going in as farmers realized conditions are earlier than usual.

FRUIT: Apples across the state were at 80 percent full bloom and 55 percent petal fall, compared with 79 and 69 percent last year. Peaches reached 78 percent full bloom and 70 percent petal fall, compared with 84 and 76 percent last year. Sweet cherries were at 95 percent full bloom and 90 percent petal fall, on target with last year. In the Lake Ontario fruit region, orchards ranged from full bloom to losing petals, except for Golden and Rome right on the lake. In Albany County, strawberries were in full bloom, and orchards began moving out bees. Broome County experienced frost early in the week and high winds with heavy rains later in the week, which may reduce apple and cherry bloom set. Despite cooler than normal temps, shoot growth in Long Island vineyards progressed normally. Chardonnay shoots were 3-8", Merlot 2-6" and Cabernet Sauvignon 1-4".

VEGETABLE: Vegetable planting continued throughout the state. Sweet corn was at 42 percent planted, up from 24 percent previous week and compared to 45 percent previous year, and 44 percent for the five year average. Onions were at 100 percent planted, up from 64 percent previous week, and 70 percent previous year. Cabbage was at 39 percent planted, up from 9 percent previous week, and compared to 33 percent previous year, and 36 percent for the five year average. Snap beans were at 9 percent planted, up from 4 percent previous week, down from 21 percent previous year, and down from 31 percent previous five year average.

LIVESTOCK: Pasture condition was rated as 22 percent excellent, 57 percent good, 18 percent fair, and 3 percent poor. Plentiful rainfall resulted in good pasture growth. Warmer weather is needed to push development. Due to the ups and downs of the weather, the production of milk has been up and down as well.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, May 17, 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	76	37	57	-1	49	253	+118	0.92	+0.15	3.54	-1.26
Glens Falls	74	33	56	+1	43	193	+92	0.71	-0.13	3.41	-1.51
Poughkeepsie	78	37	57	-2	51	271	+106	1.73	+0.75	5.77	-0.09
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>											
Boonville	67	30	48	-5	9	88	+19	2.87	+1.89	8.24	+1.21
<u>Champlain Valley</u>											
Plattsburgh	69	32	52	-4	29	152	+50	1.04	+0.41	4.63	+0.30
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>											
Canton	69	31	50	-4	20	123	+37	1.26	+0.63	6.79	+2.35
Massena	72	32	52	-4	29	155	+57	0.92	+0.36	5.02	+1.01
<u>Great Lakes</u>											
Buffalo	74	33	55	-1	49	206	+81	0.11	-0.59	3.95	-0.59
Wales	76	30	53	-1	32	157	+69	0.28	-0.49	4.31	-1.38
Niagara Falls	74	32	55	-3	46	209	+72	0.20	-0.43	4.99	+0.25
Rochester	79	33	55	-3	43	206	+63	0.29	-0.31	3.20	-0.86
Watertown	72	32	52	-2	32	149	+59	0.43	-0.18	6.13	+2.19
<u>Central Lakes</u>											
Dansville	76	34	52	-5	27	202	+73	0.93	+0.30	2.72	-1.62
Geneva	72	36	53	-3	31	178	+59	1.49	+0.86	4.13	-0.34
Honeoye	80	31	54	-3	42	207	+85	1.12	+0.51	4.31	-0.15
Ithaca	77	29	51	-4	23	168	+67	1.11	+0.38	4.12	-0.52
Penn Yan	80	37	54	-2	36	230	+111	0.55	-0.08	2.57	-1.90
Syracuse	78	35	55	-3	40	240	+99	0.84	+0.14	4.64	-0.45
Warsaw	75	29	50	-3	21	130	+55	0.46	-0.31	4.46	-0.78
<u>Western Plateau</u>											
Angelica	76	30	50	-4	17	129	+55	0.53	-0.10	3.08	-1.18
Elmira	78	29	54	-2	38	212	+100	0.55	-0.15	3.03	-1.33
Franklinville	75	29	49	-3	15	121	+64	0.86	+0.09	4.03	-1.12
Jamestown	76	32	52	-2	25	167	+90	0.40	-0.45	3.87	-2.02
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>											
Binghamton	74	36	53	-3	32	213	+106	1.40	+0.63	4.58	-0.37
Cobleskill	73	31	52	-3	27	154	+61	1.32	+0.51	3.44	-1.76
Morrisville	73	32	51	-4	23	134	+47	1.15	+0.31	5.67	+0.63
Norwich	74	30	51	-4	20	150	+53	2.18	+1.34	7.28	+1.90
Oneonta	73	33	53	0	29	163	+81	2.17	+1.19	5.67	-0.14
<u>Coastal</u>											
Bridgehamton	72	40	57	+2	49	183	+80	1.16	+0.32	8.98	+2.88
New York	74	51	62	+2	85	363	+115	0.12	-0.72	8.08	+2.15

^{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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