



# WEATHER AND CROPS

## July 27, 2009

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Week Ending, July 26, 2009

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**WEATHER:** Despite a persistent upper level trough over the area, the week started out tranquil with a surface ridge of high pressure overhead and slightly below normal temperatures on Monday. Tuesday featured a low pressure system tracking across New England and brought a widespread rainfall to much of New York State especially across eastern New York and downstate. After a brief break in the precipitation on Wednesday, showers and thunderstorms returned Wednesday night into Thursday mainly across western New York, where a soaking rainfall occurred. Temperatures remained slightly below normal, especially daytime highs. Scattered showers and thunderstorms affected portions of the state once again on Friday, as an upper level disturbance moved through. Some severe thunderstorms including a few tornadoes occurred in western New York on Saturday with mainly dry conditions elsewhere. Additional severe thunderstorms occurred on Sunday with wind damage, some large hail and heavy rain across portions of western, central and southeast New York. Temperatures were very close to seasonal normals during the weekend.

**CROPS:** Warmer weather moved into the region, but farmers were still hindered by scattered showers in their planting and haying efforts. There were 3.8 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated 1 percent short, 66 percent adequate, and 33 percent surplus. Condition of winter wheat was rated as 12 percent poor, 34 percent fair, 44 percent good, and 10 percent excellent. Oat condition was 2 percent poor, 14 percent fair, 63 percent good, and 21 percent excellent. Condition of hay was 14 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 43 percent good, and 13 percent excellent. Alfalfa 1<sup>st</sup> cutting was 98 percent completed, behind last year's 100 percent. Clover-timothy hay was 90 percent harvested, behind both last year's 99 percent, and the five year average of 98 percent. Ninety-eight percent of the grass silage was harvested, below both last year's and the five year average of 99 percent. Dry beans were finished. The following are comments throughout the state: Early planted corn tasseled in Jefferson County, and the overall corn crop continues to lag behind normal growth patterns, which has producers hoping for a late frost. Some winter wheat was combined. Sporadic rain continued to hamper hay harvest in Lewis County, and the corn crop was continuing to develop very slowly due to a lack of heat units. St. Lawrence County had more rain which was discouraging producers trying to harvest their second cutting, but finally received some good corn growing weather. Early harvested wheat in Niagara County had excellent quality, but now the late harvest is of poor quality with some sprouting. Dry hay producers are suffering with frequent showers, high humidity, and wet soils that is preventing drying. Continued rain showers in Ontario County made it difficult to harvest wheat, and concerns over quality issues with sprouting and mold present due to all the rain. Row crop development continued to be delayed in Cayuga County, especially soybeans which were at least a week behind normal. Wheat harvest was underway. With all the rain in Madison County, farmers are harvesting forage as chopped hay instead of baled hay. Oneida County's wheat harvesting began, and the oats will soon follow. Hay harvest was still lagging behind in Albany County due to the wet weather. Weather in Montgomery, Fulton, and Herkimer Counties has producers concerned that crops will not receive enough growing degree days to bring them to maturity. Yates County has had some producers report that they were unable to plant their kidney beans due to excessive rains. Some farmers in Broome County are still attempting to harvest a 1<sup>st</sup> cutting of hay, and some of the corn has started to tassel. The best hay in Delaware County was being harvested, while older stands were being left behind. Farmers had switched from dry hay to wrapped round bales or haylage. Late blight on potato crop is a big concern for Dutchess County farmers, and some first cutting hay was still not done. Several hail storms have accompanied the heavy rains shredding many crops. Corn may grow out, but the other crops were totally damaged.

**FRUIT:** Apples were 8 percent poor, 21 percent fair, percent 42 good, and 29 percent excellent. Grapes were 14 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 38 percent good, and 18 percent excellent. Peaches were 6 percent poor, 32 percent fair, 22 percent good, and 40 percent excellent. Pears were 4 percent poor, 21 percent fair, 30 percent good, and 45 percent excellent. Sweet cherries were 66 percent poor, 11 percent fair, 14 percent good, and 9 percent excellent. Tart cherries were 50 percent poor, 36 percent fair, 8 percent good, and 6 percent excellent. Ample rainfall and a light crop have resulted in plenty of vigor in Long Island vineyards. Growers are hedging vines to maintain a narrow canopy and selectively cluster thinning vines with heavier crops. Disease pressure remained high. More disease showed up in grapes in Yates County, but mainly on the leaves and not the fruit. Warmer weather is needed to boost the number of Growing Degree Days.

**VEGETABLE:** Sweet corn was available in most farmers markets, a week behind normal. Processing snap bean harvest began in Western New York. Lettuce was 90 percent planted with reported conditions of 3 percent fair, 10 percent good, and 87 percent excellent. Onions were 100 percent planted with reported conditions of 48 percent fair, 11 percent good, and 41 percent excellent. Sweet corn was 100 percent planted with conditions of 1 percent poor, 21 percent fair, 59 percent good, and 19 percent excellent. Snap beans were 95 percent planted, cabbage was 100 percent planted, and tomatoes are 100 percent planted.

**LIVESTOCK:** Pastures are saturated from the abundant rainfall this summer. Pasture conditions across most of the state were estimated to be in good condition. Pasture conditions were rated 3 percent poor, 15 percent fair, 60 percent good and 22 percent excellent.

**Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, July 26, 2009**

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	81	57	71	-2	146	1358	+6	0.61	-0.09	16.40	+3.72
Glens Falls	80	49	69	-2	134	1134	-41	0.57	-0.13	13.61	+1.41
Poughkeepsie	83	56	71	-3	145	1436	+23	2.30	+1.42	21.03	+6.06
<b><u>Mohawk Valley</u></b>											
Boonville	76	51	64	-3	99	765	-147	0.66	+0.25	18.76	+1.77
<b><u>Champlain Valley</u></b>											
Plattsburgh	79	52	68	-4	126	1056	-148	1.02	+0.30	12.76	+1.52
<b><u>St. Lawrence Valley</u></b>											
Canton	80	51	67	-3	121	987	-72	0.56	-0.21	14.84	+2.95
Massena	80	54	69	-2	135	1095	-34	0.65	-0.06	13.51	+2.57
<b><u>Great Lakes</u></b>											
Buffalo	79	54	68	-4	130	1243	-43	2.45	+1.75	12.22	+0.13
Wales	78	49	65	-4	107	951	-79	1.25	+0.48	14.72	+0.21
Niagara Falls	80	52	68	-4	129	1245	-52	3.94	+3.31	15.01	+3.16
Rochester	81	52	68	-3	130	1182	-76	2.12	+1.49	15.64	+5.07
Watertown	83	52	69	+1	138	1053	-5	1.09	+0.66	13.13	+3.66
<b><u>Central Lakes</u></b>											
Dansville	79	50	66	-5	114	1186	-67	1.34	+0.71	11.59	-0.52
Geneva	80	54	69	-3	133	1167	-66	0.81	+0.18	12.03	-0.05
Honeoye	82	47	68	-4	131	1151	-131	1.98	+1.39	16.60	+4.75
Ithaca	82	51	67	-3	123	1040	-75	0.13	-0.64	12.38	-0.52
Penn Yan	82	53	69	-2	136	1271	+38	0.53	-0.10	11.19	-0.89
Syracuse	83	54	70	-1	143	1330	+61	0.43	-0.41	12.25	-1.38
Warsaw	76	49	64	-4	101	897	-61	1.87	+1.15	16.67	+2.65
<b><u>Western Plateau</u></b>											
Angelica	78	45	62	-6	87	813	-125	0.66	-0.11	12.46	-1.05
Elmira	84	50	69	-1	137	1183	-3	0.25	-0.46	9.20	-3.32
Franklinville	77	46	63	-3	96	861	+4	1.64	+0.87	15.13	+1.02
Jamestown	79	49	65	-3	103	1037	+69	2.08	+1.21	15.99	+0.30
<b><u>Eastern Plateau</u></b>											
Binghamton	79	55	68	-3	124	1161	+10	0.51	-0.26	13.35	+0.31
Cobleskill	80	52	66	-3	118	1049	-15	1.34	+0.57	15.29	+1.19
Morrisville	77	55	66	-3	113	938	-74	0.85	+0.08	16.43	+2.55
Norwich	81	51	67	-3	118	1020	-47	0.27	-0.46	16.88	+2.77
Oneonta	80	53	67	-1	121	1058	+75	0.18	-0.66	15.15	-0.15
<b><u>Coastal</u></b>											
Bridgehamton	83	59	71	-1	151	1276	+29	3.20	+2.55	21.74	+7.86
New York	86	65	74	-4	173	1770	+1	1.30	+0.39	19.98	+5.38

<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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