



WEATHER AND CROPS

September 21, 2009

Cooperating with New York Department of Agriculture and Markets
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Week Ending, September 20, 2009

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WEATHER: The departure of a low off the Atlantic Coast last Saturday was followed by a Canadian high building in from the west Sunday and Monday. A second cold front moved through early Tuesday and brought another Canadian air mass followed by a cutoff upper low on Thursday and a weak frontal passage on Friday. The week ended with sunny but somewhat cool weather Saturday. Abundant sunshine resulted in near normal temperatures for the first three days before the cold front and upper low brought cloudiness to much of the region and highs were 10 to 15 degrees cooler on Wednesday and Thursday. A return flow of warmer air brought temperatures back up to near normal Friday but the arrival of cooler air Saturday resulted in temperatures a few degrees below normal. Over most of the region the week was quite dry. The main exception was the northern Adirondacks where over an inch of rain fell at Saranac Lake on Monday evening. The weather was fairly dry farther south with just a trace for the entire week at Albany and Glens Falls, with a little over a tenth of an inch farther south mostly on the morning of the 16th.

CROPS: Another near perfect week for fieldwork, and harvesting activities. There were 6.0 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil Moisture was rated 19 percent short, 76 percent adequate, and 5 percent surplus. Condition of soybeans was 7 percent poor, 26 percent fair, 55 percent good, and 12 percent excellent. Hay condition was 7 percent poor, 26 percent fair, 51 percent good, and 16 percent excellent. Condition of corn was 6 percent poor, 22 percent fair, 58 percent good, and 14 percent excellent. Ninety-nine percent of the oats were harvested, the same as the five year average, but behind last year's 100 percent. Potatoes were 57 percent harvested, behind the five year average of 64 percent, but the same as last year. Eighty-seven percent of the third cutting of alfalfa was completed, ahead of both the five year average of 83 percent, and last year's 86 percent. Silage corn was 15 percent harvested behind both last year's 20 percent, and the five year average of 30 percent. Thirty-four percent of the dry beans were harvested, ahead of both the five year average of 21 percent, and last year's 26 percent. The following are comments from across the state: Reports of grey leaf spot on corn in Broome County with affected fields located near river bottoms. Corn maturity progressed well in Delaware County, and the soybeans were beginning to turn. Dry weather continued in Dutchess County allowing field and harvest work. Corn silage harvest continued in Jefferson County with choppers rolling at a brisk pace due to the dry weather. Silage yields were varying from poor to excellent, and there was still significant concern for shell corn and soybeans based on lack of maturity. Corn silage harvest began in Lewis County, but most of the corn crop had yet to mature and was not at the correct dry matter for silage harvest yet. Frost warnings for the next few nights will affect when some farms start silage harvest. St. Lawrence County started silage harvesting. Corn silage harvesting geared up in Niagara County, and the wheat planting was at full speed. Dry and chopped hay continued to be harvested in Ontario County, as well as silage harvesting. Hay and small grains continued to be harvested in Cortland County. Corn was looking very good in some areas of Madison County, and very poor in others. Some silage harvest began, but most were waiting another week. Corn chopping was going strong in Albany County. Herkimer, Fulton, and Montgomery Counties all began chopping corn in fields where producers were concerned about over wetness as all corn and soybeans need more time and sun. Haying was getting caught up finally. Most farmers were harvesting corn in Washington County, and the yields were varying depending on soil type.

FRUIT: Apples were 1 percent poor, 2 percent fair, 12 percent good, and 85 percent excellent. Grapes were 25 percent poor, 28 percent fair, 29 percent good, and 18 percent excellent. Peaches were 10 percent poor, 19 percent fair, 17 percent good, and 54 percent excellent. Pears were 7 percent poor, 12 percent fair, 29 percent good, and 52 percent excellent. Apples were 33 percent harvested, compared with 32 percent last year and the average of 40 percent. Peaches were 98 percent harvested, ahead of the 88 percent last year and the average of 96 percent. Pears were 84 percent harvested, also ahead of the 64 percent last year and the average of 78 percent. Grapes were 13 percent harvested, compared with 17 percent last year and the average of 21 percent. In the Lake Erie grape region, harvesting of many hybrids was complete. Concord berry size was well above normal, and sugar accumulation, despite the smaller crop, was progressing at an average pace. Downy mildew infections re-appeared in varieties where spraying was discontinued, and powdery mildew was present in most vineyards. The Finger Lakes grape region continued to enjoy sunny dry weather that helped keep the spread of Botrytis and other bunch rots to a minimum. Downy mildew, on the other hand, continued to spread. Ripening progressed rapidly in Long Island vineyards, and harvest of sparkling grapes started.

VEGETABLE: Sweet corn harvest was almost complete. Pumpkin sales began to pick up. Production in Central New York was down due to excess moisture and blight. Cucumber conditions were 1 percent poor, 22 percent fair, 72 percent good, and 5 percent excellent. Lettuce conditions were 2 percent poor, 7 percent fair, 11 percent good, and 80 percent excellent. Tomatoes were 91 percent harvested, ahead of the 83 percent five-year average. Tomato conditions were 37 percent poor, 21 percent fair, 20 percent good, and 22 percent excellent. Onion harvest was 87 percent complete, up from 80 percent five-year average. Onion conditions were 2 percent poor, 22 percent fair, 49 percent good, and 27 percent excellent. Sweet corn harvest was 84 percent complete, behind the 88 percent harvested last year, and 89 percent five-year average. Sweet corn conditions were 4 percent poor, 20 percent fair, 65 percent good, and 11 percent excellent. Snap bean harvest was 87 percent complete, ahead of the 80 percent five-year average. Snap bean conditions were 8 percent poor, 40 percent fair, 49 percent good, and 3 percent excellent. Cabbage harvest was 76 percent completed, ahead of the 70 percent five-year average. Cabbage conditions were 3 percent poor, 32 percent fair, 51 percent good, and 14 percent excellent.

LIVESTOCK: Pastures were starting to show stress due to 2 weeks with no significant rain. Pasture conditions were rated 1 percent very poor, 5 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 52 percent good and 13 percent excellent.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, September 20, 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	38	59	-3	65	2392	+65	0.00	-0.70	24.21	+5.49
Glens Falls	76	32	57	-2	54	2021	-4	0.00	-0.70	20.08	+1.60
Poughkeepsie	79	38	60	-3	71	2527	+78	0.10	-0.67	28.09	+6.59
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>											
Boonville	70	34	53	-3	29	1470	-115	0.14	-1.14	24.16	-2.11
<u>Champlain Valley</u>											
Plattsburgh	73	33	56	-3	46	1938	-113	0.30	-0.40	17.95	-0.16
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>											
Canton	71	34	54	-5	31	1795	-49	0.51	-0.40	18.84	-0.49
Massena	74	36	56	-2	45	1980	+51	0.74	-0.09	18.36	+0.71
<u>Great Lakes</u>											
Buffalo	75	40	60	-3	70	2268	+21	0.00	-0.80	17.65	-1.59
Wales	71	36	55	-4	37	1754	-68	0.02	-1.10	19.86	-2.54
Niagara Falls	77	39	60	-2	71	2257	+6	0.00	-0.86	20.55	+1.77
Rochester	74	39	59	-4	61	2143	-33	0.00	-0.70	17.67	+1.15
Watertown	74	29	55	-5	40	1948	+61	0.10	-0.67	15.36	-0.02
<u>Central Lakes</u>											
Dansville	73	37	57	-5	53	2190	+5	0.04	-0.74	15.62	-2.47
Geneva	74	40	59	-3	66	2115	-51	0.05	-0.72	16.97	-0.90
Honeoye	74	32	57	-6	53	2040	-232	0.00	-0.73	21.93	+4.24
Ithaca	73	35	57	-4	50	1910	-49	0.11	-0.73	19.55	+0.27
Penn Yan	74	38	59	-3	65	2241	+75	0.01	-0.76	15.50	-2.37
Syracuse	74	36	60	-2	70	2381	+183	0.04	-0.87	17.27	-3.03
Warsaw	70	37	56	-2	41	1701	+23	0.04	-0.90	22.78	+1.59
<u>Western Plateau</u>											
Angelica	73	37	58	+1	54	1574	-81	0.00	-0.84	21.58	+1.56
Elmira	77	33	58	-3	57	2109	+41	0.01	-0.71	14.48	-3.67
Franklinville	72	34	55	-2	39	1630	+111	0.03	-0.89	26.06	+4.63
Jamestown	74	37	58	0	58	1896	+181	0.00	-1.12	25.21	+1.20
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>											
Binghamton	72	35	57	-3	53	2057	+55	0.48	-0.29	20.96	+1.76
Cobleskill	73	35	57	-2	50	1888	+25	0.00	-0.89	22.36	+1.67
Morrisville	70	40	57	-2	52	1791	+18	0.30	-0.65	23.03	+2.34
Norwich	76	36	58	-2	55	1882	+17	0.05	-0.86	27.16	+6.62
Oneonta	73	36	57	0	51	1943	+232	0.10	-0.74	21.11	-0.91
<u>Coastal</u>											
Bridgehamton	78	43	62	-2	89	2451	+131	0.66	-0.14	23.90	+3.71
New York	81	55	68	0	127	3181	+97	0.01	-0.76	26.96	+5.63

^{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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