



# WEATHER AND CROPS

## October 5, 2009

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Cooperating with New York Department of Agriculture and Markets  
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Released, October 5, 2009

Week Ending, October 4, 2009

No. 977-24-09

**WEATHER:** Temperatures averaged below normal and precipitation averaged above normal across much of the state during this week. A weak coastal low traveled north along the Mid-Atlantic coast Sunday producing rain and scattered thunderstorms across eastern and central portions of the state. A strong cold front then swept eastward across the state Monday producing scattered showers and thunderstorms. In the wake of this front, colder air swept east across the state. As this cold air traversed the relatively warm Great Lakes, locally heavy lake effect rain showers and thunderstorms affected western portions of the state late Monday into Wednesday night. Some snow mixed in with the showers Tuesday night through Wednesday night. Another low pressure system moved northeast into the western Great Lakes Saturday, triggering more showers and thunderstorms as an occluded front associated with the low moved eastward across the state. Patchy frost occurred across south central and southeast portions of the state, including eastern Long Island Friday morning. The growing season has already ended across much of the Adirondacks extending into the Lake George region.

**CROPS:** Scattered showers throughout the week slowed silage chopping, and hindered dry hay harvest. There were 3.4 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil Moisture was rated 2 percent short, 71 percent adequate, and 27 percent surplus. Condition of soybeans was 7 percent poor, 26 percent fair, 55 percent good, and 12 percent excellent. Hay condition was 15 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 47 percent good, and 8 percent excellent. Condition of corn was 8 percent poor, 24 percent fair, 56 percent good, and 12 percent excellent. Potatoes were 72 percent harvested, behind both the five year average of 80 percent, and last year's 80 percent. Ninety-five percent of the third cutting of alfalfa was completed, ahead of the five year average of 93 percent, and the same as last year. Silage corn was 50 percent harvested, behind both last year's 59 percent, and the five year average of 65 percent. Sixty-six percent of the dry beans were harvested, ahead of both the five year average of 37 percent, and last year's 45 percent. Soybeans were 6 percent completed, behind both the five year average of 11 percent, and last year's 13 percent. The following are comments from across the state: Field conditions continued to be wet in Cayuga County, which was holding up corn silage harvest. Silage harvest was picking up in Cortland County until the cool, wet weather halted harvest of any kind. Over the weekend in Madison County hay was being cut right along with corn. Montgomery, Herkimer, and Fulton Counties producers were harvesting silage. The yield was down, but the good news was that more of the corn and soybeans were looking like they will mature this week save for a killing frost. Washington County received 2-3 inches of rain, which slowed down corn silage harvest. Columbia County silage yields were down. Report from one farmer that usually takes 180 acres to fill bunker silos had to harvest 300 acres in order to fill it this year. It was a wet week in Delaware County. Harvest was progressing in Dutchess County with dry weather, cool nights, and one rain event. Silage harvest continued in-between rains in Niagara County. Sunshine and dry weather is needed to help the field corn and soybeans in Ontario County. The continued rain prevented producers from being able to harvest soybeans. A rainy week in St. Lawrence County essentially halted harvest. A hard frost also hit Sunday night, which may cause problem for corn fields that are to be harvested as silage. Corn that was harvested in Lewis County was done in the mud. Wet weather had slowed corn dry down and continued to delay corn harvest. Silage harvest continued in Jefferson County, and manure pits were being emptied as fields were harvested. Some high moisture shell corn was combined, but most fields were still a few weeks from being ready.

**FRUIT:** Apples were 1 percent poor, 2 percent fair, 11 percent good, and 86 percent excellent. Grapes were 30 percent poor, 27 percent fair, 25 percent good, and 18 percent excellent. Apples were 44 percent harvested, compared with 59 percent last year and the average of 60 percent. Grapes were 41 percent harvested, compared with 67 percent last year and the average of 51 percent. The Lake Erie grape region had areas that were deluged with 4 to 6 inches of rain and cool temperatures. This resulted in a more challenging Niagara harvest. In the Finger Lakes grape region, activity picked up with Seyval and Cayuga White being harvested. Niagara harvest wrapped up as well. Growers in the Hudson Valley saw cooler temperatures but less rainfall than predicted. Brix readings were slow in advancing, but grapes were maturing as indicated by improving flavors and seed development. In Long Island vineyards, warm, sunny weather provided ideal ripening conditions. Harvest started, but is not quite in full swing. Grapes on young vines, as well as early varieties such as Dornfelder and Pinot Gris were harvested.

**VEGETABLE:** Harvests for most New York vegetables were almost complete. Cucumber conditions were 29 percent fair, 68 percent good, and 3 percent excellent. Lettuce conditions were 3 percent fair, 83 percent good, and 14 percent excellent. Tomatoes were 95 percent harvested, ahead of the 94 percent five-year average. Tomato conditions were 37 percent poor, 15 percent fair, 42 percent good, and 6 percent excellent. Onion harvest was 96 percent complete, up from 91 percent five-year average. Onion conditions were 13 percent poor, 34 percent fair, and 53 percent good. Sweet corn harvest was 92 percent complete, behind the 94 percent harvested last year, and 96 percent five-year average. Sweet corn conditions were 4 percent poor, 23 percent fair, 65 percent good, and 8 percent excellent. Snap bean harvest was 94 percent complete, down from the 98 percent five-year average. Snap bean conditions were 17 percent poor, 34 percent fair, 47 percent good, and 2 percent excellent. Cabbage harvest was 90 percent completed, ahead of the 83 percent five-year average. Cabbage conditions were 15 percent fair, 51 percent good, and 34 percent excellent.

**LIVESTOCK:** No livestock problems reported. Pasture conditions were rated 2 percent very poor, 11 percent poor, 36 percent fair, 46 percent good and 5 percent excellent.

**Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, October 4, 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	71	41	55	-2	40	2515	+81	0.94	+0.31	25.79	+5.81
Glens Falls	68	34	51	-3	22	2104	-2	2.25	+1.60	22.82	+2.99
Poughkeepsie	73	37	57	0	52	2665	+97	0.42	-0.28	29.13	+6.16
<b><u>Mohawk Valley</u></b>											
Boonville	66	33	46	-6	7	1517	-124	3.64	+2.55	29.05	+0.47
<b><u>Champlain Valley</u></b>											
Plattsburgh	66	31	50	-4	17	2019	-114	1.52	+0.91	20.48	+1.12
<b><u>St. Lawrence Valley</u></b>											
Canton	68	29	49	-4	23	1870	-48	1.35	+0.57	21.58	+0.63
Massena	66	34	52	-2	28	2075	+74	1.09	+0.40	20.50	+1.39
<b><u>Great Lakes</u></b>											
Buffalo	67	42	54	-4	33	2411	+46	4.68	+3.98	24.12	+3.42
Wales	65	37	50	-5	19	1852	-58	2.79	+1.85	23.19	-1.19
Niagara Falls	69	39	54	-3	36	2401	+32	1.71	+1.01	23.06	+2.79
Rochester	67	41	53	-4	31	2271	-25	1.71	+1.13	20.30	+2.57
Watertown	69	34	52	-2	30	2059	+85	1.46	+0.81	17.72	+0.99
<b><u>Central Lakes</u></b>											
Dansville	69	37	52	-5	30	2326	+27	1.14	+0.46	17.44	-2.08
Geneva	68	41	52	-4	28	2229	-47	1.18	+0.48	19.21	-0.08
Honeoye	68	41	52	-6	26	2151	-247	1.20	+0.50	24.16	+5.07
Ithaca	69	38	51	-4	20	2002	-51	1.48	+0.71	22.25	+1.40
Penn Yan	68	38	52	-4	28	2369	+93	0.76	+0.06	17.10	-2.19
Syracuse	71	42	53	-3	33	2513	+199	1.38	+0.59	20.08	-1.87
Warsaw	64	37	49	-4	16	1790	+40	2.53	+1.71	26.27	+3.37
<b><u>Western Plateau</u></b>											
Angelica	66	36	51	-3	20	1670	-56	1.63	+0.88	24.07	+2.50
Elmira	69	36	52	-4	21	2212	+45	0.44	-0.23	15.78	-3.74
Franklinville	65	33	49	-4	15	1711	+126	1.67	+0.81	28.48	+5.33
Jamestown	65	34	50	-4	17	2000	+205	1.72	+0.74	28.15	+2.11
<b><u>Eastern Plateau</u></b>											
Binghamton	67	37	51	-4	23	2153	+60	1.04	+0.34	23.16	+2.49
Cobleskill	68	39	52	-3	25	1973	+26	1.14	+0.38	24.03	+1.74
Morrisville	66	41	50	-3	19	1871	+21	2.67	+1.82	26.88	+4.43
Norwich	71	37	50	-4	17	1955	+8	1.77	+0.99	30.11	+7.95
Oneonta	69	38	51	-2	21	2023	+241	1.24	+0.47	23.53	-0.08
<b><u>Coastal</u></b>											
Bridgehamton	73	38	58	-2	57	2606	+139	2.73	+1.98	26.89	+5.18
New York	74	49	62	-2	85	3402	+119	1.28	+0.58	28.86	+6.07

<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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