



# WEATHER AND CROPS

## April 26, 2010

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**This is the first edition of the New York “Weather and Crops” for the 2010 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:** Temperatures were near seasonable levels for the week, with nighttime lows in the 20’s and 30’s. The much above normal temperatures earlier in the month caused an early start to the growing season for most of the lower terrain areas of the state. South of the St. Lawrence and Champlain Valleys frost and freezing temperatures threatened fruit trees on some nights during the week. High pressure and dry weather dominated the region last week with most locations getting less than one tenth of an inch of rain. Higher amounts of rain fell across the far southern part of the state from New York City to the southern tier of central and western New York, but even these areas had below normal rainfall.

**CROPS:** Warm, dry weather pushed spring fieldwork and planting progress ahead of normal. There were 5.8 days suitable for fieldwork. A little rain is needed in parts of the state as soil moisture was rated at 12 percent very short, 32 percent short, 56 percent adequate. Oat seeding reached 71 percent finished, well ahead of last years progress of 46 percent. Condition of oats varied from 4 percent fair, 94 percent good, and 2 percent excellent. Winter wheat condition was 93 percent good and 7 percent excellent. Corn planting was 8 percent complete, ahead of last years 3 percent. Potatoes were 57 percent planted compared with 37 percent a year ago.

**FRUIT:** Apples were at 85 percent green tip or earlier stage of development, 52 percent half-inch green to pink, and 34 percent full bloom. Sweet cherries were at 75 percent full bloom and 25 percent petal fall, ahead of last year. An unusually warm spring led to rapid growth in fruit trees. In the Lake Ontario fruit region, inland sites had Idared, 20 oz., and Gingergold apples in bloom on April 19, with McIntosh not far behind. Pears, sweet cherries, and peaches were all in bloom. At lake sites, McIntosh were in early pink stage. Some frost was reported in the region on Friday and Saturday, especially in Niagara County, but no significant damage has been reported yet. Ontario County reported frost on April 20 and 23, but it was too early for damage assessment. On Long Island, strawberry blooms and buds were abundant with full bloom near in many early varieties. Chardonnay grapes ranged from 1-4 inch shoots.

**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 several regions across the state. Sweet corn was at 6 percent planted. Onions were at 20 percent planted, slightly ahead of last year’s progress of 19 percent. Onion planting in Orange County reached 20 percent. Snap beans and cabbage were both near 2 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 2 percent poor, 43 percent fair, 53 percent good, and 2 percent excellent.

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	69	31	51	+3	18	99	+81	0.01	-0.69	0.89	-1.60	
Glens Falls	69	31	49	+3	6	59	+49	0.04	-0.66	1.24	-1.21	
Poughkeepsie	71	30	51	+2	19	122	+93	0.27	-0.57	0.95	-1.89	
<b><u>Mohawk Valley</u></b>												
Boonville	65	28	45	+2	2	54	+46	0.00	-1.05	1.14	-2.74	
<b><u>Champlain Valley</u></b>												
Plattsburgh	67	34	50	+4	8	50	+38	0.12	-0.58	1.60	-0.72	
<b><u>St. Lawrence Valley</u></b>												
Canton	65	29	47	+3	0	67	+59	0.01	-0.69	1.09	-1.26	
Massena	68	28	49	+4	10	64	+54	0.00	-0.63	0.63	-1.58	
<b><u>Great Lakes</u></b>												
Buffalo	69	33	49	+2	11	112	+94	0.05	-0.65	1.54	-0.83	
Wales	67	28	45	0	3	90	+82	0.07	-0.82	1.51	-1.66	
Niagara Falls	70	34	50	+3	15	106	+85	0.01	-0.74	2.05	-0.60	
Rochester	68	33	50	+2	14	140	+118	0.04	-0.59	0.99	-1.17	
Watertown	64	24	45	-1	1	77	+67	0.00	-0.63	0.93	-1.14	
<b><u>Central Lakes</u></b>												
Dansville	67	29	47	-2	3	89	+70	0.30	-0.40	1.45	-0.89	
Geneva	67	32	48	+1	5	108	+92	0.11	-0.59	0.88	-1.53	
Honeoye	69	28	47	-1	7	120	+103	0.19	-0.51	1.21	-1.24	
Ithaca	67	26	45	-2	3	97	+85	0.20	-0.50	1.12	-1.29	
Penn Yan	67	31	48	+2	10	129	+113	0.06	-0.64	0.75	-1.66	
Syracuse	70	31	50	+2	19	125	+105	0.00	-0.78	0.72	-2.06	
Warsaw	64	30	46	+2	4	80	+74	0.08	-0.74	1.30	-1.52	
<b><u>Western Plateau</u></b>												
Angelica	67	28	47	+3	3	91	+86	0.39	-0.28	1.31	-1.01	
Elmira	69	25	48	0	9	109	+95	0.22	-0.41	1.03	-1.18	
Franklinville	67	24	43	0	1	60	+56	0.65	-0.13	1.83	-0.90	
Jamestown	69	27	46	+2	0	86	+78	0.77	-0.14	1.65	-1.53	
<b><u>Eastern Plateau</u></b>												
Binghamton	66	33	49	+3	13	132	+120	0.26	-0.51	1.25	-1.33	
Cobleskill	67	33	48	+3	3	71	+61	0.02	-0.75	1.11	-1.63	
Morrisville	68	29	47	+2	7	77	+70	0.08	-0.69	1.65	-0.89	
Norwich	68	27	46	-1	1	69	+59	0.12	-0.69	1.41	-1.36	
Oneonta	67	30	47	+3	3	75	+67	0.12	-0.72	1.41	-1.43	
<b><u>Coastal</u></b>												
Bridgehamton	68	37	53	+6	26	83	+72	0.25	-0.66	1.35	-1.97	
New York	72	47	58	+5	59	225	+166	0.67	-0.24	1.10	-2.04	

<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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