



WEATHER AND CROPS

May 10, 2010

Cooperating with New York Department of Agriculture and Markets
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Week Ending, May 9, 2010

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WEATHER: A series of cold fronts provided several areas of New York with its first round of severe weather for the season. This also provided the region with rainfall with several locations receiving over one inch of rain. With each passage of these cold fronts, temperatures experienced a large fluctuation throughout the week as preceding the frontal passage, many locations warmed well into the 80's. A strong cold front approached for the start of this past weekend with additional showers and thunderstorms. Temperatures averaged around normal with precipitation near to above normal.

CROPS: Cool, wet conditions throughout the week slowed planting progress some, but not by more than a day or two. There were 4.9 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated 10 percent short, 76 percent adequate, and 14 percent surplus. Condition of winter wheat was rated as 1 percent poor, 11 percent fair, 64 percent good, and 24 percent excellent. Oat condition was 10 percent fair, 69 percent good, and 21 percent excellent. Corn planting was 40 percent completed, ahead of both last year's 33 percent, and the five year average of 29 percent. Ninety-two percent of the oats were planted, ahead of both last year's 80 percent, and the five year average of 75 percent. Potatoes were 48 percent planted, slightly ahead of last year's 47 percent, and ahead of the five year average of 43 percent. Three percent of the soybeans were planted, behind both the previous year's 10 percent, and the five year average of 7 percent. The following are comments from throughout the state: As ground temperatures were warming the planting continued in Dutchess County with warm days and chilly nights. Wayne County had a few thunderstorms move through that were accompanied by strong winds. The storms dumped a lot of rain in a short time, and Wayne County has yet to have a good soaking rain. Its cold in Chenango County, but the spring work was moving along very well. No crop had emerged that would have been affected by the frost/ freeze. Grasses seemed much greener than other years and there was some concern over soil moisture. Another nice week in Cortland County had everyone out in the fields. High winds and extreme cold, with snow mixed in over the weekend halted field work, but there were no reports yet of crop damage. Some much needed rain fell in Madison County last week, and there was concern over soil moisture levels being too low. Farmers will start to cut hay and plant corn within the next week. Montgomery and Fulton County seedings were winding down as the corn planting was getting underway. Some hay was cut in Montgomery County. Corn planting was in full swing in Steuben County, and the hay crop was ahead of normal. Orchard grass in Broome County was starting to reach the boot stage, almost 3 weeks ahead of normal. Ninety-five percent of the plowing was completed in preparation of corn planting as farmers were taking advantage of the drier than normal spring to get a head start on planting. Schuyler County had high winds, snow, and frost over the weekend. Winter wheat was in stem elongation stage, and should be heading soon in Genesee County, very early compared to most years. Early planted corn had emerged and the stands looked excellent. Alfalfa/grass forages showed rapid growth and harvest will be starting by the end of this week or early next week. St. Lawrence County weather last week included rain, sun, and hail. Despite the ups and downs of the weather, producers were continuing to plant, and the showers helped grass growth. It was a good week for planting in Jefferson County. Early planted corn had emerged and was looking good. Small grains were also looking good. Some dairies were hauling water due to the low water table. Despite the rain during the week, Lewis County's corn planting accelerated. Hay growth continues to be ahead of schedule and harvest may start within the week. Cayuga and Otsego Counties corn planting picked up later in the week before the weekend storms. Field corn plantings were ahead for the year in Albany County, and the seedings were emerging. Farmers in Saratoga County indicated that haylage harvest would begin this week. Tillage work continued in Washington County, but corn planting slowed due to the rain. Planting began earlier than normal in Sullivan County on drier grounds in between thunderstorms.

FRUIT: Apples were at 75 percent full bloom and 25 percent petal fall, compared to 70 and 44 percent last year, and 53 and 32 percent average progress. Peaches were at 92 percent full bloom and 50 percent petal fall, compared to 72 and 56 percent last year, and 57 and 36 percent average progress. Pears were at 92 percent full bloom and 90 percent petal fall, compared to 71 and 62 percent last year, and 61 and 37 percent average progress. Sweet cherries 92 percent full bloom and 85 percent petal fall compared to 80 and 67 percent last year, and 63 and 56 percent average progress. In the Lake Ontario fruit region, strawberries were at early bloom. Fruit development was ahead of normal in the Finger Lakes. Cold temperatures brought scattered frost to the area, but no reported damage yet. In Cortland County, cold temperatures and high winds may have affected fruit trees, but no damage has been reported yet. High winds in Albany County made spraying difficult in orchards. Apple set was variable, and could make thinning activities difficult. Strawberries were ahead of average. On Long Island, Chardonnay shoots ranged from 4 to 12 inches. Cabernet Sauvignon shoots were slower, while Merlot shoots were erratic.

VEGETABLE: Vegetable planting continued throughout the state. Sweet corn was at 17 percent planted, up from 14 percent previous week and compared to 23 percent previous year, and 25 percent for the five year average. Onions were at 70 percent planted, up from 60 percent previous week and compared to 63 percent previous year, and 50 percent for the five year average. Onion planting in Orange County reached 85 percent. Snap beans were at 10 percent planted, up from 9 percent last week and compared to 4 percent previous year, and 11 percent five year average. Cabbage was at 16 percent planted, up from 9 percent last week and compared to 9 percent last year and 15 percent five year average.

LIVESTOCK: Pastures look okay, but some heat would really improve conditions. Livestock are turned out on pasture, with most pasture at optimum or slightly ahead. Pasture conditions were considered to be in good condition. Pasture conditions were rated 2 percent poor, 27 percent fair, 52 percent good, and 19 percent excellent.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, May 9, 2010

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	87	36	61	+8	79	220	+142	0.95	+0.22	2.21	-1.71
Glens Falls	85	35	59	+7	57	161	+106	1.55	+0.78	3.10	-0.87
Poughkeepsie	90	39	64	+10	102	267	+167	0.42	-0.56	2.16	-2.58
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>											
Boonville	76	27	54	+6	43	119	+81	2.75	+1.77	4.01	-1.90
<u>Champlain Valley</u>											
Plattsburgh	84	36	59	+8	68	136	+80	0.70	+0.07	3.23	-0.38
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>											
Canton	82	31	57	+7	58	157	+110	1.09	+0.42	3.16	-0.56
Massena	82	33	59	+8	68	149	+95	0.94	+0.38	2.43	-0.94
<u>Great Lakes</u>											
Buffalo	80	34	56	+3	50	203	+131	1.68	+1.01	3.75	+0.01
Wales	79	32	55	+5	49	168	+120	1.75	+0.95	3.85	-0.96
Niagara Falls	81	35	58	+5	61	214	+133	1.51	+0.84	3.83	-0.19
Rochester	83	33	58	+5	62	247	+162	1.53	+0.94	3.09	-0.29
Watertown	81	33	56	+6	54	158	+108	1.48	+0.92	2.60	-0.65
<u>Central Lakes</u>											
Dansville	79	33	56	+4	51	209	+134	1.54	+0.91	2.93	-0.69
Geneva	83	31	59	+7	66	213	+144	1.29	+0.65	3.14	-0.61
Honeoye	82	33	59	+7	66	228	+158	1.63	+1.00	3.55	-0.21
Ithaca	81	33	58	+7	60	197	+141	1.13	+0.43	3.42	-0.39
Penn Yan	81	33	59	+7	67	238	+169	1.08	+0.44	2.99	-0.76
Syracuse	84	33	60	+6	70	241	+158	1.98	+1.24	2.88	-1.41
Warsaw	78	33	55	+6	48	160	+121	2.40	+1.63	4.56	+0.20
<u>Western Plateau</u>											
Angelica	79	34	56	+7	50	173	+135	1.54	+0.95	3.67	+0.13
Elmira	81	34	59	+7	64	214	+150	1.48	+0.79	3.46	-0.10
Franklinville	78	31	54	+6	42	129	+100	1.76	+0.99	4.24	-0.03
Jamestown	79	36	56	+7	50	166	+124	2.00	+1.16	4.18	-0.74
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>											
Binghamton	79	31	59	+7	67	244	+185	1.12	+0.40	3.38	-0.69
Cobleskill	84	32	58	+8	62	157	+106	1.25	+0.48	2.87	-1.41
Morrisville	81	28	56	+5	49	157	+111	2.01	+1.24	4.64	+0.56
Norwich	84	33	56	+5	46	143	+90	1.28	+0.45	4.00	-0.42
Oneonta	84	33	58	+9	59	163	+118	1.56	+0.61	4.27	-0.42
<u>Coastal</u>											
Bridgehamton	77	44	63	+11	94	204	+148	0.63	-0.28	2.90	-2.24
New York	90	46	70	+12	138	426	+267	1.51	+0.60	4.06	-0.90

^{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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