



# WEATHER AND CROPS

## September 20, 2010

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Released, September 20, 2010

Week Ending, September 19, 2010

No. 977-22-10

**WEATHER:** Temperatures averaged below normal levels for the week with precipitation generally averaging at or above normal levels for the week except for some below normal levels across portions of east central New York. Patchy frost occurred across portions of the southern Adirondacks and the Lake George region of east central New York Thursday morning and again Saturday morning. A cold front crossed the state from west to east on Sunday producing mainly light rain across western and southern portions of the state. High pressure then dominated the state through Wednesday. On Thursday and Friday low pressure tracked from the Great Lakes into northern New England. A warm front associated with this low brought showers and thunderstorms to the state with severe thunderstorms occurring late Thursday afternoon across the New York City area and western Long Island, where two confirmed tornadoes occurred. A cold front followed passing through the state Friday with scattered showers mainly across southeast portions of the state. High pressure built across from the west in the wake of this cold front for late Friday into Saturday.

**CROPS:** Corn silage harvest progressed across the state as weather allowed. There were 5.2 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated 2 percent very short, 5 percent short, 78 percent adequate, and 15 percent surplus. Condition of corn was rated as 2 percent poor, 11 percent fair, 45 percent good, and 42 percent excellent. Soybean condition was 2 percent poor, 12 percent fair, 41 percent good, and 45 percent excellent. Hay condition was 7 percent poor, 18 percent fair, 52 percent good, and 23 percent excellent. Third cutting alfalfa was 96 percent completed, ahead of both last year's 85 percent and the five year average of 85 percent. Third cutting clover-timothy was 86 percent completed. Potatoes were 53 percent harvested, behind both last year's 56 percent, and the five year average of 58 percent. Fifty-nine percent of silage corn was harvested ahead of both last year's 13 percent, and the five year average of 27 percent. Two percent of the grain corn was harvested. Dry beans were 14 percent harvested behind both last year's 32 percent, and the five year average of 24 percent. Soybeans were 5 percent harvested, ahead of the five year average of 2 percent. The following are comments from throughout the state: Soybeans continued to turn in Jefferson County. A rainy week in St. Lawrence County, but weather experts said it was normal for this time of year. In Genesee County, wheat planting continued to be ahead of normal, and grain corn harvest started with surprisingly low moistures for this date. Yields were good, and soybeans will be ready to harvest soon. Seedings planted in August were making excellent growth. On and off rain showers prevented Ontario County producers from planting 2011 winter wheat, and slowed the dry down progress of the grain corn and soybeans. Soybeans were beginning to turn in Cortland County. Spotty showers were holding up some operators in Madison County, but larger operations continued on, since the rains haven't been downpours. Soybean and corn for grain was maturing well in Otsego County. Third and fourth cutting hay was being harvested between rains in Montgomery and Fulton Counties. A short stretch of dry weather allowed third cut grass fields to be chopped in Brome County, but most was put into baleage. Hill fields that can be normally difficult to harvest corn silage from have produced above normal yields and were chopped first, which is not the norm. Columbia County received a few showers, but not enough to make a difference in the drought conditions. Delaware County had a severe storm on Monday with large hail, which damaged hundreds of acres of corn. Corn was drying out in Dutchess County, and the hay was slow to grow producing a very challenging time for farmers.

**FRUIT:** Apples were 1 percent poor, 15 percent fair, 66 percent good, and 18 percent excellent. Grapes were 3 percent poor, 6 percent fair, 49 percent good, and 42 percent excellent. Peaches were 14 percent poor, 15 percent fair, 63 percent good, and 8 percent excellent. Pears were 2 percent poor, 11 percent fair, 78 percent good, and 9 percent excellent. Apples were 48 percent harvested, compared to 32 percent last year. Grapes were 26 percent harvested, compared to 12 percent last year. Peaches were 99 percent harvested, compared to 98 percent last year. Pears were 93 percent harvested, compared to 83 percent last year. In the Lake Ontario fruit region, apple harvest continued. There were some reports of hail on Monday. A localized hail event in Ulster County caused damage to tree fruit and some damage to grapes. Excellent quality apples continued to be harvested in Albany County, and u-pick operations were very busy. Cool temperatures in Broome County helped keep the u-pick apple operations busy. The Concord and Niagara harvests were in full swing in the Lake Erie grape region. Concord harvest in the Finger Lakes was also in full swing. Additionally, Gewürztraminer and Pinot Gris were added to the mix of varieties being harvested with very nice sugar, acidity balance, and flavor. In milder areas of the Hudson Valley, Chardonnay grapes were scheduled for harvest, as well as Cayuga White. In Long Island vineyards, growers were in the thick of harvesting Sauvignon Blanc, and Chardonnay harvest was progressing as well.

**VEGETABLE:** Sweet corn harvest in eastern New York was winding down for some producers. Pumpkins have been showing up around the state at farmer's markets. Pumpkins were experiencing a lower than expected yield due to dry conditions and disease in eastern New York. Lettuce had reported conditions of 2 percent poor, 21 percent fair, 32 percent good, and 45 percent excellent. Onion harvest was 63 percent complete, behind the 80 percent five-year average. Onion conditions were 2 percent poor, 12 percent fair, 49 percent good and 37 percent excellent. Cabbage harvest was 80 percent completed, up from 76 percent last year, compared to 68 percent five-year average. Cabbage conditions were 19 percent fair, 67 percent good and 14 percent excellent. Sweet corn harvest was 90 percent complete, up from 81 percent last year, and 88 percent five-year average. Sweet corn conditions were 2 percent poor, 16 percent fair, 65 percent good, and 17 percent excellent. Tomatoes were 93 percent harvested, up from 84 percent five-year average. Tomato conditions were 6 percent poor, 12 percent fair, 62 percent good, and 20 percent excellent. Snap bean harvest was 90 percent complete, ahead of the 86 percent five-year average. Snap bean conditions were 9 percent poor, 26 percent fair, 55 percent good, and 10 percent excellent.

**LIVESTOCK:** No livestock problems reported. Pasture conditions were rated 3 percent very poor, 8 percent poor, 31 percent fair, 51 percent good, and 7 percent excellent.

**Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, September 19, 2010**

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	73	43	60	-2	74	2865	+548	0.25	-0.45	12.74	-5.88
Glens Falls	69	36	56	-4	45	2409	+392	0.79	+0.09	14.58	-3.80
Poughkeepsie	75	41	61	-2	76	3009	+571	0.27	-0.51	14.08	-7.31
<b><u>Mohawk Valley</u></b>											
Boonville	66	38	51	-6	16	1893	+313	1.83	+0.54	26.86	+0.77
<b><u>Champlain Valley</u></b>											
Plattsburgh	69	38	56	-3	46	2351	+309	1.75	+1.04	19.04	+1.03
<b><u>St. Lawrence Valley</u></b>											
Canton	67	39	54	-5	29	2307	+470	1.44	+0.53	21.08	+1.88
Massena	70	38	56	-3	47	2438	+516	1.24	+0.40	20.45	+2.91
<b><u>Great Lakes</u></b>											
Buffalo	73	48	59	-4	62	2713	+477	0.46	-0.35	19.63	+0.50
Wales	70	44	55	-4	41	2224	+410	0.67	-0.45	19.24	-3.00
Niagara Falls	76	44	59	-4	64	2789	+549	0.62	-0.25	16.47	-2.19
Rochester	72	44	58	-5	58	2731	+566	0.89	+0.19	19.82	+3.40
Watertown	70	39	57	-3	50	2441	+562	1.50	+0.73	17.54	+2.27
<b><u>Central Lakes</u></b>											
Dansville	72	43	56	-6	45	2597	+422	0.92	+0.13	21.55	+3.57
Geneva	72	43	56	-6	46	2599	+443	1.04	+0.27	22.23	+4.47
Honeoye	73	42	57	-6	52	2558	+297	1.06	+0.32	23.39	+5.80
Ithaca	73	41	56	-5	41	2431	+481	0.90	+0.06	16.97	-2.19
Penn Yan	73	42	58	-4	58	2728	+572	0.92	+0.15	18.82	+1.06
Syracuse	72	43	58	-4	60	2833	+644	0.88	-0.03	22.33	+2.16
Warsaw	69	43	54	-4	30	2166	+495	0.86	-0.09	23.82	+2.76
<b><u>Western Plateau</u></b>											
Angelica	73	43	56	-2	45	2354	+706	0.69	-0.15	22.13	+2.23
Elmira	77	38	57	-4	48	2583	+524	0.47	-0.26	17.08	-0.97
Franklinville	71	37	54	-3	31	2048	+535	1.49	+0.56	22.83	+1.58
Jamestown	74	43	56	-3	46	2344	+636	1.33	+0.21	22.84	-1.01
<b><u>Eastern Plateau</u></b>											
Binghamton	71	43	56	-4	43	2563	+569	0.35	-0.42	17.17	-1.92
Cobleskill	71	43	56	-4	41	2310	+455	0.50	-0.40	19.86	-0.71
Morrisville	65	41	53	-6	23	2208	+442	0.72	-0.24	24.26	+3.70
Norwich	70	39	55	-5	35	2239	+382	0.96	+0.05	20.26	-0.15
Oneonta	70	41	56	-3	40	2358	+654	0.78	-0.06	22.16	+0.26
<b><u>Coastal</u></b>											
Bridgehampton	78	43	61	-4	77	2969	+662	2.27	+1.46	13.90	-6.18
New York	76	60	68	-1	127	3953	+886	0.58	-0.20	12.58	-8.64

<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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