



# WEATHER AND CROPS

## August 8, 2011

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Week Ending, August 7, 2011

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**WEATHER:** It was a warm and humid week across New York with several weak cold frontal passages yielding isolated to scattered showers and thunderstorms. High pressure was over the northeast Sunday as a cold front approached from the eastern Great Lakes Region and the St. Lawrence River Valley for Monday. Another weak cold front moved through Tuesday morning with high pressure briefly building in the afternoon into Wednesday morning. A warm front stalled over western New York and central Pennsylvania during the mid week with the most widespread showers impacting portions of the Finger Lakes Region and southern New York. Low pressure dipped south of the region on Thursday with high pressure ridging back in from the Great Lakes Region to close the work week. An upper level disturbance brought scattered showers and thunderstorms across most of the state on Saturday. Rainfall was generally near normal, except for a few locations in the Finger Lakes Region and the lower to Mid Hudson Valley that had convection and received one to two inches, which was above normal. Portions of western and northern New York had below normal precipitation. Temperatures were above normal in the muggy air mass.

**CROPS:** There were 5.6 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated as 21 percent very short, 35 percent short, 43 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus. Condition of corn was rated as 15 percent poor, 35 percent fair, 42 percent good, and 8 percent excellent. Condition of soybeans was rated as 11 percent poor, 38 percent fair, 44 percent good, and 7 percent excellent. Hay condition was rated as 13 percent poor, 35 percent fair, 47 percent good, and 5 percent excellent. The second cutting of alfalfa was 91 percent complete, ahead of the 78 percent average. The third cutting of alfalfa was 24 percent complete, behind the 31 percent average. The first cutting of clover timothy was virtually complete, while the second cutting of clover timothy was 79 percent complete, ahead of the 61 percent average. The third cutting of clover timothy was 19 percent complete, in line with the 20 percent average. Winter wheat was 97 percent harvested, behind the 100 percent harvested last year, but ahead of the 84 percent average. Oats for grain were 31 percent harvested, behind the 55 percent harvested last year and the 39 percent average. Potatoes were 12 percent harvested, in line with the 12 percent harvested last year and the 13 percent average. The following are comments from throughout the state: The Jefferson County corn crop was variable with some excellent corn and some very uneven, stressed corn. Alfalfa third cutting yields were light due to lack of adequate rainfall. Rain was needed for all crops in Lewis County. Corn growth in St Lawrence County was great. The corn was high, tasseled, and loaded with ears. Genesee County had some rainfall with most of the area receiving one inch, but the county was still very dry and in need of more rain. Soybeans were in bloom and looked better, while corn was in pollination or grain fill stage. Finally, some much needed rain was received in Ontario County. Producers were waiting to see if the rain helped the dry, heat stressed crops. Extreme heat and lack of rain in Cayuga and Oswego Counties caused significant yield reductions of 40 to 60 percent on second and third cutting hay crops. Corn crops had poor pollination and maturity varied greatly. Soybeans were in blossom drop. Chenango County received some much needed rain. The crops should come along even better with this rain. Two days of long, steady rain in Cortland County helped relieve much of the corn and hay from the stress of drought. Much needed rain was also received in Madison County. Most corn continued to look fairly good, however some fields, especially gravel and shallow planted fields, showed signs of heat stress. Oats in Otsego County turned and were ready for harvest. Barley was harvested, and corn continued to advance. Hot, humid, summertime weather dominated in Albany County. Haying continued, although interrupted by storms in places. Third cutting was going in and was of good quality and quantity. In Montgomery and Fulton Counties, a lot of dry hay was harvested. The corn crop was looking better, but quite uneven in most fields. Small grain harvest was underway. Washington County received rain which helped crops that were under stress from dry weather. More rain and heat were needed for late planted corn and soybeans to mature. Much needed rain fell in Broome County. A few producers started third cutting. Production was very short but many hoped to take third cut and maybe get a fourth. Corn maturity varied, as some areas have been tasseled for a couple weeks while other areas were not showing any signs of tasseling. A few light showers fell in Schuyler County. Sullivan County received adequate showers this week and the corn was good in some areas and horrible in others, due to wetness when planted. Haying was tough due to the showers, and many noted the quality was not good. Delaware County had some dry areas to the north, while other parts of the county reported adequate rainfall. Corn was variable. Dutchess County experienced another very dry week with spotty rain showers. The central part of the county had heavy rain and golf ball sized hail, but no damage was reported. Second cutting was growing at a snail's pace, and corn continued to dry up in some areas.

**FRUIT:** Apple harvest was 12 percent complete, up from a previous year and five year average of 9 percent. Apple condition was 2 percent poor, 66 percent fair, 26 percent good, and 6 percent excellent. Grape condition was 15 percent fair, 77 percent good, and 8 percent excellent. Peach harvest was 50 percent complete, down from 68 percent last year and above the 39 percent five year average. Peach condition was 1 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 55 percent good, and 14 percent excellent. Pear harvest was 8 percent complete down from the 25 percent five year harvest. Pear condition was 42 percent fair, 46 percent good, and 12 percent excellent. Tart cherry condition was 2 percent poor, 8 percent fair, 71 percent good, and 19 percent excellent. Tart cherry harvest was 99 percent, ahead of the five year average of 92 percent. In Long Island vineyards, hedging and cluster thinning were under way in preparation for the application of protective bird netting. A few varieties such as Pinot Noir have started veraison. In Albany County, early season apple varieties were harvested.

**VEGETABLE:** In Cayuga County one-third of the stalk turned brown on sweet corn in some fields. Sweet corn harvest was very difficult since there was no consistency within the plantings; producers picked through several plantings at the same time. Recently planted snap beans did not germinate. Lettuce had reported conditions of 2 percent poor, 9 percent fair, 88 percent good, and 1 percent excellent. Onion harvest was 26 percent complete compared to 19 percent last year and 21 percent five-year average. Onion condition was 6 percent poor, 32 percent fair, and 62 percent good. Cabbage harvest was 21 percent completed compare to 41 percent last year and 25 percent five-year average. Cabbage condition was 8 percent poor, 55 percent fair, 36 percent good, and 1 percent excellent. Sweet corn harvest was 23 percent complete compared to 38 percent last year and 28 percent five-year average. Sweet corn condition was 11 percent poor, 23 percent fair, 61 percent good, and 5 percent excellent. Tomatoes were 20 percent harvested compared to 34 percent previous year and 23 percent five year average. Tomato condition was 3 percent poor, 15 percent fair, 69 percent good, and 13 percent excellent. Snap bean harvest was 17 percent complete compared to 40 percent last year and 33 percent five year average. Snap bean condition was 6 percent poor, 43 percent fair, 48 percent good, and 3 percent excellent.

**LIVESTOCK:** Pastures that were overgrazed during the week will take some time to recover due to rain. Pasture was rated 14 percent very poor, 21 percent poor, 37 percent fair, 25 percent good, and 3 percent excellent.

**Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, August 7, 2011**

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	89	59	75	+4	179	2012	+398	0.73	-0.04	17.78	+3.81
Glens Falls	90	52	73	+4	162	1735	+324	0.94	+0.17	16.54	+3.05
Poughkeepsie	92	60	76	+4	180	2105	+420	1.24	+0.40	18.90	+2.49
<b><u>Mohawk Valley</u></b>											
Boonville	82	53	68	+3	128	1307	+202	0.65	-0.34	24.47	+5.84
<b><u>Champlain Valley</u></b>											
Plattsburgh	92	54	71	+3	150	1599	+158	0.08	-0.79	18.47	+5.80
<b><u>St. Lawrence Valley</u></b>											
Canton	84	51	70	+3	143	1602	+323	0.23	-0.65	19.75	+6.39
Massena	89	53	72	+5	158	1739	+382	0.00	-0.79	14.70	+2.42
<b><u>Great Lakes</u></b>											
Buffalo	86	63	76	+6	184	1892	+354	0.37	-0.49	20.39	+6.89
Wales	85	58	71	+5	150	1557	+313	0.53	-0.31	17.45	+1.53
Niagara Falls	88	60	76	+6	181	1832	+284	0.22	-0.57	16.61	+3.48
Rochester	88	59	74	+5	169	1882	+386	0.41	-0.31	14.06	+2.30
Watertown	86	54	72	+4	158	1641	+356	0.05	-0.56	15.14	+4.70
<b><u>Central Lakes</u></b>											
Dansville	92	59	75	+6	180	2095	+599	0.98	+0.30	13.54	+0.30
Geneva	89	59	73	+4	164	1831	+351	0.71	+0.06	13.69	+0.51
Honeoye	85	56	72	+1	153	1751	+213	0.81	+0.14	16.35	+3.38
Ithaca	87	54	71	+3	147	1696	+355	0.72	-0.05	18.88	+4.67
Penn Yan	90	60	74	+5	171	1948	+468	0.52	-0.13	12.09	-1.09
Syracuse	89	62	76	+7	182	2124	+610	0.96	+0.18	20.03	+5.04
Warsaw	83	57	70	+4	144	1509	+351	0.81	+0.01	19.50	+4.13
<b><u>Western Plateau</u></b>											
Hornell Almond Dam	87	54	70	+3	142	1598	+345	1.17	+0.61	18.47	+5.38
Elmira	94	56	73	+4	160	1845	+423	0.56	-0.14	15.05	+1.33
Franklinville	84	54	70	+6	142	1504	+465	1.05	+0.21	22.99	+7.46
Jamestown	89	55	72	+7	157	1660	+489	1.02	+0.09	21.39	+4.12
<b><u>Eastern Plateau</u></b>											
Binghamton	88	59	71	+3	148	1743	+362	1.59	+0.82	22.21	+7.85
Cobleskill	85	55	71	+3	147	1581	+301	0.79	+0.02	19.61	+4.20
Morrisville	88	58	71	+5	149	1554	+333	0.78	+0.01	17.90	+2.70
Norwich	88	54	70	+3	138	1600	+317	1.35	+0.65	24.68	+9.37
Oneonta	86	55	70	+5	145	1592	+406	1.19	+0.35	24.67	+7.93
<b><u>Coastal</u></b>											
Bridgehamton	88	59	75	+3	175	1887	+373	0.13	-0.58	14.86	-0.23
New York	92	68	79	+3	207	2426	+333	1.15	+0.28	17.04	+0.92

<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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