



# WEATHER AND CROPS

## October 31, 2011

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Cooperating with New York Department of Agriculture and Markets  
10B Airline Drive, Albany, New York 12235  
(518) 457-5570 · (518) 485-8719 FAX · [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)

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Week Ending, October 30, 2011

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**This is the last edition of the New York "Weather and Crops" for the 2011 season. The New York Agricultural Statistics Service gratefully acknowledges the weekly cooperation of the Agricultural Weather Information Service, Inc., National Weather Service personnel, Agricultural Extension agents, FSA representatives, and independent volunteer observers who collectively make this report possible.**

**WEATHER:** Temperatures for the week averaged several degrees below normal with precipitation amounts across the state highly variable. High pressure over the northeast resulted in mainly dry conditions across the state on Sunday. A fast moving cold front brought scattered mainly light showers to the state on Monday with a return to high pressure and dry conditions on Tuesday. Temperatures from Sunday through Tuesday were near normal to slightly above normal. The weather became unsettled across the state on Wednesday and Thursday as a low pressure system moved from the eastern Great Lakes Wednesday morning to the southern New England Coast on Thursday. The precipitation initially fell as rain across the state, but changed to snow in many areas on Thursday as colder air moved in from Canada. Many areas in the Hudson Valley and surrounding higher terrain received a half inch to several inches of snow. Behind this system skies cleared out late Thursday night and brought an end to the growing season across parts of the state where the growing season had not yet ended with most areas having low temperatures in the mid 20's to lower 30's. Friday was a dry but cold day across the state as a ridge of high pressure built across the northeast. A major Nor'easter impacted the eastern and southern portions of the state on Saturday with little if any precipitation falling across northern and western portions of the state. Heavy wet snow fell across the eastern and southern portions of the state knocking down trees, tree limbs, and power lines in many areas. The heaviest snow fell from the Catskills east to the Taconics with snowfall totals ranging from several inches to a foot and a half.

**CROPS:** There were 3.5 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated 45 percent adequate and 55 percent surplus. Condition of corn was rated as 14 percent poor, 32 percent fair, 49 percent good, and 5 percent excellent. Condition of soybeans was rated as 10 percent poor, 32 percent fair, 51 percent good, and 7 percent excellent. Hay condition was rated as 14 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 50 percent good, and 6 percent excellent. The third cutting of alfalfa hay was 96 percent complete, behind the 100 percent harvested last year and the 100 percent average. The third cutting of clover timothy was 89 percent complete, behind the 95 percent harvested last year and the 99 percent average. Silage corn was 95 percent harvested, behind the 99 percent harvested last year and the 95 percent average. Grain corn harvest was 29 percent complete, compared to 44 percent last year and the average of 34 percent. Potatoes were 94 percent harvested, compared with 78 percent last year and the average of 93 percent. Soybean harvest was 36 percent complete, behind last year's 65 percent and the average of 56 percent. Dry bean harvest stood at 70 percent complete, compared with 92 percent last year and the average of 84 percent. The following are comments from our reporters throughout the state: In Jefferson County, drier weather improved field conditions, allowing soybean harvest to resume. There were still some corn growers chopping for silage. It was another week of showers in St. Lawrence County, but not heavy enough to cause lasting problems. Only grain corn and some soybeans remain to be harvested. Rain showers off and on throughout the week in Ontario County continued to delay the harvest of corn and soybeans for grain. Cortland County harvests proceeded slowly as many were bogged down in the mud. Growers reached the end of corn silage harvest. High moisture corn was being combined. Weather has been the limiting factor for bean harvest since sun is needed. Wet conditions in Otsego County prevented much fieldwork. Yields have been weak on most crops. In Albany County, two snow storms during the week delayed the completion of corn silage harvest. Some corn meant for silage will be picked for grain where possible. Harvests in Montgomery and Fulton Counties were at a standstill as fields were just too wet. Extremely saturated ground conditions in Saratoga County brought fall harvesting operations to a slow moving pace. Only the very well drained fields had any harvest activities taking place. Grain corn and soybean harvest was being very slowly undertaken. In Washington County, a few farmers started picking corn, but the results were not good. There were several reports of mold and sprouting due to the excessive rainfall throughout the growing season. Corn grain yields were reported below normal. Many farmers also reported that their corn silage yields were a few tons per acre less than last year. In Schuyler County, fields still has standing water which made harvesting difficult. In Columbia and Greene Counties, most of the corn silage that is going to be able to be harvested has been done. Yields for corn silage varied depending on how heavy and wet the soils were but most were below average. Soybeans in Columbia County averaged slightly better average yields and the grain corn was average to slightly below average. In Delaware County, snow hampered any further silage or combining activities. In Dutchess County, corn harvest continued and some hay as well.

**FRUIT:** Apple harvest was 91 percent complete, down from 95 percent previous year but above the 89 percent average. Apple condition was 14 percent poor, 16 percent fair, 40 percent good, and 30 percent excellent. Grape harvest was 95 percent complete, behind the 98 percent last year but ahead of the 94 percent average. Grape condition was 4 percent poor, 12 percent fair, 66 percent good, and 18 percent excellent. Apple harvest was delayed by snow in Albany County. In Long Island vineyards, the bulk of the grapes have been harvested, a few various red varieties were still hanging.

**VEGETABLE:** Frost ended the vegetable growing season. Cabbage was 83 percent harvested, behind last year's 100 percent.

**LIVESTOCK:** Hard frost, heavy rain and snow ended the grazing season. Pasture conditions were rated 6 percent very poor, 21 percent poor, 34 percent fair, 34 percent good, and 5 percent excellent.

**Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, October 30, 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	60	30	42	-5	0	3193	+686	1.28	+0.62	37.62	+15.27
Glens Falls	62	25	40	-4	0	2734	+584	0.72	+0.02	34.71	+12.46
Poughkeepsie	62	26	45	-3	3	3356	+703	1.61	+0.89	43.22	+17.68
<b><u>Mohawk Valley</u></b>											
Boonville	55	21	36	-7	0	2013	+338	1.01	-0.07	43.15	+10.81
<b><u>Champlain Valley</u></b>											
Plattsburgh	61	25	41	-4	1	2526	+345	0.13	-0.50	32.60	+11.08
<b><u>St. Lawrence Valley</u></b>											
Canton	64	22	39	-5	4	2517	+554	0.17	-0.58	32.56	+8.91
Massena	67	20	40	-4	6	2736	+689	0.14	-0.49	23.61	+2.17
<b><u>Great Lakes</u></b>											
Buffalo	59	27	44	-4	6	3047	+592	0.90	+0.16	33.23	+9.95
Wales	58	24	40	-6	0	2418	+447	1.07	+0.18	30.33	+2.80
Niagara Falls	59	26	43	-5	5	2936	+474	0.75	+0.09	26.96	+4.35
Rochester	58	28	44	-4	2	2967	+582	1.12	+0.56	28.33	+8.57
Watertown	62	21	41	-4	4	2656	+624	0.30	-0.35	30.07	+11.04
<b><u>Central Lakes</u></b>											
Dansville	63	28	44	-3	5	3230	+841	0.72	+0.16	24.56	+2.89
Geneva	63	30	43	-4	2	2805	+449	1.43	+0.76	28.25	+6.56
Honeoye	61	27	43	-6	2	2719	+222	1.15	+0.49	30.58	+9.11
Ithaca	65	26	44	-3	4	2600	+479	1.17	+0.47	37.77	+14.21
Penn Yan	65	31	44	-3	6	3037	+681	0.77	+0.10	23.62	+1.93
Syracuse	63	28	44	-4	5	3328	+925	1.16	+0.41	35.30	+10.66
Warsaw	58	25	39	-5	0	2304	+505	1.23	+0.46	35.04	+9.35
<b><u>Western Plateau</u></b>											
Hornell Almond Dam	59	24	40	-5	0	2416	+454	0.98	+0.42	32.35	+11.62
Elmira	63	28	43	-3	3	2829	+592	0.66	+0.03	31.89	+10.03
Franklinville	58	22	39	-5	0	2291	+661	1.15	+0.32	37.02	+10.82
Jamestown	61	27	41	-4	0	2565	+717	1.15	+0.22	33.80	+4.38
<b><u>Eastern Plateau</u></b>											
Binghamton	59	27	42	-4	0	2663	+511	0.90	+0.23	50.90	+27.84
Cobleskill	60	29	42	-4	0	2471	+469	1.03	+0.33	41.97	+17.16
Morrisville	60	23	39	-6	0	2443	+545	1.30	+0.53	38.76	+13.50
Norwich	62	25	41	-4	0	2483	+486	1.20	+0.44	45.44	+20.59
Oneonta	61	24	41	-4	0	2471	+639	1.30	+0.53	45.55	+19.11
<b><u>Coastal</u></b>											
Bridgehamton	61	34	48	-4	6	3211	+620	2.30	+1.44	30.55	+6.00
New York	63	34	52	-3	29	4011	+539	2.36	+1.63	45.38	+20.08

<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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