



# WEATHER AND CROPS

## May 16, 2011

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Released, May 16, 2011

Week Ending, May 15, 2011

No. 977-04-11

**WEATHER:** The week began with a cool and dry northerly flow of air around the west side of a low pressure system off the New England coast. This pattern persisted through much of the week and resulted partly to mostly sunny weather across the state. Temperatures averaged close to normal with highs rising into the mid to upper 70's by Thursday. Initially, the northerly flow brought cool air resulting in below freezing temperatures in the North Country on the morning of the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. The growing season does not normally start in this area until around May 25<sup>th</sup>. An approaching frontal boundary brought cloudiness into the region on Friday with rain developing in some areas late Friday into Saturday especially across northern and western New York. Rainfall varied from over an inch across northern and western areas to less than a quarter inch over the southern tier and southeast part of the state.

**CROPS:** Across the state, a break in the weather finally allowed producers to make some progress in the fields. Topsoil moisture was rated as 34 percent adequate and 66 percent surplus. There were 5.1 days suitable for fieldwork. Hay was rated as 2 percent poor, 15 percent fair, 64 percent good, and 19 percent excellent. Winter wheat was rated 4 percent poor, 41 percent fair, 47 percent good, and 8 percent excellent. The first cutting of clover timothy was just starting. Corn was 20 percent planted, behind last year's 55 percent and the average of 53 percent. Oats were 38 percent planted, well behind the 95 percent planted a year ago and the 91 percent average. Potatoes were 55 percent planted, in line with last year's 56 percent and the average of 55 percent. Soybeans were 2 percent planted, behind the 11 percent planted a year ago, and the 15 percent average. The following are comments from throughout the state: Much progress was made on crop planting operations in Jefferson County. A great deal of fieldwork was also performed in Lewis County, except in wet areas and poorly drained fields. St. Lawrence County farmers were busy preparing fields, with grounds still too cool to begin planting. Fitting and planting in Erie County began as producers finally saw a break in weather. Producers in Genesee County were topdressing nitrogen and weed spraying on winter wheat, which was in growth stage 7. Alfalfa and grasses were making rapid elongation on well and moderately drained soils. Orchard grass was heading out. Prep work in Ontario County was completed in addition to some planting taking place. Many farmers were spreading manure. Cayuga County farmers made progress on corn planting and seedings. Great progress in plowing and planting was also made in Cortland County. Small grains and seedings were mostly planted and corn planting was well underway. Warm and windy weather in Madison County helped the fields dry out and planting began. There was still a lot of water standing on low, poorly drained ground. Hay was ready in Otsego County, but waiting on more dry weather. A break in the wet weather allowed field work to progress in Albany County. Field corn acreage increased significantly. A lot of ground was worked and planted in both Montgomery and Fulton Counties. The hay crop was coming on as well. Saratoga County farmers made good progress getting hay seedings and corn planting done. Orchard grass was 50 percent headed out. Farmers in Washington County were very busy planting corn, spreading manure, and putting in seedings. Producers also began cutting hay. Crops in Cattaraugus County were going in well. Even though many fields had wet holes and areas of standing water, producers were plowing and planting around it in Broome County. Overcast skies and light rain kept producers from cutting hay. Sunny, warm days in Schuyler County allowed for some fieldwork. The dry weather enabled farmers to move quickly on corn planting in Delaware County. Sullivan County field work started, but few fields were planted due to wet soils. Producers in Dutchess County were busy in the fields trying to catch up on plantings.

**FRUIT:** Apples were 90 percent half-inch green to pink, down from 96 percent last year, 34 percent full bloom and 21 percent petal fall. Peaches were 90 percent half-inch green to pink, above the five year average of 71 percent, and 50 percent full bloom, below the five year average of 71 percent. Pears were 95 percent half-inch green to pink, 66 percent full bloom and 10 percent petal fall, compared to 100, 95 and 81 last year. Sweet cherries were 95 percent half-inch green to pink, 87 percent full bloom and 53 percent petal fall, compared to 100, 95 and 88 percent last year. Tart cherries were 95 percent half-inch green to pink and 90 percent full bloom and 53 percent petal fall. In Long Island vineyards, Chardonnay grapes had reached 3-6" and there are no signs of winter damage. Strawberry fields looked good. The plants were lush and green, and flower buds and blooms were prolific. In Albany County, apples were in full bloom and strawberries began to bloom too. Orchards in Broome County were also in full bloom with producers hopeful temperatures would remain warm to keep frost/freeze measures to a minimum.

**VEGETABLE:** Vegetable crops planted in Schoharie County included sweet corn, squash and potatoes. Sweet corn was at 25 percent planted, up from 6 percent previous week and compared to 19 percent previous year, and 37 percent for the five year average. Onions were at 62 percent planted, up from 20 percent previous week and compared to 74 percent previous year and 72 percent five-year average. Onion planting in Orange County is at 38 percent, well below 100 percent last year. Snap beans were at 6 percent planted, up from 2 percent last week and compared to 12 percent previous year, and 21 percent five year average. Cabbage was at 5 percent planted, up from 1 percent last week but down from 24 percent last year and 27 percent five year average. Lettuce was at 16 percent planted this week and tomatoes were at 9 percent planted.

**LIVESTOCK:** Pasture has been growing with the heat and sun. Pastures are growing very well with all of the moisture and warmer temperatures. Grazing has increased on pastures dry enough to withstand the hoof traffic. Pasture was rated 1 percent very poor, 9 percent poor, 27 percent fair, 51 percent good, and 12 percent excellent.

**Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, May 15, 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	77	43	60	+4	69	213	+94	0.12	-0.65	5.53	+0.95	
Glens Falls	76	40	57	+3	49	145	+57	0.13	-0.69	5.95	+1.27	
Poughkeepsie	78	40	60	+3	70	244	+97	0.18	-0.80	5.78	+0.20	
<b><u>Mohawk Valley</u></b>												
Boonville	75	36	54	+4	35	78	+18	0.54	-0.44	11.41	+4.66	
<b><u>Champlain Valley</u></b>												
Plattsburgh	75	41	56	+3	45	117	+28	1.01	+0.38	8.98	+4.83	
<b><u>St. Lawrence Valley</u></b>												
Canton	76	37	56	+4	44	136	+61	1.01	+0.38	8.20	+3.94	
Massena	77	41	57	+4	49	134	+48	1.10	+0.54	7.29	+3.44	
<b><u>Great Lakes</u></b>												
Buffalo	85	43	62	+7	83	192	+82	1.29	+0.59	8.32	+3.98	
Wales	82	35	59	+6	63	134	+58	1.42	+0.65	9.35	+3.88	
Niagara Falls	81	40	59	+4	64	156	+35	0.64	+0.01	6.97	+2.41	
Rochester	81	40	58	+3	61	170	+43	0.76	+0.18	7.28	+3.40	
Watertown	77	33	57	+5	50	127	+49	1.20	+0.61	7.97	+4.21	
<b><u>Central Lakes</u></b>												
Dansville	87	37	62	+8	87	220	+106	0.29	-0.34	6.06	+1.90	
Geneva	78	39	59	+5	64	153	+48	0.31	-0.32	8.11	+3.82	
Honeoye	86	35	60	+5	69	158	+50	0.45	-0.16	7.15	+2.87	
Ithaca	79	34	58	+5	57	146	+57	0.02	-0.69	8.31	+3.89	
Penn Yan	78	38	60	+6	72	172	+67	0.10	-0.53	7.02	+2.73	
Syracuse	81	40	63	+8	94	244	+119	0.24	-0.46	10.00	+5.11	
Warsaw	80	38	57	+6	54	110	+45	0.86	+0.09	9.40	+4.38	
<b><u>Western Plateau</u></b>												
Angelica	80	37	59	+7	62	138	+74	2.35	+1.73	10.95	+6.87	
Elmira	81	34	59	+5	66	165	+67	0.15	-0.55	7.32	+3.16	
Franklinville	83	32	57	+7	54	110	+61	2.57	+1.80	10.66	+5.73	
Jamestown	83	37	60	+8	69	145	+78	1.37	+0.53	10.00	+4.36	
<b><u>Eastern Plateau</u></b>												
Binghamton	75	43	58	+5	61	154	+61	0.01	-0.76	10.93	+6.20	
Cobleskill	74	38	56	+3	41	121	+40	0.18	-0.61	6.98	+2.02	
Morrisville	75	40	57	+5	52	114	+39	0.01	-0.82	8.67	+3.87	
Norwich	81	35	57	+3	48	126	+41	0.00	-0.84	9.67	+4.53	
Oneonta	78	36	56	+4	42	125	+53	0.12	-0.86	9.69	+4.16	
<b><u>Coastal</u></b>												
Bridgehamton	71	43	58	+3	55	164	+75	0.18	-0.67	3.36	-2.50	
New York	72	52	62	+2	85	298	+74	0.42	-0.44	6.05	+0.36	

<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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