



WEATHER AND CROPS

July 25, 2011

Cooperating with New York Department of Agriculture and Markets
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Released, July 25, 2011

Week Ending, July 24, 2011

No. 977-14-11

WEATHER: An oppressively hot and humid air mass, heat wave moved into the region from the Midwestern states during the middle of the week with temperatures soaring into the mid and upper 90's on Thursday and Friday. The heat was exacerbated by dew points that were in the mid 70's much of Thursday and between 60 and 70 for much of the week. A wind shift to the northwest with a frontal passage on Friday morning provided some temporary relief from the excessive humidity and enabled temperatures to drop into the low 70's and upper 60's Friday night but by Saturday morning dew points were back to near 70 with highs in the 90's. Interesting note: The New York Independent System operator reported a peak power usage of 33450 megawatts between 1600 and 1700 on Friday which was only about 500 megawatts below the all time records set on August 1st and 2nd of 2006 and the highest consumption since then topping the maximum for 2010 which was set on July 6st.

CROPS: There were 6.8 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated as 35 percent very short, 38 percent short, and 27 percent adequate. Condition of corn was rated as 13 percent poor, 33 percent fair, 47 percent good, and 7 percent excellent. Condition of soybeans was rated as 12 percent poor, 34 percent fair, 48 percent good, and 6 percent excellent. Hay condition was rated as 9 percent poor, 34 percent fair, 50 percent good, and 7 percent excellent. The first cuttings of alfalfa and grass silage were virtually complete. The second cutting of alfalfa was 82 percent complete. The first cutting of clover timothy was 98 percent complete, in line with the average of 97 percent, while the second cutting of clover timothy was 63 percent complete. Oat and dry bean plantings were virtually complete. Winter wheat was 88 percent harvested, ahead of the 64 percent harvested last year. Oats for grain were 5 percent harvested, behind the 15 percent harvested last year. Potatoes were 10 percent harvested, ahead of the 4 percent harvested last year. The following are comments from throughout the state: Jefferson County was in desperate need of rain. High temperatures and dry soil conditions were causing stress on the corn crop, and alfalfa regrowth was slow. Winter wheat harvest started. St Lawrence County experienced hot temperatures and, in some parts of the county, rain and severe thunderstorms. Conditions in most of the region were very dry, but crops looked pretty good. Field conditions in Franklin County were dry, as rain showers were scattered. Hot, humid weather helped the corn, and alfalfa second cut was good. Grass hay, however, was in need of rain. Corn was rolling from lack of rain in Erie County. Drought conditions continued in Genesee County. Corn and forage yields were negatively affected by dry soils. Oat yields were expected to be very low. Summer forage crop seedings were planted into dry soils in hopes of rain to start germination. Ontario County experienced record high temperatures and was humid, which continued to add to the dry crop conditions. The hay was limited on regrowth due to the lack of rain, and both corn and soybeans were stressed with the heat and limited rainfall. The dry weather in Cayuga County impacted crops and corn was very curled. Crops in Chenango County progressed nicely. Some corn was well over head and late planted corn was knee to waist high. Second and third cuttings were falling short due to lack of rainfall. A quick shower in Cortland County helped push all corn to tassel, except for very late planted corn. More rain was needed since much of the corn was beginning to spike. Hay was short. Southern Madison County received rain Monday morning that greened things up considerably, but the rest of the county was very dry. A lot of dry hay was put up and many were finishing up second cutting hay. Corn burst to tassel stage in Otsego County. Dry hay harvest was catching up. Haying continued in Albany County, where hot and dry conditions provided the weather needed to catch up. Corn was tasseling and growth was accelerated by the hot weather. All crops were finally planted in Montgomery and Fulton Counties. Hay harvest was in full swing and corn was all across the board with a lot more questionable than great. The counties needed some rain. Conditions became very dry in Saratoga County and corn showed signs of stress with leaf rolling on well drained soils. Dry hay harvest progressed dramatically and a good deal of second cut haylage was completed. Rain was needed to bring on third cutting crop. The week was very hot, humid, and dry in Washington County. Corn was curling and crops needed moisture. Very high temperatures with little to no rain caused corn to curl in Broome County. There was no regrowth for third cutting and growth on second cutting came to a standstill. Extremely dry conditions in Schuyler County were affecting all crops. Hot weather in Delaware County brought out the tassels, but also stressed the corn. Rain was needed. It was a great week to get in dry hay. The corn in Dutchess County was reactive to the heat and uncurling in the morning. Rain was needed soon for crops to survive. Producers in Sullivan County replanted some corn acres with poor emergence. Most acreage was in for those harvesting dry hay.

FRUIT: Apple harvest was 6 percent complete. Apple condition was 2 percent poor, 21 percent fair, 72 percent good, and 5 percent excellent. Grape condition was 5 percent fair, 91 percent good, and 4 percent excellent. Peach harvest was 38 percent complete. Peach condition was 16 percent poor, 17 percent fair, 54 percent good, and 13 percent excellent. Pear condition was 23 percent poor, 21 percent fair, 46 percent good, and 10 percent excellent. Sweet cherry condition was 11 percent poor, 14 percent fair, 60 percent good, and 15 percent excellent. Tart cherry condition was 2 percent poor, 3 percent fair, 71 percent good, and 24 percent excellent. Sweet cherry and tart cherry were 99 and 91 percent harvested, respectively. In Long Island vineyards, grapes were in the pre-veraison stage and crop thinning started. In Broome County, hail hit a portion of the apple orchards on the 18th. The apple crop received quite a bit of bruising and dimpling.

VEGETABLE: Local farm stands were full of produce. Vegetables across the state were stressed due to hot, dry weather. High temperatures were causing the vegetables to bolt. Lettuce condition was 6 percent fair, 93 percent good, and 1 percent excellent. Onions were 5 percent harvested, and condition was 5 percent poor, 10 percent fair, and 85 percent good. Sweet corn was 12 percent harvested compared with 14 percent previous year and condition was 10 percent poor, 22 percent fair, 64 percent good, and 4 percent excellent. Cabbage was 10 percent harvested compared to 20 percent previous year, and condition was 43 percent poor, 36 percent fair, 20 percent good, and 1 percent excellent. Snap beans were 99 percent planted compared to 96 percent last year, and 9 percent harvested, compared to 13 percent previous year. Condition was reported as 16 percent poor, 34 percent fair, 46 percent good, and 4 percent excellent. Tomatoes were 7 percent harvested, compared with 17 percent last year. Condition was 2 percent poor, 15 percent fair, 71 percent good and 12 percent excellent.

LIVESTOCK: Pasture condition deteriorated due to recent hot, dry weather. Condition was reported as 7 percent very poor, 25 percent poor, 35 percent fair, 29 percent good and 4 percent excellent. Extremely hot, humid weather stressed livestock.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, July 24, 2011

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	99	63	81	+9	221	1664	+356	0.23	-0.47	15.36	+2.88
Glens Falls	99	57	79	+10	207	1431	+296	0.27	-0.42	14.58	+2.58
Poughkeepsie	102	62	83	+11	230	1748	+381	0.03	-0.87	16.55	+1.82
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>											
Boonville	91	61	73	+7	165	1070	+192	0.31	-0.58	22.56	+5.83
<u>Champlain Valley</u>											
Plattsburgh	98	58	79	+9	206	1317	+153	0.20	-0.50	17.89	+6.87
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>											
Canton	92	59	75	+7	179	1324	+303	0.66	-0.11	17.40	+5.73
Massena	95	58	78	+9	195	1435	+346	0.33	-0.37	14.07	+3.34
<u>Great Lakes</u>											
Buffalo	95	72	82	+11	224	1529	+287	0.85	+0.15	19.18	+7.29
Wales	94	63	79	+12	203	1264	+270	0.15	-0.62	16.16	+1.87
Niagara Falls	95	70	82	+12	227	1477	+222	0.90	+0.27	15.07	+3.40
Rochester	98	66	81	+12	222	1549	+333	0.48	-0.13	12.48	+2.09
Watertown	91	59	77	+8	187	1336	+316	0.43	+0.01	14.22	+4.88
<u>Central Lakes</u>											
Dansville	102	67	84	+14	239	1741	+530	0.08	-0.55	11.79	-0.14
Geneva	99	64	81	+11	218	1509	+318	0.32	-0.31	12.58	+0.68
Honeoye	98	61	79	+7	205	1444	+206	0.91	+0.34	15.10	+3.43
Ithaca	98	63	80	+11	208	1405	+328	1.14	+0.37	17.61	+4.93
Penn Yan	101	65	82	+12	228	1607	+416	0.17	-0.46	11.17	-0.73
Syracuse	101	65	83	+12	230	1770	+543	0.48	-0.36	17.80	+4.41
Warsaw	93	65	78	+12	198	1223	+299	0.18	-0.53	17.93	+4.13
<u>Western Plateau</u>											
Hornell Almond Dam	100	61	80	+13	210	1315	+312	0.05	-0.63	16.83	+4.92
Elmira	104	59	82	+13	224	1522	+376	0.03	-0.70	13.93	+1.61
Franklinville	97	59	78	+13	195	1224	+399	0.04	-0.73	19.89	+6.00
Jamestown	98	62	79	+13	205	1367	+433	0.37	-0.49	19.78	+4.35
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>											
Binghamton	95	65	80	+11	209	1446	+335	0.93	+0.16	20.41	+7.59
Cobleskill	93	59	77	+9	188	1291	+263	0.31	-0.46	17.94	+4.06
Morrisville	96	61	78	+10	195	1263	+287	0.97	+0.20	16.71	+3.05
Norwich	97	55	77	+9	192	1324	+295	0.17	-0.58	22.11	+8.20
Oneonta	95	56	77	+10	189	1310	+361	0.18	-0.68	21.22	+6.16
<u>Coastal</u>											
Bridgehamton	98	65	79	+8	204	1545	+342	0.03	-0.60	13.86	+0.18
New York	104	73	86	+10	257	2010	+295	0.00	-0.93	13.69	-0.65

^{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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