



# WEATHER AND CROPS

## October 11, 2011

---

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)

---

Released, October 11, 2011

Week Ending, October 9, 2011

No. 977-25-11

**WEATHER:** The week started out wet as a cut off low moved gradually eastward over the region. The low finally opened up and moved off to the northeast by mid week allowing high pressure to build in at the surface and aloft. The high built in and shifted eastward during the latter part of the week. Temperatures moderated with well above normal readings on Saturday.

**CROPS:** There were 5.4 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated 1 percent short, 64 percent adequate and 35 percent surplus. Condition of corn was rated as 14 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 47 percent good, and 10 percent excellent. Condition of soybeans was rated as 7 percent poor, 26 percent fair, 57 percent good, and 10 percent excellent. Hay condition was rated as 8 percent poor, 26 percent fair, 56 percent good, and 10 percent excellent. The third cutting of alfalfa hay was 85 percent complete, behind the 99 percent harvested last year and the 97 percent average. The second cutting of clover timothy was 98 percent complete, behind the 100 percent harvested both last year and on average. The third cutting of clover timothy was 83 percent complete, behind the 91 percent harvested last year and the 93 percent average. Silage corn was 67 percent harvested, well behind the 91 percent harvested last year and the 75 percent average. Grain corn harvest stood at 2 percent complete, compared to 17 percent last year and the average of 10 percent. Potatoes were 71 percent harvested, compared with 70 percent last year and the average of 81 percent. Soybean harvest was 6 percent complete, behind last year's 20 percent and the average of 17 percent. Dry bean harvest stood at 43 percent complete, compared with 49 percent last year and the average of 51 percent. The following are comments from our reporters throughout the state: In Jefferson County, dry weather improved field conditions as corn silage harvest continued. Some took advantage of the nice weather to bale dry hay. Much of Lewis County received a killing frost during the week. Some corn intended for grain did not make maturity for grain and will now be harvested as silage. In St. Lawrence County, a lot of 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> cut alfalfa-grass was being made, much more so than usual for this time of year. Forage quality should be very high, which can be used to balance the crummy quality of much of the first cutting. Yields looked pretty good, too. Lots of corn silage was being harvested as there was not enough rain to hamper progress. In Genesee County, soybean harvest started on October 7<sup>th</sup>. Corn silage harvest moved very rapidly again as was 4<sup>th</sup> cutting alfalfa-grass. Yields were much better than early, drouth affected second and third cuts. Some parts of Ontario County experienced a hard frost during a few nights during the week. The week started out cold and wet with some corn silage harvest. The later part of the week saw sunshine and warmer temperatures with the hopes of grain harvest in the near future. Two nights of hard, killing frost came to Cortland County. Corn silage harvest was going at full speed, with grain corn and soybean harvest just beginning. Several farms required the use of 4-wheel drive tractors to harvest silage – either on the chopper/dump wagon or on the silage truck to drag through the mud. Additional haylage was harvested on farms waiting for the corn silage. Warm days and cool evenings really helped crops in Madison County as fields began to dry out. There was still a significant amount of green corn out there, but now with the freeze silage harvest will no doubt pick up. Lots of hay was cut in Otsego County. Corn chopping was catching up too. Albany County corn silage harvest was moving along. A rain free week helped with haying. In Montgomery and Fulton Counties, everyone was harvesting corn for silage and 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> hay cuttings were being worked on. Silage yields were OK but will be a little below average for the year. Corn silage harvest moved ahead in Saratoga County with the drier, warmer weather experienced later in the week. Some wet fields were still impossible to get heavy equipment into due to somewhat saturated and slowly drying field conditions. Dry baled hay harvest picked up near the end of the week with the warm summertime conditions. In Washington County, a significant amount of progress was made on chopping corn silage. Some were also able to bale or chop hay as well. In Broome County, producers were attempting to harvest unflooded corn for silage. All soybeans in the county were destroyed because of flooding. In Columbia County, farmers were working fast to chop corn while the weather was nice. Corn was drying fast and farmers were getting ready to start combining corn.

**FRUIT:** Apple harvest was 63 percent complete, behind the 77 percent previous year and 66 percent average. Apple condition was 9 percent poor, 26 percent fair, 50 percent good, and 15 percent excellent. Grape harvest was 41 percent complete, behind the 61 percent last year. Grape condition was 4 percent poor, 9 percent fair, 69 percent good, and 18 percent excellent. Pear harvest was 99 percent complete, above the 98 percent average. Pear condition was 8 percent fair, 66 percent good, and 26 percent excellent. In Long Island vineyards, harvest of white varieties such as Chardonnay continued. Red varieties benefitted from the warm weather and harvest of reds for rose also took place.

**VEGETABLE:** Most vegetables approached the end of harvest. Lettuce had reported conditions of 5 percent poor, 8 percent fair, 84 percent good, and 3 percent excellent. Onion harvest was 96 percent complete compared to 84 percent last year and 93 percent average. Onion conditions were 9 percent poor, 21 percent fair, 69 percent good, and 1 percent excellent. Cabbage harvest was 92 percent completed compare to 94 percent last year and 89 percent average. Cabbage conditions were 15 percent poor, 26 percent fair, 58 percent good and 1 percent excellent. Sweet corn harvest was 99 percent complete compared to 98 percent last year and 96 percent average. Sweet corn conditions were 20 percent poor, 32 percent fair, 46 percent good, and 2 percent excellent. Tomatoes were 90 percent harvested compared to 94 percent previous year and 96 percent average. Tomato conditions were 49 percent poor, 35 percent fair, and 16 percent good. Snap bean harvest was 97 percent complete compared to 99 percent last year and 99 percent average. Snap bean conditions were 28 percent poor, 45 percent fair, 14 percent good, and 13 percent excellent.

**LIVESTOCK:** No livestock problems reported. Pasture conditions were rated 4 percent very poor, 13 percent poor, 32 percent fair, 41 percent good, and 10 percent excellent.

**Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, October 9, 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	79	36	56	+3	45	3054	+596	0.35	-0.28	34.56	+14.13
Glens Falls	73	31	52	+1	19	2639	+516	0.05	-0.58	32.27	+11.99
Poughkeepsie	77	36	55	+1	40	3214	+618	0.43	-0.27	40.06	+16.59
<b><u>Mohawk Valley</u></b>											
Boonville	74	31	50	+2	16	1962	+309	0.58	-0.43	37.98	+8.69
<b><u>Champlain Valley</u></b>											
Plattsburgh	70	32	52	+1	22	2445	+295	0.34	-0.22	30.60	+10.84
<b><u>St. Lawrence Valley</u></b>											
Canton	75	30	50	0	16	2434	+500	0.03	-0.74	29.36	+7.86
Massena	78	30	53	+3	29	2654	+637	0.02	-0.62	22.07	+2.51
<b><u>Great Lakes</u></b>											
Buffalo	77	39	57	+3	50	2940	+547	0.57	-0.12	28.89	+7.70
Wales	78	33	52	-1	22	2353	+422	0.44	-0.42	24.98	+0.00
Niagara Falls	75	36	56	+2	43	2841	+443	0.78	+0.14	24.08	+3.36
Rochester	80	37	56	+2	45	2871	+547	0.72	+0.16	24.29	+6.16
Watertown	73	30	52	+1	23	2558	+564	0.06	-0.57	26.11	+8.93
<b><u>Central Lakes</u></b>											
Dansville	84	36	56	+3	44	3131	+804	0.64	+0.01	21.87	+1.90
Geneva	77	38	54	-1	27	2728	+426	0.90	+0.23	24.81	+5.05
Honeoye	82	34	52	-3	22	2641	+242	0.51	-0.15	26.76	+7.21
Ithaca	80	31	51	-2	17	2524	+449	0.31	-0.46	33.79	+12.39
Penn Yan	80	37	56	+3	42	2935	+633	0.75	+0.08	21.24	+1.48
Syracuse	81	37	57	+3	49	3206	+864	0.39	-0.37	32.68	+10.19
Warsaw	78	37	53	+3	29	2248	+482	0.70	-0.07	28.75	+5.30
<b><u>Western Plateau</u></b>											
Hornell Almond Dam	80	32	51	-2	16	2373	+452	0.47	-0.14	28.43	+9.38
Elmira	80	32	53	+1	22	2749	+559	0.35	-0.28	28.79	+8.82
Franklinville	78	31	51	+1	17	2244	+644	0.57	-0.27	32.25	+8.50
Jamestown	78	32	53	+2	28	2505	+692	0.52	-0.40	29.97	+3.28
<b><u>Eastern Plateau</u></b>											
Binghamton	75	35	52	0	23	2585	+471	0.20	-0.46	47.42	+26.29
Cobleskill	79	33	53	+2	24	2395	+429	1.28	+0.57	38.96	+16.17
Morrisville	81	34	52	+2	20	2374	+507	0.40	-0.39	34.56	+11.56
Norwich	77	31	51	0	13	2417	+453	0.25	-0.50	42.27	+19.58
Oneonta	76	31	51	+1	17	2406	+608	0.20	-0.57	42.03	+17.84
<b><u>Coastal</u></b>											
Bridgehamton	74	37	57	+1	53	3047	+543	0.29	-0.41	25.62	+3.41
New York	80	49	61	0	77	3792	+456	0.10	-0.57	41.16	+17.90

<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.

Visit our website at [www.nass.usda.gov/ny](http://www.nass.usda.gov/ny) and click on "Subscribe to NY Reports" for instructions on subscribing electronically. You may also visit our website to access all our reports which are available for free online.